

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

Minutes of May 18, 2006

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles Appointee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Dr. Bruce Chernof, rep. by Ken Murray, County of Los Angeles 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 Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Margaret Clark, rep. by Michael Miller, 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 Appointee
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Siya Araumi, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Edwin Cabnal, Hollywood Beautification Team/LAOCUCAF
Michael Lara, City of Pasadena
Ben Lucha, City of Santa Clarita
John McTaggart, General Public Representative Alternate
Arlington Rodgers, Pasadena Public Works
Ursula Schmidt, City of Pasadena
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Steve Uselton, California Integrated Waste Management Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 20, 2006

A motion to approve the minutes of April 20, 2006, was made. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that the Public Education and Information Subcommittee considered several articles. The City of Los Angeles submitted an article on their Multi-family Residential Recycling Program; the City of Signal Hill's article was related to their Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling; the City of Burbank submitted an article on the California Integrated Waste Management Board's (Waste Board) recognition of their recycling program; the City of Santa Clarita's submittal described their Residential Recycling Program; and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works featured their SmartGardening Program. Public Works will also provide updates on new legislation and the new disposal reporting system. Mr. Mohajer stated the Subcommittee was also pleased to see more participation from cities.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Al Avoian reported the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee discussed the Countywide Siting Element, Chapter 7 revisions, and made a number of recommended changes. After the changes are made, the Subcommittee will review the corrections and ensure that Chapter 7 is consistent throughout, before recommending its approval to the Task Force.

V. CONSOLIDATION OF SOLID WASTE MONITORING REPORTING FORMS

Mr. Avoian indicated that the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee also discussed the consolidation of solid waste monitoring reporting forms ([see attachment](#)). The Subcommittee found some inconsistencies on the forms and corrected those. A motion to approve the Subcommittee's changes to the solid waste monitoring reporting forms was made. The motion was passed unanimously.

VI. AB 1497 DRAFT PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa stated letters have been sent to all 88 cities in the County unincorporated areas, encouraging them to comment on the draft Permit Implementation Regulations as previously directed. The public review period ends June 6, 2006. All comments must be received by that date. Mr. Aiyetiwa requested direction by the Task Force to review the regulations and send comments as previously expressed by the Task Force. A motion was made to direct staff to review the Permit Implementation Regulations and to send comments to the Waste Board. The motion was passed unanimously.

VII. AB 2296 CLOSURE AND POSTCLOSURE MAINTENANCE OF SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS

Mr. Siya Araumi summarized the California Legislative Analyst's Office report on "Financial Assurances: Strengthening Public Safety of Waste Facilities and Surface Mines" ([see attachment](#)).

The report provides an outline of California's existing financial assurance requirements, examines shortcomings of the current system, and recommends improvements.

There are three types of financial assurances, administered by the Waste Board, for waste facilities:

1. Closure financial assurance—Provides for installing the final cover, ensuring the correct slope mound and providing for vegetation and landscaping.
2. Post-closure maintenance financial assurance—Provides for maintenance of the grounds, monitoring of water and air, replacement of monitoring equipment, and record keeping to ensure continuing protection of human health and the environment.
3. Corrective action financial assurance—Provides only for reasonably foreseeable releases into groundwater.

Currently, by law, the owner/operator is required to provide for closure, post-closure and corrective action financial assurance for 30 years after the closure of the site. The owner/operator is also responsible to provide for maintenance at the site until it no longer poses a threat to the public or the environment even after the 30-year period. However, the law does not require the owner/ operator to provide for financial assurance after the 30-year period. This report finds that California's existing financial assurances do not account for all of the costs and the State will eventually bear the burden.

Various types of existing financial assurance mechanisms are listed in the report, and they vary in degree of risk. State agencies do not prescribe which financial assurance mechanism the owner/operator must choose. Also, the report indicates that none of the financial assurance mechanisms provide complete assurance to the State that the owner/operator will have the financial resources to complete the required environmental mitigation once the facility ceases operations.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recommendations are as follows:

- Broaden the scope of costs covered by financial assurances
- Eliminate the use of risky (to the State) financial assurances
- Require the review of financial documents for captive insurance
- Consolidate financial assurance functions into one unit at the California Environmental Protection Agency
- Provide for a new fee-based funding source to be charged at operational solid waste facilities

Discussion ensued. Issues of appropriations, guarantee of funds, legal costs, obligations of the original owner/operator or with the land, liability, remediation funds, and the burden the State or local jurisdiction will bear, were mentioned. The case of BKK landfill was also extensively discussed.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

Mr. Steve Uselton provided a brief report on the Waste Board waste characterization data. This data was presented at the Waste Board Committee meeting held earlier in the month. It is on their website for local jurisdictions to determine what type of wastes they generate. It is a valuable tool for jurisdictions to understand their waste stream.

Mr. Uselton encouraged the Task Force members to attend the June 12, 2006, Sustainability and Market Development Committee meeting. At the meeting, staff will go over the latest data from the 2005-06 waste characterization studies. Four parts of the waste characterization studies will be presented to the Waste Board:

1. Waste generation characterization from 14 large business groups
2. Tools to visually estimate construction and demolition waste
3. Where self-haul waste is originating
4. Material recovery facility residuals

Mr. Uselton also stated there would be a construction and demolition forum called "Closing The Loop On Construction And Demolition Materials" on

May 31, 2006, in Sacramento. The forum will be broadcast on the Internet. The focus is on local governments' response to construction and demolition materials, the infrastructures, and the markets for the materials.

A series of workshops on multi-family recycling will be held on September 13, 2006, in Sacramento, and on September 28, 2006, in the City of Diamond Bar, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The purpose of the workshops is to resolve barriers in this particular waste stream for local jurisdictions that may have faced barriers in setting up their programs. Local models, such as the City of Los Angeles, will be presented.

All of the Los Angeles County jurisdictions have turned in their Annual Reports on time or shortly thereafter. Only three jurisdictions, Statewide, have not turned in their report and the Waste Board is working with those. Those jurisdictions face the possibility of a Compliance Order. About 135 Annual Reports review have been completed statewide.

IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Coby Skye stated there are no updates of significance for Legislative Bills. He announced that the Legislative tables would be included with future mail out of meeting agendas ([see attachment](#)). Hot topics to be aware of in the Legislature are alternative fuels, green building, and conversion technology. Staff will continue to monitor AB 2118 since it is in "spot bill" form and can be revised in any direction. Mr. Skye also stated staff has sent letters to Assembly Members, Senators, and other key people. These letters are on the Task Force website.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, 2006, at 1 p.m.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Mary Ann Lutz announced that the League of California Cities, Los Angeles Division, is inviting all Task Force Members and Alternates to a "Water 101" educational program on June 1, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.