

Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Minutes of July 19, 2012

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Mitchell Englander, rep. by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Gail Farber, rep. by Pat Proano, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Cindy Chen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Carl Clark, rep by David Thornburg, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Eugene Sun, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle
Lena Wiegand, CalRecycle
Jacqueline McMiller, Clements
Chip Clements, Clements
Krishn Nand, Environmental Management Programs
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Tobie Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Alex Ho, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Corey Mayne, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Becky Bendikson, SCL-CAC
Richard Was, RAS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:09 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY MINUTES, 2012

A motion was made by Ms. Betsey Landis to approve June minutes with corrections. Mr. Chris Salomon seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

III. FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Landis reported that the Subcommittee postponed making a determination on whether Savage Canyon Landfill is required to obtain a Finding of Conformance from the Task Force until next month since the City of Whittier needs more time to discuss its application for a Solid Waste Facilities Permit with CalRecycle. The City of Azusa submitted an amended Non-Disposal Facility Element to the Subcommittee for their information. The Subcommittee passed a motion to send a letter to the City of Azusa indicating the amendment is in conformance with the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and complies with State laws and regulations as well as environmental regulations, and requested the facilities to submit disposal reports to Public Works. Ms. Landis also reported that Sunshine Canyon Landfill is still in the process of installing Flare 9 and expect to have it operational by August 3, 2012. Flares 1, 3, and 8 will be upgraded with two 200-horse-power blowers each. The South Coast Air Quality Management District received 55 odor complaints during the month of June.

The Subcommittee completed their review of the Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element (Siting Element) and moved to approve the Preliminary Draft, as of July 19, 2012, in its entirety. The Task Force's discussion of the Siting Element is reflected in **Item VI** below.

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (ATAS)

Ms. Mitchell provided the update from the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee. She informed members that the County was in the process of revising and updating their conversion technology website and requested feedback from Subcommittee members on a working draft of the site. The new site will feature resources like a searchable database of technology vendors and a tip fee modeling tool. The Subcommittee provided staff with additional comments on the Conversion Technology Action Plan that will be considered for approval at next month's meeting. The Subcommittee also heard a presentation from a new company, Ze-Corp, who is interested in combining an autoclave

material separation process with microwave and steam reforming to convert mixed municipal solid waste into energy. The company submitted a project proposal to the City of Cleveland during the city's Request for Proposals process.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Coby Skye gave an update on the [attached legislative table](#). Senate Bill 1118 was amended since the last Task Force meeting. This bill sets up a used mattress recovery program. Recent revisions have removed the requirement for a \$25 per mattress fee, which the Task Force opposed. The Task Force's position was oppose unless amended. With the latest revisions, the bill now establishes a producer responsibility framework and does not require a fee but instead requires manufacturers to establish and fund a program. Manufacturers will be responsible for collecting used mattresses and ensuring a minimum percentage of what they collect is recycled. Staff is now recommending a support position on the revised bill. Ms. Nicole Bernson made a motion to send a letter to support the bill. Ms. Landis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa presented the 2012 Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element (Siting Element) for consideration by the Task Force. He requested the Task Force to review and comment on the document as provided by State law. A copy of the presentation is attached. Mr. Aiyetiwa reported that each county is required to prepare a Siting Element by the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939). The Siting Element was approved by cities with a majority of the population in the County and the Board of Supervisors in January 1998. CalRecycle, formerly the California Integrated Waste Management Board, approved the document in June 1998. The Siting Element is a long-term planning and policy document which provides goals and strategies for meeting current and future solid waste management needs in the County. It also identifies existing and planned solid waste facilities that will be utilized to meet the County's solid waste planning needs.

The County Department of Public Works is currently revising the Siting Element to reflect the significant changes that have taken place since 1997 and has been working with the Subcommittee on developing the Siting Element. As indicated by Ms. Landis, the Siting Element was approved by the Subcommittee on July 19, 2012. The revised Siting Element will require approval by a majority of the cities with a majority of the population in the County, the Board of Supervisors, and CalRecycle, and will replace the existing Siting Element, dated 1997. The planning term for the revised Siting Element is 2010 to 2015, with 2010 as the base year.

Significant changes to the Siting Element include the removal of Elsmere Canyon and Blind Canyon from the list of potential landfill sites, updated goals and policies to be consistent with the County's new solid waste management paradigm, and expansions of several in-County Class III landfills. Other changes include the County's efforts to develop conversion and energy recovery technologies as viable alternatives to landfill disposal, and development of infrastructure to transport solid waste to remote landfills to complement the County's waste management system, such as the Mesquite Regional Landfill and Waste-by-Rail System.

The goals and policies of the revised Siting Element are (1) Continue to promote extended producer responsibility and develop adequate markets to increase the use of recycled materials and compost products; (2) Increase the volume and tonnage of solid waste put to beneficial use; (3) Promote, encourage, and expand waste diversion activities by disposal facility operators; (4) Conserve Class III landfill capacity through recycling and reuse of inert waste, disposal of inert waste at inert waste landfills, increasing waste disposal compaction rates, and use of green waste and other appropriate materials for landfill daily cover; (5) Protect the economic well-being of the County by ensuring the County is served by an efficient and economically sound public/private solid waste management system; (6) Foster the development of alternative technologies as alternatives to landfill disposal; (7) Provide siting criteria that consider and provide for the environmentally sound and technically feasible development of solid waste management facilities; and (8) Protect the health, welfare, and safety of all citizens Countywide by enhancing in-County landfill disposal capacity and facilitating utilization of out-of-County/remote disposal facilities.

Also discussed were the 2010 disposal quantities, remaining permitted in-County disposal capacity, regional solid waste issues, historical disposal trends, summary of findings, and various scenarios of disposal capacity analyses. Mr. Aiyetiwa also presented a 2025 outlook under the scenario of a multi-faceted approach and compliance with SB 1016. Please see the [attached presentation](#) for additional information.

Mr. Aiyetiwa concluded that the County's disposal capacity needs could be met by: (1) Promoting and supporting the development of commercial-scale alternative-to-landfilling technologies, such as conversion and energy recovery technologies; (2) Supporting and developing infrastructure to facilitate exportation of waste to out-of-County landfills, such as the Mesquite Regional Landfill and Waste-by-Rail System; and (3) Enhancing in-County landfill capacity by permitting and developing all proposed in-County landfill expansions. Disposal capacity could further be ensured by continued efforts to enhance diversion programs and promote and encourage source reduction, extended producer responsibility, recycling, reuse, and composting.

Mr. Proano indicated that Public Works is seeking assistance from a professional communications consultant to help with the look and feel of the document, as well as public presentation. Public Works' goal is to familiarize elected officials, either at the local or state level, with solid waste issues in Los Angeles County and actively pursue and support legislation to enhance our efforts.

A discussion took place regarding why the 2025 per capita waste generation projection shows a higher number than that of 2010. Mr. Ruiz explained that the projection was based on a methodology developed by the former Waste Board with factors of population, employment, and taxable sales. Mr. Jay Chen indicated the projection may appear high due to the fact that we are in an economic recession right now. As the economy picks up, we should expect to see disposal levels returning to those of earlier years.

Ms. Karen Coca stated she would be commenting on the goals and policies presented in the document and would like a meeting with staff before submitting her comments. She asked if the Finding of Conformance (FOC) process is a component of the document. Mr. Ruiz confirmed that it is; however, commented that under State regulations there is no requirement for a facility to obtain an FOC from the Task Force. It was also discussed that landfill expansions would have to be reviewed for compliance with environmental regulations and consistency with the siting criteria and goals and policies of the Siting Element. Ms. Coca also asked about the role of the Task Force and its authority. Mr. Proano suggested inviting County Counsel to the next Task Force meeting to explain the purpose, role, and responsibilities of the Task Force. He also offered to have staff meet with Ms. Coca to discuss her comments and questions.

The Task Force decided that the Siting Element would be a standing item on the agenda until everyone has adequate time to review the document, especially its goal and policies.

VII. REPORT FROM CALRECYCLE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin gave the [attached presentation](#) on CalRecycle's plan for working with local jurisdictions regarding mandatory commercial recycling. Local jurisdictions are required to establish a program that consists of education, outreach, monitoring, and reporting to the State. CalRecycle will be responsible for reviewing the requirements with the jurisdictions and measuring the emission reduction that will come from the new recycling regulations. They have been meeting with jurisdictions since February to assist them with their plans to meet the new regulations' requirements. The regulations took effect July 1, 2012.

Ms. Wallin thanked the Task Force for their comments submitted on AB 341 and the 75% diversion rate. They are still receiving comments, and the next

workshop is scheduled for September. Issue 3 of the composting regulations regarding onsite storage has been released for review and comments. Comments must be received by August 9. The beverage container recycling program reform is soliciting comments due July 30. The 2011 Annual Report was released June 15 and comments are due August 1. A new component this year is the green building code requirements for new construction projects. They must divert 30% of the construction material. The Paint Plan was discussed at the last public meeting and they received the Task Forces' letters. They are waiting for the results of the approval of the Plan. The covered electronic waste fee for the purchase of computer screens or TVs has been reduced from \$6, \$8 or \$10 to \$3, \$4, or \$5. The fee for collection and processing has not changed. Upcoming workshops are the solid waste facility permit 5-year review process on July 24, the Tire conference in Sacramento August 28 & 29, and their monthly meeting on August 21. At Mr. Pat Proano's request, she will look into CalRecycle giving written responses to the authors of letters they receive.

VIII. CHANGES TO TASK FORCE MAIL-OUT DISTRIBUTION AND AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Pat Proano stated in order to manage time better, agendas should be limited to no more than 15 items or something that can be managed in two hours or less. To get more Task Force Member involvement, staff will be sending a request for agenda items by email two weeks prior to the meeting. Beginning next month, the agenda and related items will be sent electronically unless a hard copy is requested. Ms. Nicole Bernson suggested time limits be given to some of the agenda items and staff getting relevant materials to members ahead of time if possible. Mr. Wayne Hunter asked to be sure there are handouts for the public as well.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, in Conference Room B.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

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