

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

Minutes of August 19, 2004

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
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Thomas L. Garthwaite, rep. by Pete Oda, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
David Roberti, represented by Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Jim Stahl, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Don Wolfe, rep. by Shari Afshari, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Ben Wong, rep. by, John Mc Taggart, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
Ron Deaton, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Christopher J. Garner, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Rita Robinson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Toyasha Black, City of Arcadia
Doug Corcoran, Waste Management
Jon Emerson, City of Redondo Beach
Judith Fries, County Counsel
Jimmy H. Hill, Los Angeles Fire Department
Benjamin Lucha, City of Santa Clarita
Ellen Mackey, East Valley Coalition
Carolyn Meredith, City of Pasadena
Phil Moralez, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Rosalie Mulé, California Integrated Waste Management Board Member
Isabel Schleif, City of Covina
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Michael Theroux, USCHPA

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2004

A motion was made to approve the minutes of June 21, 2004. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer provided a summary of the Public Education and Information Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Mohajer stated articles were reviewed on retrofitting the Pasadena City Hall, business recycling in Monrovia's downtown area, and household hazardous waste collection in the City of Palos Verdes Estates. These articles would be placed in the September issue of Inside Solid Waste.

Mr. Mohajer stated there was an unexpected delay in the release of the July 2004 newsletter. The release of that issue is expected within the next two weeks.

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye conducted a Power Point presentation giving an overview of conversion technologies as they relate to the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee's primary purpose to study, evaluate, and promote their development. Mr. Skye distributed a printout of the presentation (attached). The presentation provided an overview of the basic solid waste disposal options and the barriers they pose for jurisdictions in accomplishing the Waste Board's zero waste goal. The presentation focused on the importance of exploring new technologies and outlined the positive environmental and economic benefits for using conversion technologies in managing solid waste.

A question was raised regarding the Waste Board's position on conversion technologies and their failure to respond to the Task Force's previous letters regarding this issue. In response, Waste Board Member Ms. Rosalie Mulé stated she would like copies of the letters previously forwarded to the Waste Board so that she could provide a response. Ms. Mulé further added the Waste Board will be releasing a Life Cycle and Market Impact Assessment of Noncombustion Waste Conversion Technologies report which will be available on their website. She encouraged everyone to provide comments on the

Report. Ms. Mulé stated the Report will be an agenda item on the September 21 and 22, 2004, Waste Board meeting.

Mr. Paul Alva, Chair of the Subcommittee, thanked the Waste Board for their continued support in working with the Subcommittee. Mr. Alva stated URS Corporation has been selected as the consultant to the advisory Subcommittee. The URS Corporation will assist in the research and feasibility study associated with developing a pilot demonstration conversion technology facility in southern California. A report will be prepared by February 2005 recommending suitable sites for processing Material Recovery Facility (MRF) residuals through the conversion process.

Mr. Alva added the Subcommittee recommends the Task Force send a letter to the MRF operators to solicit participation in the feasibility study. A motion was made to send the said letter to the MRF operators. The motion passed unanimously.

V. STATUS OF TASK FORCE REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON BRADLEY LANDFILL

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa stated staff concluded their review of information provided by Waste Management, Inc., for Bradley Landfill and the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning (attached). Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that it is staff's opinion that Waste Management, Inc., has provided sufficient information and therefore staff recommends that Bradley Landfill be found in conformance with the County's Siting Element.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR BRADLEY LANDFILL

Mr. Aiyetiwa stated there were several issues regarding Bradley Landfill. These were:

- The adequacy of documentation to substantiate the City of Los Angeles' approval of the Landfill's elevation at 1,010 feet
- The adequacy of measures to protect properties next to the Landfill
- Concerns raised in Mr. Mohajer's letter of March 29, 2004

Mr. Aiyetiwa stated staff carefully reviewed the Siting Element's requirements and all pertinent information submitted by Waste Management, Inc., and the City. Since the Department of City Planning continues to maintain that the zone variance for the project allows a maximum elevation of 1,010 feet, staff recommends to accept the City's interpretation of the elevation for the Landfill.

In regard to protecting properties adjacent to the Landfill, the Siting Element does not contain requirements for properties within 1,000 feet of a landfill that are located in the City of Los Angeles to be retrofitted with a landfill gas control system. Bradley Landfill is only required to comply with the law that is in effect at the time its application was filed. Staff also received a letter from the Waste Board and the City of Los Angeles Local Enforcement Agency stating that as of last week, Waste Management, Inc., has complied with all State laws regarding landfill gas migration. Therefore, staff recommends the Task Force agree that Waste Management, Inc., has complied with this requirement.

In regard to Mr. Mohajer's concerns, staff addressed each of the issues that were raised. On this basis, staff recommended the Task Force consider an approval of the Finding of Conformance (FOC) for Bradley Landfill.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the approved elevation of the Landfill, protection of adjacent properties, the City's approval, and methane gas monitoring. Ms. Judith Fries of County Counsel also provided clarification of some issues. As a result, a motion was made to deny the FOC for Bradley Landfill for the following reasons:

- Conflicting documentation of the facility's land use permit
- Applicant's failure to obtain an FOC prior to the approval of the facility's 1998 Solid Waste Facility Permit
- Inadequacy of the facility's existing gas control system to protect the health and safety of the adjacent properties and their occupants

The motion passed 7 to 2 with 2 members abstaining. The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works opposed the motion and the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services and the Los Angeles County Disposal Association abstained.

VII. UPDATE ON THE CALIFORNIA PERFORMANCE REVIEW REPORT

Due to time constraints, Mr. Alva provided only a very brief overview of the Governor's report "Prescription for Change" (attached). Mr. Alva stated the report recommends transforming the independent boards and commissions governing California's environment into one department, named the California Environmental Protection Agency. The proposed change to the existing bureaucratic infrastructure proposes to eliminate jurisdictional overlaps in agency responsibility, serves to reduce government spending, and creates greater accountability through one mega-agency focused on protecting California's environment.

Mr. Alva stated there are issues to consider under the new structure and six public hearings will be conducted throughout the State over the next two months.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Alva stated there are two Bills that are of interest to the Task Force (attached).

- AB 338 – Introduced by Levine

Mr. Skye commented on the recent revisions to AB 338, which would define the term “asphalt containing crumb rubber,” and set specified requirements for agencies incorporating its use in State highways and construction projects. The Bill would require the amount of asphalt containing crumb rubber: after January 1, 2006, to be not less than 20 percent of the total amount of asphalt paving materials used; after January 1, 2008, not less than 30 percent; after January 1, 2010, not less than 40 percent; and after January 1, 2012, not less than 50 percent. Staff recommends Task Force take a position in support of this bill.

A motion was made for the Task Force to send a letter of support. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 50 – Introduced by Sher

Mr. Alva commented recent revisions were made to SB 50, but staff has not completed its analysis. Staff will e-mail its analysis to the Task Force upon completion of their review.

IX. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Postponed to the September 16, 2004, meeting.

X. STATUS REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S PROPOSED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLE RULE

Postponed to the September 16, 2004, meeting.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Ellen Mackey of the East Valley Coalition stated she is a resident of the City of Los Angeles and resides in the area neighboring Bradley Landfill. Ms. Mackey expressed her concerns regarding Bradley's non-compliance

with existing CEQA mandates as they apply to the gas migration issues raised by area residents in the past. Ms. Mackey stated Waste Management, Inc./Bradley Landfill has not addressed deficiencies in their operational procedures and the potential impact they pose to the health and safety of residents adjacent to the Landfill.

Mr. Jay Chen of the South Coast Air Quality Management District requested letters from the Task Force not list his agency. Mr. Chen stated by listing the SCAQMD, it could be misinterpreted as his agency taking an individual stance on issues discussed by the committee. The Task Force Vice-Chair noted Mr. Chen's request and commented necessary steps will be taken to comply with his request.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 16, 2004, at 1 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

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Attach.