

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

Minutes of November 21, 2002

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Clarence Gieck, Greater Los Angeles Solid Waste Management Association
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
John McTaggart, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Ginger Bremberg, represented by Lois Shade, General Public Representative
Ron Deaton, represented by Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Christopher Garner, represented by Charles Tripp, City of Long Beach
Thomas L. Garthwaite, rep. by Virginia Maloles, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
James A. Noyes, represented by Mike Mohajer, County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works
Jim Stahl, rep. by Grace Chan, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Judith Wilson, rep. by Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Ben Wong, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Melinda Barrett, County of L.A. DPW
George De La O, County of L.A. DPW
Tess Da Silva, SCS Engineers
Tammy Evans, City of Monrovia
Chris Ludlum, City of Arcadia
Carolyn Meredith, City of Pasadena
Nancy Steiner, Solid Waste Solutions
Lars Wilsson, Solid Waste Solutions

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Betsey Landis stated that Section II of the October 17, 2002, minutes should be amended to clarify that Ms. Margaret Clark did not make the motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Landis also stated that Section V should be amended to state that AB 2308 does not sunset until the January 1 following the date that the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) adopts regulations regarding construction and demolition debris (C&D) and inert waste. Section IV was also amended to reflect that the daily permitted capacity of the Puente Hills Landfill cannot exceed 72,000 tons per week. These amendments were agreed to and the minutes of October 17, 2002, were unanimously approved as amended.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Clarence Gieck provided a report from the Public Education and Information Subcommittee. Mr. Gieck stated that the City of Santa Clarita submitted a newsletter article that was corrected and ratified by the Subcommittee. The City of Westlake Village also submitted a newsletter article that was approved as it was written by the Subcommittee. Mr. Gieck also reported that Mr. George De La O of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) gave a presentation on the draft of the proposed Task Force website to the Subcommittee.

IV. DRAFT INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE WEBSITE

Mr. De La O of Public Works gave a presentation on the Task Force website being developed by staff. Mr. De La O stated that the website contains Task Force meeting agendas and minutes, Inside Solid Waste newsletters, information regarding the history of the Task Force and subcommittees, and a list of Task Force and subcommittee members/alternates and their contact information. This website is not yet live or accessible to the general public.

Questions were posed by the Task Force members along with suggestions for further refinement of the website. These included the format of the downloadable documents, amount of information to be available, and the URL name to be used. The website will also be presented again when it is ready to go live on the Internet.

V. COUNTYWIDE HHW- PARTNERSHIPS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Ms. Melinda Barrett of Public Works gave a presentation on Partnerships in Public Education regarding Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), which she had made at the SWANA 2002 Conference in Long Beach the prior month. Ms. Barrett stated that some of Public Works' goals regarding HHW are increasing participation in HHW collection events, increasing public awareness regarding HHW during initial purchase of HHW materials, educating the public on the proper handling of HHW during a residential move, and increasing HHW awareness among the Spanish-speaking population of Los Angeles County.

Ms. Barrett described several methods that Public Works is currently using in its outreach strategy to achieve these goals. One has been the establishment of partnerships with retailers that sell HHW materials, such as Home Depot. Participating retailers help increase HHW awareness by placing posters on the proper handling of HHW materials near to where the materials are sold, by handing out tip cards to their customers, and also by allowing Public Works to train their staff to accurately advise their customers regarding HHW.

Public Works has also established partnerships with moving companies to increase HHW awareness for people who are in the process of moving. Through these partnerships, moving companies include informational "Plan for the Planet" inserts in the packets that they send to their customers. In addition, Ms. Barrett stated that Public Works places HHW awareness advertisements in free real estate magazines. These advertisements feature the campaign slogan, "You can't take it with you."

Outreach to the Spanish-speaking population is primarily through the use of Spanish media, such as special features on Univisión (television station) and in La Opinión (newspaper). This outreach focuses on family health and safety and also includes information regarding inhalant abuse.

Ms. Barrett stated that these efforts are ongoing and have already resulted in a significant increase in HHW collection participation rates. She stated that there has been a 116 percent increase in participation over the 1997 baseline number.

VI. PRESENTATION: TOWARD A ZERO WASTE FOR A SUSTAINABLE NEW ZEALAND

Mr. David Haskell, Nelson City Council Zero Waste Coordinator, gave a presentation on New Zealand's zero waste policy. Mr. Haskell stated that New Zealand is the first nation in the world that has declared a zero waste policy. Its goal is to achieve zero waste by 2015. New Zealand has a population of

about 4 million and is roughly the size of California. Mr. Haskell stated that the decision to move toward a zero waste policy is not the result of worries regarding landfill space, but rather, a move toward preserving the spirit of New Zealand's Maori ancestry and a move toward saving the world.

Mr. Haskell stated that the move toward zero waste occurs in New Zealand on three streams. These are the community stream, the local authority stream, and the national/central government stream. Each stream is essential to achieving zero waste, but New Zealand is primarily community-driven. Mr. Haskell explained that in 1998, the Steven Tindall Foundation offered \$25,000 to the first ten councils in New Zealand that declared a zero waste goal. Currently, 36 councils in New Zealand have adopted zero waste policies.

Mr. Haskell stated that New Zealand benefits from the zero waste policy because the policy stimulates the economy by creating jobs. The move toward zero waste focuses on resource recovery and requires the creation of resource recovery facilities and facility-related jobs. In addition, Mr. Haskell explained that New Zealand is also focusing on waste as a material cycle rather than a linear stream. Under this focus, the producer of a product must allow consumers to bring their products back when they are finished so the producer can reuse or recycle the products. This makes recycling and reuse easier for the consumer, which encourages consumer participation in the zero waste program.

Mr. Haskell also provided more details on zero waste in response to questions from Task Force members. He also stated that more information is available on New Zealand's Ministry for the Environment website, www.mfe.govt.nz, which also has all the information contained in the booklet he distributed to Task Force members.

VII. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON AB 939 REGIONAL AGENCY FORMATION

Ms. Nady Maechling from the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation provided the status report. Ms. Maechling stated that the cutoff date for cities and jurisdictions to join the Regional Agency for this fiscal year is March 30, 2003. Cities and jurisdictions that join after that date will be considered members for the next fiscal year. She explained that fees will be calculated from the date that the cities or jurisdictions join the Regional Agency.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

There was no report from the CIWMB as no representative attended this meeting.

IX. BRIEF UPDATES

Mr. George De La O provided brief updates regarding the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Proposed Rule 1133, the Greenwaste Chipping and Grinding Source Tests, and the CIWMB's Compostable Materials Handling Operations and Facilities Regulations.

Mr. De La O stated that the SCAQMD is continuing to develop the regulations for chipping and grinding facilities and for co-composting facilities through their Proposed Rules 1133, 1133.1 and 1133.2. The regulations for green waste composting will be developed at a later time. Mr. De La O also stated that some of the primary concerns by the industry have been the holding time for the chipping and grinding of materials. The September 30, 2002, version of the Proposed Rule had a holding time for curbside green waste of three days and a holding time for non-curbside green waste of seven days. As a result of the concerns raised, new holding time was proposed on October 29, 2002. The holding time increased for non-curbside green waste to 14 days. Task Force members expressed their concerns that these holding times would still have negative impacts and create difficulties for cities that use these materials.

Mr. De La O discussed the SCAQMD's Greenwaste Chipping and Grinding Source Tests. These tests were completed on curbside green waste at a facility for two days and non-curbside green waste at a facility for 21 days. The tests demonstrated that the temperatures and other readings of the material did not vary significantly. Mr. De La O stated that concerns were raised to the SCAQMD regarding the times at which the readings were taken, how long the green waste had been in the location prior to testing, and the testing equipment used. These concerns resulted in the extending of the holding times mentioned above.

Mr. De La O also discussed CIWMB Compostable Materials Handling Operations and Facilities Regulations. He stated that a second 15-day comment period for the regulations had already occurred. Mr. De La O explained that the regulations seek to place compostable materials handling operations and facilities into regulatory permitting tiers.

He stated that Public Works had submitted comments during both 15-day comment periods; however, the CIWMB did not revise the proposed regulations to reflect the suggestions. There were three comments to the CIWMB. The first was to provide a definition of "stockpiling" to clarify what activities are covered or excluded by these proposed regulations. The second was to include a statement that "stockpiling" that exceeded the limits constitutes "above ground disposal" and will not be counted as disposal in regards to AB 939. The third comment was to require that annual reports and records tracking diversion and jurisdiction of origin be submitted to the CIWMB and made available to all jurisdictions upon request.

Mr. Mike Mohajer added that the words, "at the site" were added to the regulations during the second 15-day comment period. Mr. Mohajer stated that the addition of these words signifies that a permit is necessary to pick up and move compostable materials. He stated that Public Works activities should remain exempt from these regulations. Mr. Mohajer recommended that the Task Force send a letter to the CIWMB opposing the regulations. A motion was made to send a letter opposing the regulations. The motion was passed unanimously.

X. IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL 2308 REGARDING INERT LANDFILLS

Mr. Carlos Ruiz indicated that AB 2308 levels the playing field by removing inert waste disposed at mine reclamation sites that have a Solid Waste Facility Permit (Nu-way Live Oak, Reliance Pit #2, and Peck Road Gravel Pit) from jurisdictions' disposal numbers. The legislation will be in effect until the CIWMB develops regulations that address the depositing of inert waste at mine reclamation sites. Mr. Ruiz added that on November 4, 2002, CIWMB staff conducted a workshop at their Long Beach office to provide information to local jurisdictions regarding the implementation of the legislation. At the workshop, CIWMB staff indicated that implementation of the legislation at the CIWMB level would differ slightly from the letter of the legislation to make it easier for jurisdictions to get through the process. The CIWMB will do the bulk of the work by automatically doing the calculation for all affected jurisdictions. If a jurisdiction does not agree with the CIWMB's numbers, they can contact CIWMB staff to discuss and resolve any discrepancies. CIWMB staff emphasized that due to the way this legislation was crafted, "in no case will a jurisdiction be negatively impacted by the legislation."

Mr. Ruiz distributed preliminary information from the CIWMB regarding AB 2308 implementation and discussed how the CIWMB would be calculating revised disposal rates. Mr. Ruiz added that the CIWMB would be preparing a letter to all affected jurisdictions (approximately 175) advising them of the process.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments at the meeting.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for January 16, 2003, at 1 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Attach.