

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

Minutes of February 20, 2003

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Clarence Gieck, Greater Los Angeles Solid Waste Management Association
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Christopher Garner, represented by Jim Kuhl, City of Long Beach
Thomas L. Garthwaite, rep. by Virginia Maloles, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
John McTaggart, rep. by Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
James A. Noyes, represented by Mike Mohajer, County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works
Jim Stahl, represented by John Gullede, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Judith Wilson, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ginger Bremberg, General Public Representative
Ron Deaton, City of Los Angeles Appointee
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Ben Wong, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of L.A. DPW
Damien Arrula, City of Sierra Madre
Bob Barker, County of L.A. DPW
Grace Chan, LACSD
Connie Christian, LACSD
Barbara De Mayo, City of Covina
Jenna Harwick, City of Agoura Hills
Jeanette Lopez, City of South Gate
Benjamin Lucha, City of Santa Clarita

Chris Ludlum, City of Arcadia
Ajay Malik, LACSD
Carolyn Meredith, City of Pasadena
Phil Moralez, CIWMB
Michelle Nicholls, SCS Engineers
Kerry Rasmussen, SCS Engineers
Ron Saldana, LACDA
Susannah Turney, City of Arcadia

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2003

The minutes of January 16, 2003, were unanimously approved as presented.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Clarence Gieck provided the report from the Public Education and Information Subcommittee. Mr. Gieck stated they received three articles to review for the Inside Solid Waste newsletter. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that printed articles are reader-friendly so anyone may understand the language used. Articles will be rewritten with the author's consent to achieve this objective.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Albert Avoian provided the report from the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee. The Subcommittee discussed the consideration of a Finding of Conformance (FOC) for the Puente Hills Landfill (Puente Hills). He reported that the Subcommittee recommends the Task Force approve the FOC for the Puente Hills.

V. CONSIDERATION OF A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL

Mr. Mike Mohajer of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works provided specific details regarding the Puente Hills continued operation proposal. He stated the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD) own and operate Puente Hills and its current Land Use Permit expires on October 31, 2003. The LACSD is requesting continued operation of Puente Hills through October 31, 2013 with a vertical expansion and 12 acre lateral expansion. The LACSD has gone through the CEQA process and the CEQA document was certified by the LACSD and was approved by the County as a sponsor agency. The document was reviewed by the County Regional Planning Commission (CRPC) and the LACSD was granted a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) on December 18, 2002.

Ms. Grace Chan of LACSD conducted a presentation on the proposed continued operation of Puente Hills (attached). Ms. Chan stated the Puente Hills handles approximately one-third of the waste disposed in Los Angeles County. Ms. Chan then

explained the LACSD's four main objectives regarding the proposed continued operation of Puente Hills.

The LACSD's first objective is to utilize the remaining disposal capacity that has been identified at the landfill. It has received a CUP to continue operations until October 31, 2013, after which the landfill must close. The permitted tonnage rate for disposal would be a maximum of 13,200 tons per day and the receipt of materials for beneficial use would be limited to existing levels plus an additional amount of dirt needed for future operations.

Ms. Chan stated Puente Hills provides significant recycling programs and the LACSD's second objective is to continue these programs. These include programs such as the greenwaste recovery program and energy recovery projects.

The third objective is to continue funding for open space preservation. The funding provided by the landfill's operation to date has resulted in the management of over 3,000 acres of native habitat, which is more than four times the acreage that will ever be disturbed by landfilling. When the landfill is ultimately closed, it will be developed for recreational use by the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

Ms. Chan stated the LACSD is committed to implementing waste-by-rail to meet the long term needs of the County. Therefore, LACSD's fourth objective is to fund a transition to waste-by-rail.

Ms. Chan delineated the requirements specified by the CUP. According to the CUP: \$1.00 per ton will go to fund community benefits in the area surrounding Puente Hills; \$0.25 per ton will go toward recycling programs in unincorporated areas; the LACSD will be required to fund 12 household hazardous waste and e-waste events per year; up to \$1 million will go to the study of alternative technologies through a subcommittee of the Task Force and possibly fund a pilot facility if an appropriate and viable technology is identified; and the LACSD is required to fund the final use of the landfill after closure. In addition, the CUP includes a timeline for implementing a waste-by-rail program. The LACSD must begin development of the remote landfill by the end of 2007, must begin operation of the remote landfill by the end of 2008, and must have an operational waste-by-rail system by the end of 2009.

Task Force members inquired about the permitting cost and daily capacity of the proposed MRF. Ms. Chan stated the MRF permitting cost should be less than \$1 million and the MRF will have a daily capacity of 4,000 tons. The MRF will be

independently permitted and its 4,000-ton daily capacity is in addition to the permitted daily capacity of the Puente Hills Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer reiterated that Puente Hills is the first facility to go through the FOC process under the new requirements of the Countywide Siting Element. These new requirements include recognizing community concerns and utilizing the total amount of disposal capacity that exists in Los Angeles County. Mr. Mohajer stated that evening community meetings were held in Hacienda Heights and Avocado Heights to address community concerns regarding Puente Hills. In addition, if the landfill is permitted to continue operations through October 31, 2013, more in-County disposal capacity will be utilized.

Mr. Mohajer also explained that this proposal promotes alternative technologies by providing funding for research and potential alternative technology pilot programs. These activities will be monitored by a subcommittee of the Task Force, which will consist of up to 11 members.

A motion to grant a Finding of Conformance to the LACSD for the continued operation of the Puente Hills Landfill was made and passed. Nine Task Force members voted for granting the Finding of Conformance and Mr. John Gulledge of the LACSD abstained from voting.

VI. PRESENTATION ON WASTEAWAY'S MAKCRONUTTRI TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Jim McKay and Dr. Anthony Aguirre gave a presentation on WasteAway's Makcronuttri Technology and distributed information on their technology (attached). Mr. McKay and Dr. Aguirre stated that WasteAway Technology, Inc. has developed a technology that can liquify biodegradable waste in three to ten hours. The Makcronuttri solution is made up of herbal extracts and minerals. This solution is combined with water and placed into a processor with biodegradable waste at a rate of 55 liters of the solution per ton of waste. The biodegradable waste is literally boiled in the processor until only liquid and biosolids remain. The liquid can be treated and used as a high-grade nutrient organic liquid or solid pelletized fertilizer and the biosolid residue can be used as a potting soil. The amount of waste that can be liquified at a time depends on the capacity of the processor itself. The cost of the entire process varies on a case-by-case basis. The variables include the amount to be processed, whether WasteAway provides the labor, and who manufactures the processors.

Dr. Aguirre stated that there is currently an operational unit and a waiting list of clients in the Philippines. Mr. McKay added that higher capacity processors, such as 100 ton processors, are still being developed.

Mr. McKay explained that the Makronuttri solution can be applied directly to biodegradable waste without applying heat and the waste will still dissolve faster than it would in the normal landfill process. The application of heat hastens the process, but it is not required. Applying the solution directly to the waste without heat is one option for those dealing with a large amount of waste. Mr. McKay stated that they have a miniature processor in the City of Rolling Hills that can be used to demonstrate the process to those who are interested. In addition, WasteAway can provide Makronuttri solution for its testing and experiments. Mr. Mohajer stated that when the alternative technology subcommittee of the Task Force is formed, Mr. McKay and Dr. Aguirre may give another presentation to the subcommittee. This presentation may include a demonstration of the miniature processor.

VII. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON AB 939 REGIONAL AGENCY FORMATION

Ms. Karen Coca of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation provided a status report on the AB 939 Regional Agency formation. At the end of January, Ms. Coca sent the Joint Powers Agreement package to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). The CIWMB began their official review of the Joint Powers Agreement last week and has compiled a list of issues regarding the agreement. The Regional Agency is working with the CIWMB to resolve these issues. Currently, 14 cities are members, however, the City of Duarte will be discussing possible membership at their City Council meeting next week. The current list of members includes: Artesia, Beverly Hills, Hidden Hills, Lynwood, Manhattan Beach, Pomona, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Sierra Madre, Torrance, South Gate, Gardena, Los Angeles, and Rosemead.

VIII. REPORT ON BRADLEY LANDFILL REVISED SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT

Mr. Mike Mohajer provided a report on the Bradley Landfill Revised Solid Waste Permit. Mr. Mohajer stated that he is still attempting to explain to the CIWMB that they must revise the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Article 6.5, Regulation 18756, Subsection (d) (attached) if they do not intend to enforce it. He explained that several letters have been sent to the CIWMB's legal counsel, Mr. Elliot Block. The CIWMB has sent reply letters (attached), but these replies have not addressed the issue of revising Subsection (d).

According to Mr. Mohajer, Waste Management, Inc. should be required to obtain a FOC from the Task Force because they revised the vertical and horizontal boundaries of Bradley Landfill. In addition, Waste Management, Inc. has gone to the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and revised the Bradley Landfill contour map for a re-grade. This re-grade made the Bradley Landfill smaller horizontally, but it increased

the elevation of the landfill by 10 feet and made its slope much steeper. These changes resulted in an additional 9 million cubic yards of capacity. Waste Management, Inc. recognized that these changes were significant enough to require a revised Solid Waste Permit, but did not obtain an FOC from the Task Force and instead they applied directly to the CIWMB for the revised permit. The CIWMB issued the revised Solid Waste Permit without an FOC from the Task Force, contrary to the language of Subsection (d) which requires that the minimum criteria in the Siting Element must be satisfied. One minimum criterion of the Countywide Siting Element is that any change to any existing landfill requires an FOC from the Task Force. The issuance of the revised Solid Waste Permit to Waste Management, Inc. without the FOC negates Subsection (d) of their regulation.

However, in a letter dated February 11, 2003 (attached), Waste Management agreed to submit a Finding of Conformance proposal on or before June 1, 2003. The remaining problem is the unwillingness of the CIWMB to enforce their regulation or to address their lack of enforcement. Mr. Mohajer added that last Thursday night he attended a local hearing of the CIWMB held in Sun Valley. He explained that he had previously written to the CIWMB requesting six minutes to speak on the issue at the meeting, which was agreed. However, at the meeting, he was not allowed to speak. He was told that the CIWMB had already heard the Task Force's position on the Finding of Conformance issue. Mr. Mohajer stated that he had three handouts with him and attempted to give a copy to Ms. Ellen McKay, a representative of the East Valley Coalition. Mr. Mohajer was approached by Ms. Kit Cole, the legislative analyst to Mr. Paparian, who, without provocation, told Mr. Mohajer that if he wants an answer from the CIWMB regarding the FOC issue, he will need to sue the CIWMB. Mr. Mohajer stated that he attempted to get her to clarify her statement, but she walked away without saying anything else. Mr. Mohajer stated he wrote an e-mail to Mr. Paparian to ask if that is the official position of the CIWMB.

Ms. Karen Coca stated that the Task Force needs to take action other than sending letters. A motion was made to ask County Counsel to review the letters from the CIWMB and the Task Force on this issue and review the regulation in question. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

Mr. Steven Uselton of the CIWMB stated that the State of California as a whole has achieved a diversion rate of 48 percent for 2001. He explained that the CIWMB is progressing with their Biennial Reviews and that they are beginning to review the 2001 Annual Reports they have received. The CIWMB has an aggressive goal of completing their review of the 2001 Annual Reports by May 2003.

X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Paul Alva of County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works provided the legislative update. Mr. Alva distributed an updated legislative summary table and stated there are four new Bills introduced that are of interest to the Task Force.

- AB 240- Introduced by Reyes

This Bill would prohibit the CIWMB from adopting regulations that exempt a solid waste facility from any of the requirements for solid waste facilities, including any regulations based on the number of tons of solid waste per day accepted by the facility.

- AB 501- Introduced by Cogdill

This Bill would specify that the programs to which the CIWMB may make grants include programs that maintain existing programs in rural cities and counties. The Bill would add existing programs serving rural areas, underserved areas, and small cities to the types of programs to which the CIWMB is required to give priority. This Bill would also require that at least 10 percent of the total annual amount of grants made for these programs to be distributed, noncompetitively, to rural counties and cities as block grants.

- SB 204- Introduced by Perata, Alpert, Kuehl, and Romero

This Bill would require the CIWMB to provide grants to local agencies to fund programs for the recycling and diversion from landfill disposal of personal care products. The Bill would define a “personal care product” to mean a disposal product composed of plastic and paper materials that is worn by a person of any age for the purpose of capturing human waste. The Bill would require every person who purchases a personal care product from a retail seller to pay the seller a diversion and recycling fee of \$0.0025 per personal care product.

- SB 287- Introduced by Sher

This Spot Bill would revise the legislative intent of AB 939.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Karen Coca stated that the City of Los Angeles passed an ordinance requiring an AB 939 compliance fee for haulers. Currently, haulers are required to pay 10 percent

of their gross receipts as a compliance fee. However, Ms. Coca stated that two of their top 15 haulers have not paid anything. As a result, there will be a discussion regarding changing the compliance fee to a disposal-based fee. Ms. Coca explained that changing to a disposal-based fee could potentially impact other cities and the topic should be placed on the agenda for the next Task Force meeting. Ms. Coca stated that she can provide a proponent of the disposal-based fee to better explain the fee to the Task Force members.

A motion was made and carried unanimously to add the disposal-based fee agenda item to the next Task Force meeting agenda.

Ms. Margaret Clark inquired about the Krispy Kreme coupons that are given out in exchange for used tires at Waste Tire Collection Events. Mr. Bob Barker of the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works explained that, in partnership with the Department, Krispy Kreme provides one coupon for a free dozen doughnuts, when a dozen is bought for every load of tires that is received at the collection events. Ms. Clark stated the Task Force should send a letter to Krispy Kreme thanking the company for its support.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 20, 2003.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.

Attach.