

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

Minutes of November 21, 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
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Gail Farber, rep by Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
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
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Eugene Sun, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chris Sheppard, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 15, 2013, MINUTES AND ACCEPTANCE OF OCTOBER 16, 2013, UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Approval of the August minutes was postponed until the next meeting in order for staff to make corrections. The unofficial minutes of October were accepted for filing with minor corrections.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported the subcommittee considered two articles from the Cities of Santa Clarita and Palmdale for the next editions for Inside Solid Waste (ISW). The County Sanitation Districts will be submitting an article regarding life after the closure of Puente Hills. Additional articles on medical waste, the AB 341 Report to the Legislature and the new laws that will take effect January 1 will also be submitted. The subcommittee will do outreach to the cities to submit more articles for ISW. Mr. Mohajer stated the Fall issue of Inside Solid Waste hasn't been published and it is now two months late, and it is still not clear when it will be published. The Department of Public Works needs to address this and place more attention to the ISW publication.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Subcommittee received an email from Mr. David Pelser of the City of Whittier Public Works Department requesting to continue the consideration of the Finding of Conformance (FOC) for the Savage Canyon Landfill to the next Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee agreed to continue the item and send a letter to the City of Whittier granting its request.

Ms. Landis also reported that the proposed revisions to the preliminary draft Countywide Siting Element (CSE) regarding Engineered Municipal Solid Waste (EMSW) conversion were considered. The subcommittee moved to accept the changes; however, Mr. Mike Mohajer opposed the motion due to the lack of regulations from CalRecycle. Ms. Landis agreed and the matter was brought before the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to table approving the changes to the CSE until they have heard from CalRecycle regarding the implementing regulations for AB 1126. Mr. Bahman Hajjialiakbar seconded the motion, and it passed with opposition from Mr. Chris Salomon. Mr. Mohajer also made a motion to send a letter to CalRecycle requesting they expedite

preparation of the implementing regulations for AB 1126. Mr. Hajialiakbar seconded the motion, and it passed with abstentions from Mr. Salomon and Mr. Ed Pupka.

Ms. Landis also reported the Sunshine Canyon Landfill odor complaints report was received, which was about the same as October 2012. They also discussed the 3rd quarter vegetation report and the progress of the Interagency's efforts to finalize a document on how to handle the future of the landfill regarding requirements to clear up the odor problems

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

Mr. Gabriel Arenas reported the Subcommittee was given a presentation by Mr. Mike Biddle, founder of MBA Polymers. MBA Polymers has invented processes for separating plastic from computers, appliances, and cars and recycling it into pellets to make new plastic while using less energy required to produce new plastics. The subcommittee recommended Mr. Biddle present to the Task Force in the future. The Task Force will schedule the presentation.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Chris Sheppard stated the legislative session is now closed, but brought forward SB 731 for discussion. He reported the bill is a two year bill authored by Darrell Steinberg. Most of the bill's content was moved to SB 743, which has already been passed into law. The bill is mostly related to the transportation section of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), however there were some references made to renewable energy. The bill called for the creation of a new position in the Governor's office of Advisor on Renewable Energy Facilities Staff suggested the Task Force send a letter to the author regarding the definition of renewable energy and the lack of renewable energy credit for conversion technologies and other solid waste facilities. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahman Hajialiakbar and passed with one abstention from Mr. Ed Pupka.

Mr. Mike Mohajer mentioned he attended a meeting in Sacramento regarding SB 727 addressing product stewardship and unused or expired medication. The Senate Environmental Quality Committee is working on revisions to the bill at this time. Revisions will continue over the next several months, and he will report back next month if there is an update.

VII. HIGH DIVERSION RATES AND COMPENSATION WORKSHOP

Mr. Chris Sheppard updated the Task Force on the High Diversion Rates and Compensation workshop hosted by CalRecycle on November 7, 2013, at the Lakewood City Hall.

The focus of this workshop was on establishing rates to help fund diversion programs. HF&H gave several short presentations about funding requirements and the revenue gap created when disposal fees are used to fund - diversion programs that reduce disposal tonnage. They also discussed the voter initiatives that make it difficult to create funding for new programs, like Propositions 13, 218, and 26, and what jurisdictions are doing to fund diversion programs.

Kim Braun from the City of Santa Monica presented the City's Zero Waste Plan and strategic planning effort. The presentation included information regarding the costs vs. savings for implementing more diversion programs such as food waste collection. Santa Monica's Zero Waste goal is to achieve 95 percent diversion by 2030.

Susan Robinson from Waste Management presented how various jurisdictions in Washington State handle disposal and diversion. She discussed their "pay-as-you-throw" program and how low collection rates lead to low recycling rates. She stressed the importance of community involvement and public agency outreach about waste management goals and objectives and discussed the benefits of paying waste management companies a base fee that reduces their risk to operate.

Ruth Abbe from HDR made a presentation regarding Zero Waste Programs and discussed the need for transparency and community involvement as well as changing current perceptions about the true costs of waste management. Many people believe that recycling pays for itself, which isn't the case. She also discussed the importance of having a champion for your cause in the political arena. She cited Mayor Villaraigosa, Mayor Newsom, and Mayor Reed as examples of champions who fought for rate increases and new ways to fund collection programs.

There were some questions during the Q&A session about what to do about scavenging and hard to handle items such as diapers. There was also a question about enforcement of new restrictions on what can go in the trash. Susan Robinson mentioned that one jurisdiction used extra funding from their rate increase to hire two new police officers completely dedicated to trash/recycling enforcement.

The second half of the workshop was related to Public Landfill owners and the dilemma they face with reduced disposal tonnage. Stephen Grealy from the City of San Diego spoke about their difficulty with raising funding due to an old law that prohibits the City from charging single family residents for trash collection. Doug Landon from Kern County discussed their landfill operations and the difficulties that they had with a land use parcel fee for trash disposal. They now use a mix of different fees for the residential and commercial sectors to pay for disposal at their county-owned landfills. Both speakers discussed the importance of turning landfills into integrated waste management facilities to handle materials recovery, energy recovery and lastly disposal. The speakers emphasized raising landfill fees alone is not the solution, rather landfills should diversify their business model to create recovery parks including C&D sorting, recycling, composting, anaerobic digestion, energy generation, etc.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF AB 1126 CHANGES TO THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

No report given. Approving the changes to the Countywide Siting Element was tabled until they have heard from CalRecycle regarding the implementing regulations for AB 1126.

IX. STATUS UPDATE OF PAINT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Ms. Armine Kesablian provided a summary on PaintCare's 2013 annual report which covered the first year of the California Paint Stewardship Program as required by AB 1343. In the first year, PaintCare reported that it implemented a sustainable funding mechanism by charging fees on the purchase of new paints, with sales totaling about \$20 million. Additionally PaintCare established 495 public drop-off sites, and collected a total of 632,652 gallons of paint statewide; however, at this time PaintCare still did not have a baseline established to measure its collection efforts. PaintCare reported that 96% of the paint processed was recycled or used for other beneficial use. Total program cost for Paintcare was about \$9.3 million, and net assets end of the year were about \$9.8 million.

Ms. Kesablian reported that local jurisdictions joined CPSC to discuss PaintCare's report, and as a result, on October 21, CPSC sent a letter to CalRecycle addressing the concerns raised by local jurisdictions. The report lacked important details, such as progress measures, and baseline numbers, which are important to assess the impact of the program. The report also needed to address the mischaracterizations by PaintCare on the efforts made by a coalition of local governments to negotiate contracts through the multi-jurisdictional process. On October 31, CalRecycle sent a letter to PaintCare,

finding their report incomplete and allowed 30 days for PaintCare to submit a revised report.

Ms. Kesablian also provided an update on the County's efforts to get PaintCare on board for the County collection events. She mentioned that staff has met with CSD and County Counsel and drafted language to amend existing contracts with Clean Harbors and PSC. Once the language is approved, the County will be moving forward with the amendments. Staff anticipates having PaintCare on board early next year.

X. STATUS UPDATE ON CARPET STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Gabriel Arenas reported CalRecycle will be accepting comments until the close of business on Wednesday, December 27, regarding Carpet America Recovery Effort's (CARE) revised Stewardship Plan, which was submitted in late October. The previous plan was rejected by CalRecycle at their August public meeting due to the Plan's absence of "sufficient demonstration that continuous and meaningful improvements in carpet diversion and recycling is likely to occur." Following are specific problems with the Plan:

- The revised Plan still has a low recycling rate goal for 2016, which, despite being a low target, will be difficult to reach since CARE projected the goal based on a 14% recycle rate in 2012. The 14% rate was based off faulty data which included 16,000 tons of carpet they counted as recycled but was actually sent to landfills.
- Some of the collection and processing facilities listed in CARE's Plan have shut down. The remaining facilities simply don't have the capacity to process the amount of carpet needed to reach the 16% goal.
- Carpet recycling is not accessible to a wide number of Californians. The program incentivizes collectors in rural areas only. Because of this, projects that are picked up in bulky item pickup programs by local government agencies or haulers tend to be disposed because it is too costly to segregate the recyclable nylon carpet from the non-recyclable PET carpet. This problem could be solved if carpet shipped into the State had the fiber type marked on the backing.
- The increased use of recycled PET for carpet is another major obstacle to increasing the recycle rate of carpet in the state. Presently the only use for post-consumer PET carpet is for carpet backing but that cannot account for the vast amount PET carpet that is created. CARE has committed to

research grants to California Universities to study improvements in PET carpet recycling and has hired a Program Manager to facilitate recycling of PET carpet.

- A large amount of recyclable carpet made from nylon is actually being shipped overseas. It is apparently very inexpensive to export whole nylon carpet to Asia.

Staff recommended the Task Force send a comment letter to CalRecycle expressing their concerns with the carpet plan and program. Mr. Mike Mohajer made the motion to send the letter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bahman Hajjaliakbar and passed unanimously.

XI. STATUS UPDATE ON COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS/TRANSFER PROCESSING DRAFT REGULATIONS

Mr. Patrick Holland gave the [attached presentation](#) on the compostable materials /transfer processing Draft Regulations. He highlighted that CalRecycle released the Second Draft Regulation text in September 2013, which was revised based on comments received by CalRecycle. The Task Force sent a comment letter on October 11, 2013, emphasizing the need for terms such as “organic”, “organic material”, “compostable organic” “non-compostable organic” to be defined; the necessity for facilities to record the quantities of materials received from jurisdictions to aid them with information regarding their diversion programs; and protection of communities regarding “nuisances” including “odor” that may occur as a result of these facilities including specifying the timeframes for facilities or the Enforcement Agencies to take actions to eliminate the impact to residents. Mr. Patrick Holland explained that on October 15, 2013 at a CalRecycle public meeting, it was decided that CalRecycle submit the current draft regulations to the Office of Administrative Law to initiate the formal rulemaking process under the California Administrative Procedure Act. CalRecycle does not anticipate any adjustments with the draft regulations except for some minor grammatical changes.

On July 19, 2013, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) released a Notice of Preparation for the Environmental Document for Composting Operations. SWRCB held a public scoping meeting on August 23, 2013, for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) that will be prepared for the proposed General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations. During the scoping meeting, Water Board staff received comments from interested parties on the recommended contents of the PEIR. The Task Force sent a letter to SWRCB on September 4, 2013. Staff will continue to monitor both

CalRecycle's progress on the draft regulatory revisions as well SWRCB's draft order and provide relevant updates.

XII. REPORT ON PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL CLOSURE AND IMPACT ON SOLID WASTE FACILITIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY & NEIGHBORING COUNTIES

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided the following update on the Puente Hills Landfill closure. The Landfill, owned and operated by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, was permitted to accept up to 13,200 tons per day (TPD) of municipal solid waste for disposal and an average of 5,500 TPD for beneficial use materials. The Landfill offered low-cost disposal of municipal solid waste and an important avenue for beneficial use materials such as green waste, incinerator ash, and construction and demolition debris.

During 2012, Puente Hills Landfill received an average of about 6,900 TPD of MSW for disposal. The Landfill closed its doors on October 31, 2013. Closure activities will take approximately 12 to 24 months, which will consist of placing a final cover and construction of the drainage system. The Sanitation Districts will continue to operate and maintain the landfill's environmental control systems, such as landfill gas monitoring and control systems, and drainage and containment systems for at least the next 30 years.

In anticipation of the Landfill's closure, the Districts made necessary preparations for their other waste facilities to be ready to receive and manage additional waste. Furthermore, the Districts have also entered into a Waste Importation Agreement with Orange County to deliver a minimum of 21,250 tons per month of residual solid waste processed at the Districts' facilities for disposal. The contract period is from November 1, 2013, through June 30, 2016.

Staff has contacted other in-County landfills, such as Lancaster, Chiquita Canyon, and Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfills as well as landfills from Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, regarding their daily tonnages both before and after the closure of the Puente Hills Landfill and found that not much has changed in their tonnage intake since October 31. Staff also contacted the Districts to obtain information on any changes in intake at several solid waste facilities owned by the Districts before and after the closure of Puente Hills.

To date, Based on the [attached chart](#), there are negligible increases in the average daily tonnages received by local Transfer and Processing facilities after the closure of the Puente Hills Landfill with the exception of the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (PHMRF). All three facilities are now able to use the

Waste Importation Agreement to take any solid waste received for disposal to Orange County Landfills. Additionally, before the landfill closure, PHMRF was only receiving 200 TPD of materials. After the landfill closure, the MRF began receiving tonnages up to 2,800 tons per day, with 2,200 tons per day going to Orange County landfills for disposal.

At this time, with the exception of the PHMRF, it is too early to see the impacts on other in-County solid waste management facilities. Once more information on the tonnages received by in-County landfills and those exported to Out-of-County Landfills, a better understanding on how the closure of the landfill is affecting countywide disposal can be obtained.

Further discussion ensued regarding the drastic increase of material being received at the PHMRF. Mr. Chris Salomon commented that the Districts anticipated an increase in the receipt of waste at the PHMRF; however, they didn't expect the increase to be as high as 2,800 TPD. Since the amount of materials received was higher than anticipated, some of those materials were taken to El Sobrante Landfill, in addition to Orange County landfills, for disposal. Furthermore, Mr. Ron Saldana stated, to date, that the closure of the Landfill has not had a major impact on the waste haulers. The pricing for handling of waste has been adjusted at the MRF, offering a higher rate for cleaner loads.

In light of AB 341, Mr. Mike Mohajer inquired about the collection of green waste since the Puente Hills Landfill was receiving roughly 50% of the County's total green waste for ADC. Currently, the PHMRF is taking in 100 to 150 TPD of green waste and Downey Area Recycling & Transfer is taking in 100 TPD. Staff will do further research to get more accurate information on the distribution of the County's green waste amongst CSD's facilities and contracted facilities as information becomes available. Mr. Wayne Hunter questioned the numbers presented in the report and stated that it doesn't account for the total amount of waste that the Landfill was taking prior to its closure. Mr. Salomon explained that the reporting of waste collected for the current month is done midway through the following month. The exact numbers for where the waste has gone won't be available until approximately by the end of December when all the tonnage reports begin to come in for the month of November.

XIII. CALRECYCLE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin reported the following:

- CARB will host a second High Diversion Rate and Compensation workshop December 10 in Sacramento, which will be broadcasted.

- The Institute for Local Governments is conducting a survey on financing and siting of facilities best practices and planning mechanisms. The survey is on their website at <http://www.ca-ilg.org/webform/recycling-financing-planning-and-siting-survey>.
- City/County payment grant for beverage container recycling NOFA will be released next week. The due date is due in February.
- A workshop on covered electronic waste will take place in early December. Visit the CalRecycle website for more information.

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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