

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

**Minutes of January 19, 2006**

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  
Michael Miller, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Thomas Garthwaite, rep. by Ken Murray, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services  
Rita Robinson, rep. by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Jim Stahl, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Don Wolfe, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works  
Ben Wong, rep. by John McTaggart, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee  
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles  
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jon Emerson, City of Redondo  
Mark Giljum, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Neil Guglielmo, City of Los Angeles  
Mike Lara, City of Pasadena  
Ben Lucha, City of Santa Clarita  
Dan Meyers, City of Los Angeles  
Lee Miller, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Phil Moralez, California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Michelle Nicholls, SCS Engineers  
Donna Plummer, City of Palmdale  
Joshua Rosenbaum, City of Signal Hill  
Ursula Schmidt, City of Pasadena  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles  
Heather Stotland, City of Calabasas  
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Steve Uselton, California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Dorothy Woody, California Integrated Waste Management Board

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2005**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of December 2005. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Coby Skye stated the Subcommittee continues to receive inquiries and requests to partner with the Subcommittee from vendors and municipalities from around the world. The Subcommittee discussed Assembly Bill 1090 (AB 1090), which is now dead. More information on the Bill below.

Mr. Skye briefly discussed the two request for proposals (RFP). One is for public outreach, and the second is to facilitate the development of a conversion technology facility. The Subcommittee has released the RFP for the facilitation contract, and proposals are due on February 21, 2006. A selection committee has been formed to select the best proposal by March or April 2006. The outreach RFP will be released this summer.

Mr. Skye also stated the Subcommittee discussed forming an advisory group. This group would bring in stakeholders from other regulatory agencies, the general public, and the environmental community. By forming an advisory group, the Subcommittee will be able to build better relationships and address concerns in order to obtain more support for conversion technology.

Mr. Skye reported there were two articles published regarding the Task Force's August 2005 Conversion Technology Evaluation Report. The articles were published in the December editions of Waste Management World and BioCycle. The Subcommittee continues to promote conversion technologies using as many avenues as possible. This includes a new conversion technology webpage on the Task Force's website.

**IV. UPDATE ON AB 1090 AND CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES**

Mr. Skye reported AB 1090 was amended twice in January 2006, resulting in the Bill's author (Assembly Member Barbara Matthews) pulling the Bill from further Legislative consideration. Assembly Member Matthews believed that these amendments resulted in too many concessions, such as eliminating diversion credit for waste processed through conversion technology facilities. Discussion ensued. Mr. Mike Mohajer provided background on AB 1090 and

communications with legislators and the Waste Board (see attachment). This included his efforts to get clarification if conversion technology facilities are considered disposal facilities or not. The Waste Board maintains that State law is not clear, and legislation is needed to clarify the issue.

A motion was made to send a letter to the author of AB 1090 with a copy to the Bill's sponsor, BioEnergy Producers Association. The letter would describe the priorities and concerns of the Task Force and clarify why the Task Force supported the original Bill. The Task Force's perspective will hopefully be upheld when the author goes into negotiation to introduce a new Bill. The motion passed unanimously (Vice-Chair Margaret Clark being absent).

In addition, a motion was made to designate Mr. Mohajer as the Task Force's representative in Sacramento and Mr. Mike Miller his alternate. The Subcommittee would also provide technical support to Mr. Mohajer and Mr. Miller while in Sacramento. The motion carried unanimously (Vice-Chair Margaret Clark being absent).

Mr. Miller requested staff prepare speaking points to use when Mr. Mohajer and himself are lobbying in Sacramento. Mr. Skye agreed and will follow-up with Mr. Miller.

#### **V. PRESENTATION ON COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS' CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING PROGRAM**

Mr. Mark Giljum of the County Sanitation Districts conducted the presentation on their Christmas Tree Recycling Program (see attachment). He stated that the free Christmas tree recycling program has been offered to residents since 1990. Residents can place their tree at curbside on their designated pickup day, and have the tree collected for recycling at no cost.

The County Sanitation Districts typically receives 7,000 tons of free green waste. About half of this green waste is Christmas trees. This equals about 300,000 individual trees. The Puente Hills, Scholl Canyon, and Calabasas Landfills participate in the green waste recovery program. The green waste recovered is used for alternate daily cover, onsite landscaping, and offsite beneficial use.

About 90 percent of the jurisdictions participated in the 2005-06 program. The County Sanitation Districts' program has contributed greatly to the successful recycling of Christmas trees countywide.

**VI. PRESENTATION ON CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD'S SOARD DATABASE**

Ms. Dorothy Woody of the Waste Board demonstrated the features of the State Organization and Agency Recycling Database (SOARD). These included its ease in accessing information, such as AB 75 requirements for State agencies, waste management plans, annual reports, etc. Ms. Woody also stated diversion tonnages are not listed per jurisdiction. SOARD is available on-line at the Waste Board's website at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/StateAgency/SOARD](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/StateAgency/SOARD) (see attachment).

**VII. PRESENTATION ON CITY OF LOS ANGELES' AB 939 PERMIT COMPLIANCE PROGRAM**

Mr. Neil Guglielmo and Mr. Dan Meyers conducted the presentation on the City of Los Angeles' AB 939 Permit Compliance Program (see attachment). It was stated that in order for the City of Los Angeles to divert 70 percent by 2020, the City implemented a waste hauler permit system in July 2002. The permit system utilizes a fee system, which funds the development of new recycling programs and funds the administration of the permit system. The reporting system would allow staff to better analyze the waste stream and disposal and diversion practices.

The haulers must pay an AB 939 Compliance fee of ten percent of gross receipts on a quarterly basis. The permits are granted for one year, and the waste haulers must submit an annual report with their application. Two exemptions from the fees are:

- receipts generated from the collection and sale of source-separated material
- waste haulers whose annual tonnage collected is below 1,000 tons per year

Through the permit system, the City of Los Angeles is collecting about \$15 million per year, and has issued 139 permits to waste hauling companies.

Ms. Karen Coca added that the fees generated are used for administrative costs incurred in implementing the program. With excess monies, the City created a rebate program for haulers, a multi-family pilot recycling program, a food waste pilot recycling program, and a commercial pilot recycling program.

Mr. Meyers finds that haulers understand the fee, but want to be assured that the playing field is equal. Also, the language in the ordinance must be clear and allow for auditors to have access to all of the haulers lists, computer systems, etc.

## **VIII. PRESENTATION ON CITY OF SANTA CLARITA'S RECYCLING EFFORTS**

Mr. Benjamin Lucha stated that the City of Santa Clarita's outreach campaign was created to comply with AB 939, but with a City Council goal of 75 percent waste diversion (see attachment).

Inspired by the City of Philadelphia's partnership with a local radio station, the City of Santa Clarita partnered with KHTS AM 1220, in June 2005 to implement the "We Recycle" campaign. The radio station would visit neighborhoods on their normal trash day. They would seek the City of Santa Clarita sticker on the residents' recycling container to identify a winner who recycles. The resident's container is checked to make sure they are properly recycling. Prizes included movie tickets, Six Flags tickets, sporting event tickets, and once a month, a family was chosen to receive free trash collection services for one year.

Campaign outreach included radio, television, newspaper, bus shelter, and local magazines advertisements, articles in the Waste Management, Inc., newsletter, and on websites. Due to the program's success, single-family residential recycling in Santa Clarita has increased by four percent.

## **IX. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB**

Mr. Steve Uselton reported that the Annual Reports are due on March 1, 2006, and can be filed electronically. All diversion rates for cities and counties can be found on the Waste Board's website.

The taxable sales deflator can now be used instead of the consumer price index as an adjustment factor for the Annual Report. The taxable sales deflator accurately accounts for the rapid growth in medical costs, gasoline prices, and housing costs.

Mr. Uselton stated Waste Board Member Carl Washington was termed out of office on December 31, 2005. Moreover, on December 23, 2005, Ms. Patricia Wiggins of Santa Rosa was appointed to the Waste Board by the Speaker of the Assembly to represent the public and Ms. Margo Reid Brown of Sacramento was appointed to the Waste Board on January 11, 2006, by the Governor to represent the public.

The universal waste exemption will expire on February 8, 2006, making items such as batteries and fluorescent tubes hazardous waste. The Waste Board has newly developed outreach materials available for jurisdictions to use on their website (see attachment).

## **X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Skye provided a status on the following Legislative Bills (see attachment):

- AB 177-Introduced by Bogh and AB 727-Introduced by Bermudez

Both of these Bills are dead. A motion was made to separately forward, the Matthews letter, outlining the Task Force's recommendations on conversion technology, to Assembly Members Bogh and Bermudez and reiterate the need for continued support on conversion technology. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 369-Introduced by Simitian

This Bill would remove the sunset provision on the State's tire recycling and rubberized asphalt concrete program. A motion to send a letter in support of SB 369 was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 411-Introduced by Alarcon

The Task Force sent a letter of opposition to this Bill in July 2005. This Bill would remove all diversion credit for beneficial use of green waste as alternative daily cover.

A motion was made to send a letter to all 88 cities requesting they send a letter to their Legislative representatives to oppose SB 411 and include the Sanitation Districts' letter which includes a sample letter to oppose SB 411. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 420-Introduced by Simitian

This Bill would have originally increased the required diversion rate from 50 percent to 75 percent. It has been revised to delete a reference to "State agency" for the procurement of recycled products. A motion was made to send a letter reaffirming the Task Force's opposition to SB 420. The letter to state the Task Force does not believe the deletion of the reference to State agencies is innocuous, as State agencies should be held to the same standards as local government. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 928-Introduced by Perata

This Bill would increase the required diversion rate, however, the increase is not currently known. Staff will monitor the Bill.

**XI. UPDATE ON UNIVERSAL WASTE REGULATIONS AND IMPACT ON LOCAL PROGRAMS**

Mr. Lee Miller confirmed the universal waste exemption will not be extended. After February 8, 2006, universal waste such as fluorescent tubes, electronic devices, batteries, and circuit boards will be banned from landfills.

Public outreach will include informational flyers, notification to participants at household hazardous waste events, website updates, and bill inserts with selected haulers and utility companies. Mr. Miller also stated the County will work with Waste Management, Inc., and the cities of Palmdale and Lancaster to educate the residents in the Antelope Valley.

Mr. Miller recommended the Task Force invite the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to its next meeting to inform cities about the universal waste regulation, and to provide a comprehensive list of items that can no longer be disposed in landfills. A discussion ensued and the members expressed their concerns with the new landfill ban.

Mr. Mohajer suggested a link to the DTSC be added to the 888CleanLA.com website. The DTSC website defines universal waste, lists universal waste items, and lists places or contacts that will receive universal waste.

**XII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, February 23, 2006, at 1 p.m.

**XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mohajer informed the Task Force that the Southern California Waste Management Forum will be conducting a mini-conference called "Good Riddance to Bad Rubbish: Waste Issues in 2006" on March 9, 2006, from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Energy Resource Center in Downey (see attachment).

Mr. Mohajer requested next month's meeting agenda and an update be provided on Bradley Landfill's Environmental Impact Report. It should include discussion on the Task Force's prior concerns regarding the landfill.

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.