

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

Minutes of November 18, 2004

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
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 Garthwaite, rep. by Stan Uyehara, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
David Roberti, represented by Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rita Robinson, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Jim Stahl, rep. by John Kilgore, 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 McTaggart, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ron Deaton, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Christopher J. Garner, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Tammy Evans, City of Monrovia
Benjamin Lucha, City of Santa Clarita
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Carolyn Meredith, City of Pasadena
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Isabel Schleif, City of Covina
Jim Stewart, BRI Energy
Steve Uselton, California Integrated Waste Management Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2004

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

III. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR PER COUNTY CODE §3.67.060

Task Force members voted for and reelected Mr. Mike Miller as Vice Chair of the Task Force. Mr. Miller was not present for this item, however, he had communicated he would accept the nomination.

IV. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer provided a summary of the Public Education and Information Subcommittee meeting. He stated articles submitted by various cities, including Pasadena, Santa Clarita, Inglewood, West Hollywood, and El Monte had been reviewed and would be placed in the next issue of Inside Solid Waste.

Mr. Mohajer added that a press release provided by Knowaste would not be placed in the next issue of the newsletter but that there were plans instead to include articles on electronic waste, lifecycle conversion technologies, and AB 939 compliance measurements.

V. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Alva summarized the proceedings of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee meeting. He stated the Strategic Action Plan, as part of the report that researches the feasibility of developing a pilot demonstration alternative technology facility in southern California, had been completed and would be sent to the Task Force within the next week. Mr. Alva added that the Subcommittee had voted to use the term "alternative technologies" in lieu of "conversion technologies" since the existing State definition of "conversion technologies" excludes or discourages other technologies currently being evaluated by the Subcommittee.

Mr. Alva stated that of the 13 materials recovery facilities (MRF) from which responses had been received, three had been visited by the Subcommittee's contractor, URS Corporation. He stated a list would be composed of the

remaining MRFs, and Subcommittee members would have the opportunity to visit and acquaint themselves with these facilities.

VI. WASTE BOARD PROPOSED CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY REGULATIONS

Mr. Alva presented an overview of the Waste Board's recently released conversion technology regulations which define conversion technology, place these operations and facilities into regulatory tiers, and establish regulatory oversight, permitting requirements, and minimum operating standards for conversion technologies (attached). Mr. Alva stated the Waste Board had appended conversion technologies to transfer station regulations and had placed conversion technology facilities into regulatory tiers based on their processing capacity.

Mr. Alva outlined the Waste Board's criteria for determining which facilities would be subject to its regulations. He stated facilities practicing anaerobic digestion, biomass conversion, and composting would not be subject to the Waste Board's regulations. Among those exempt were enclosed conversion technology facilities less than 15 tons per day (tpd), facilities that only process tires, and facilities that produce biodiesel.

Mr. Alva stated conversion technology facilities processing less than 15 tpd would fall under an enforcement agency notification tier. Facilities processing more than 15 tpd but less than 100 tpd would fall under a registration tier, and facilities processing more than 100 tpd would fall under the Full Solid Waste Facilities Permit tier.

Mr. Alva explained that the pilot demonstration facility would require a processing capacity greater than 100 tpd to demonstrate the positive environmental and economic benefits of conversion technologies. As such the facility would require a Full Solid Waste Facilities Permit and any processed waste would be counted as disposal.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Waste Board: (1) opposing their recently released conversion technology regulations, (2) summarizing Task Force concerns with these regulations, and (3) urging the Waste Board to take the lead in proposing new cleanup legislation. The motion passed. All members approved with the exception of the South Coast Air Quality Management District representative, who abstained.

VII. IMPROVEMENT TO AB 939 DIVERSION COMPLIANCE SYSTEM

Mr. Mohajer announced the Waste Board would be conducting another workshop on November 30, 2004. A motion was made to send a letter to the

Waste Board regarding improving the AB 939 diversion compliance system. The motion passed 11 to 1 with the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries representative opposing.

VIII. ADJUSTMENT METHODOLOGY FORMULA

Mr. Alva conducted a PowerPoint presentation on the adjustment method formula (AMF) used by the Waste Board to calculate a jurisdiction's waste generation and consequently its diversion rates (attached). The AMF uses a variety of factors such as base-year and current-year disposal data, population, taxable sales, employment figures, and the consumer price index (CPI). The AMF is currently being re-evaluated by the Waste Board to improve its efficiency and accuracy in calculating diversion rates.

Mr. Alva stated recently conducted working group meetings had suggested replacing the CPI factor with the taxable sales deflator and establishing criteria so new factors are filtered before being incorporated into the AMF. Factors would be incorporated based on the flexibility they provide, the timely availability of data, increased accuracy of the adjustment method estimate, cost effectiveness of data acquisition, their scientific reliability, and their strong correlation with waste generation. Any new factor should also be available at the County level for all jurisdictions, be sensitive to social and economic changes, and consistent with data from the 1990s.

Mr. Alva mentioned that the working group is investigating how to incorporate construction activity into the AMF since construction and demolition debris, which accounts for 12 percent of the total solid waste disposed, is not included as part of the taxable sales figure. Mr. Alva stated that the working group had recommended to the Waste Board to make preliminary data available so that jurisdictions could calculate their diversion rates early and adjust accordingly. It was also recommended that the AMF be compared at a region, Statewide, countywide, and local level to demonstrate its accuracy.

IX. COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Chuk Agu presented an update on the Countywide Siting Element (CSE). He provided the Task Force with an overview of the potential revisions and updates to the goals and policies of CSE Goals numbers 1 and 2. Mr. Agu indicated the remaining CSE goals and policies would be provided to the Task Force for revisions in groups. Mr. Agu also provided members with a timeline for revising the CSE as requested at the October meeting (attached).

Task Force members provided staff with feedback and comments on the potential revisions to the goals and policies. The Task Force also instructed staff to prepare letters to be sent to the cities of Glendale, Whittier, Palmdale,

and Los Angeles with regard to supporting landfill expansions in their jurisdictions as specified in proposed revisions of the CSE goals and policies and work with the Vice-chair to finalize the letters.

X. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Steve Uselton of the Waste Board thanked the Task Force for its thorough ongoing evaluation of the CSE. He also encouraged people to attend the Waste Board's workshop on November 30, 2004, to discuss future improvements to the AB 939 diversion compliance system. He stated attendees of the workshop would be divided into groups to allow for a wider range of stakeholder input.

Mr. Uselton stated the Waste Board had completed Biennial Reviews for all jurisdictions within the County of Los Angeles that were not under a Time Extension or Compliance Order. Mr. Uselton stated that of the 46 jurisdictions that were reviewed, 39 had met their goals. He added that the Waste Board had issued additional Compliance Orders for jurisdictions unable to implement their programs within the given time period.

Mr. Uselton stated the Waste Board had not set a deadline for the Annual Reports as it is still waiting for various State agencies to make data available which will be used in the adjustment methodology formula. Mr. Uselton added that the deadline for comments regarding the disposal reporting regulations had been extended to January 18, 2005.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Task Force discussed whether or not to meet in December. It was decided for staff to contact Mr. Miller in the beginning of December to discuss the possibility of canceling the December Task Force meeting.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Attach.