

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

Minutes of June 20, 2013

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)
Eugene Sun, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Gail Farber, rep by Pat Proano, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep by Cindy Chen, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep by Ed Pupka, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach Public Works Department
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chuck Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Dawn Dawson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jon Emerson, City of Redondo Beach
George Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
David Miller, REDI
Krishna Nand, Environmental Management Professionals
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Peggy Polinsky

OTHERS PRESENT CONT'D:

Lisa Scales, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Chris Sheppard, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:08 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 16, 2013, MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion passed with abstentions from Mary Ann Lutz, Chris Salomon, and Eugene Sun.

III. OVERVIEW OF CARB AND CALRECYCLE DRAFT WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTOR PLAN

Ms. Tobie Mitchell gave the [attached presentation](#) on CalRecycle's draft Waste Management Sector Plan. The Air Resources Board and CalRecycle established a joint workgroup to begin developing a Waste Sector Plan. CalRecycle and CARB prepared a series of technical papers on the following topics: Recycling, Reuse, and Remanufacturing; Procurement (technical paper not yet released); Composting and Anaerobic Digestion; Biomass Conversion; Municipal Solid Waste Thermal Technologies; and Landfilling of Waste. The Overview document, technical papers, and implementation plan were released for comment June 14, 2013. Comments on the plan are due by July 12, 2013.

Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to CalRecycle stating the Task Force's previous position as well as other comments pertaining to the plan. A lengthy discussion ensued, and the Task Force felt some parts of the plan are good and some parts still need addressing. Some of the things that should be addressed are the life cycle analysis, the Waste Board study on conversion technologies, regulations for composting facilities, biomass conversion, and previous Task Force comments that have not been addressed.

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send the letter to CalRecycle seconded by Ms. Karen Coca. Ms. Mary Ann Lutz suggested the tone and format of the letter be structured so that the positive and negative issues are identified and CalRecycle's quotes regarding recycling and studies they have done are included. Ms. Coca indicated the City of Los Angeles will also be sending a comment letter highlighting the things they believe are positive and the things that have not been addressed. She suggested that it should be on the record that they are ignoring all the analysis that has been done. After further

discussion, the motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Ed Pupka. A number of Task Force members requested to review the letter before it is sent out.

IV. PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL – AFTER THE GATES CLOSE PRESENTATION

Mr. Chuck Boehmke gave the [attached presentation](#) on the closure of Puente Hills. He stated the landfill is scheduled to close October 31, 2013. It will take one to two years to close completely with final cover, landscape and drainage. They will be turning the landfill over to County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation to be used as a Park. County Sanitation Districts (CSD) will provide maintenance. With the closure of Puente Hills, Calabasas and Scholl Canyon will be the only landfills operated by CSD. Brea Landfill in Orange County will take waste from Puente Hills beginning November 1, 2013, until June 30, 2016.

V. CALRECYCLE WORKSHOP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON REVISED CALIFORNIA CARPET STEWARDSHIP PLAN

Mr. Gabriel Arenas informed the Task Force that CalRecycle will be hosting a three hour workshop on June 25, 2013, to discuss and receive public comment on the Revised California Carpet Stewardship Plan submitted by Carpet America Recovery Effort otherwise known as CARE. CARE was designated as the carpet stewardship organization for the carpet industry under 2010's AB 2098, which requires manufacturers of carpets sold in the state, individually or through a carpet stewardship organization, to submit a carpet stewardship plan to CalRecycle with certain required elements including a funding mechanism. CalRecycle conditionally approved the first plan submitted by CARE back in January 2012. Among the conditions of the approval was that CARE would submit a revised plan by December 31, 2012, as well as update sections of the plan related to the baseline, measurement methodology and goals. The deadline was extended to May 31, 2013.

Before CARE released the revised plan, CalRecycle sent a letter to them outlining areas where they believed the plan should be improved. One such area was in regards to the recycling consequences associated with the growing use of polyester in carpet, which is extremely difficult to recycle. CARE data shows that six years ago polyester or PET made up approximately 4% of post-consumer carpet. In 2013, the percentage of PET carpet is now estimated at 30% and growing. To address this problem, CARE recently sent out an RFP to seek an experienced and proven resource to lead the development of sustainable commercial solutions for recycling post-consumer polyester carpet.

Mr. Arenas stated that staff reviewed the revised plan and did not think it was much different from the conditionally approved plan, and it still has a very low recycling rate goal of 16%. Staff will continue to monitor the program and will report back to the Task Force at a later date.

VI. HEALTH STANDARDS REPORT BY ARB & OEHHA ON BIOMETHANE INJECTION INTO COMMON CARRIER PIPELINE

Mr. Patrick Holland gave the [attached presentation](#) on Health Standards Report prepared by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), which provides recommendations to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) regarding health protective standards for biomethane to be injected into the common carrier pipeline. Biomethane is biogas that is upgraded to traditional pipeline quality gas (equivalent to natural gas) by separating and removing trace gases and constituents, water, and CO₂. Major sources of biomethane identified in the report include landfills, dairies, and sewage treatment plants.

As part of the report, OEHHA was tasked with compiling a list of constituents of concern found in biogas that could pose a health risk and exceed concentrations of those constituents in natural gas. CARB was tasked with developing realistic exposure scenarios. CARB staff recommends that the CPUC consider the cost of testing for constituents of concern as this cost may impede the economic viability of some biomethane production facilities. The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee recommended the Task Force send a letter to CPUC commenting on the report and expressing concerns about the completion of the study. Mr. Mike Mohajer made the motion seconded by Ms. Mary Ann Lutz. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Chris Sheppard presented the [attached Legislative Summary](#) and recommended action on the legislative bills listed below.

SB 254 – This bill would establish a used mattress recovery program. Staff discussed the current amendments to SB 254 and then turned the discussion over to Mr. Mike Mohajer. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis. After a brief discussion, Ms. Karen Coca suggested opposing unless amended, and Mr. Mohajer agreed. The motion passed unanimously.

HR 1686 – This Federal bill would place a five cent tax on each single use plastic or paper bag provided by certain stores, and the funds would be used to support parks, similar to the Ordinance adopted by Washington D.C. Staff recommended supporting the bill. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support,

seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis. After a brief discussion, Ms. Karen Coca made a substitute motion to oppose unless amended to return the fee collected back to local governments on a per capita basis. Mr. Mohajer accepted the amendment, and the motion passed with opposition from Mr. Pat Proano and abstentions from Ms. Landis and Mr. Chris Salomon.

Mr. Sheppard reported the legislature is going on summer recess July 3 and will reconvene August 5. He also gave an update on the status of the 26 bills the Task Force took position on. Of the 26 bills, 17 are now two-year bills, 1 died in committee, and 8 are currently active. Of the 8 bills still active in this year's session, 6 are supported by the Task Force, 1 is opposed, and 1 the Task Force is watching. AB 1337, anti-bag bag ban, died in committee. AB 323, the Chesbro organics bill, was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and is a two-year bill. AB 371, Kern County sewage sludge bill, passed through the local governments committee and was ordered to the Assembly inactive file at the author's request. It is now considered a two-year bill.

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

Mr. George Gomez provided the update from Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee. He reported they are continuing to monitor potential funding opportunities for CT projects. Unfortunately, funding has been difficult to find; however, their consultant has identified two key agencies that are interested in collaborating with the County for grant opportunities - EPA Region 9 and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. County staff is continuing to engage in ongoing discussions with both agencies.

The Department of Public Works released two Requests for Expressions of Interest (RFEIs) last week requesting information on conversion technologies that are offered in the U.S. market and information from financial firms who are interested in exploring partnership opportunities with conversion technology developers. Copies of the RFEIs and response forms are available on the www.SoCalConversion.org website. RFEI responses are due by August 15, 2013.

IX. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY PLAN & REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE (FPRS)

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the subcommittee received an update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The sewer connection is anticipated to be permitted by August 1 and installed by October 1, 2013. The odor complaints are down compared to last year in May. Ms. Landis also reported that the subcommittee made a motion regarding the Finding of Conformance for Savage Canyon Landfill. More clarity is needed regarding the applicability of the CEQA document that was done in 1997. Ms. Landis made a motion for staff to ask

County Counsel to determine if the current CEQA document for Savage Canyon Landfill is sufficient to support a Finding of Conformance for the Savage Canyon Landfill. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer and passed unanimously.

X. UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA PAINTCARE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

There was no report from at this time.

XI. CALRECYCLE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin reported the following:

- The 2012 Annual Report has been released and is due August 1, 2013. One-on-one assistance for jurisdictions is available if needed.
- The 2030 program code, related to commercial onsite pickup, is where the mandatory commercial recycling plan information is located and where jurisdictions will be reporting on their education, outreach, and monitoring efforts.
- Form 303 – the revised regulations were submitted to the Office of Administrative Law and upon approval, training will begin in July. The database will be online in August.
- The Contract has been finalized with the institute of local government, and they are looking for case studies related to local funding and infrastructure to pull together resources between local governments and industries representatives.
- The Carpet workshop will be on June 25.
- The MRF performance workshop will be July 18 in Lakewood.
- The Beverage Container competitive grant is now open for applications, and the HHW program grant has been published.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2013, in Conference Room C.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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