

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

Minutes of January 24, 2008

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Betsy Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Samuel Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, represented by Iris Aguirre, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health  
Stephen Maguin, represented by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County  
Gerry Miller, represented by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles  
Greig Smith, represented by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, represented by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Donald Wolfe, represented by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Enrique Zaldivar, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Christine Andersen, City of Long Beach  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities – Los Angeles Division  
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities – Los Angeles Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
James Carlson, City of Sierra Madre  
Susan Collins, R3 Consulting Group  
Chris Elliott, Trash For Teaching  
Tom Hoagland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Sevak Khatchadorian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bill Kroese, Rockview Farms  
Heather Maloney, City of Monrovia  
Michelle Nicholls, SCS Engineers  
Mary Salig, Charles Abbott Associates  
Heidi Sanborn, California Product Stewardship Council  
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2007**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of December 20, 2007. The motion passed unanimously (Mr. Charles Boehmke was absent at the time the vote was taken).

**III. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Betsy Landis reported that the Subcommittee met with Browning–Ferris Industries, Inc., to discuss the granting of a Finding of Conformance for Sunshine Canyon Landfill (County Extension). The Committee found that the document provided ([see attachment](#)) left questions unanswered and voted to request additional information and analysis. Staff was instructed to bring the item back for consideration at a later date.

**IV. CONSIDERATION OF SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL (COUNTY EXTENSION) FINDING OF CONFORMANCE**

No action. See Item III.

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

Mr. Coby Skye reported that Requests For Offers for a conversion technology demonstration facility had been completed and sent to short-listed technology providers and material recovery facility operators identified in the Phase II Conversion Technology Report. He indicated that a meeting of proposers will be held on February 13 at the Department of Public Works. Responses will be reviewed in the summer for a subsequent recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

**VI. UPDATE ON ASSEMBLY BILL 1207 REGULATION ON LAND APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS**

Mr. Mike Mohajer explained that despite being amended twice, Assembly Bill 1207 ([see attachment](#)) still faced substantial opposition. He stated that the Bill was withdrawn by the author, but cautioned that the language may show up in a different Bill.

**VII. UPDATE ON SENATE BILL 1016 SOLID WASTE REPORTING BY LOCAL JURISDICTIONS**

Mr. Mohajer began by pointing out that the Task Force supported measuring disposal rates on a countywide basis, but that such intent faced substantial opposition from local jurisdictions. He reported that the new language in Senate Bill 1016 ([see attachment](#)) proposes to look at disposal rates on a per capita basis to be measured at the city, county, and regional agency levels. Mr. Mohajer elaborated that under the new proposal, the Waste Board would use trends in disposal rates to evaluate the effectiveness of diversion programs implemented by jurisdictions.

The proposed measurement system uses 2006 as a base year and takes into account population growth for non-industrialized cities and economic growth for industrialized cities such as Commerce and Industry. Mr. Mohajer said that the new proposal is in line with the goals of the Task Force. However, he expressed concern over the following:

1. it is not clear in the Bill how 2006 disposal rates will be calculated
2. when calculating per capita disposal rates, both population and economic growth should be considered for all jurisdictions
3. quality of development should be addressed by including language to prevent the Waste Board from interfering with Assembly Bill 32's mandates
4. there is no clear definition of what constitutes a "diversion facility"
5. there is no clear definition for "amendment," "update," or "revision" with relation to reports
6. there is no procedure to resolve issues when a jurisdiction does not agree with the per capita rate established by the Waste Board for said jurisdiction
7. there is no procedure for jurisdictions to challenge any mandates from the Waste Board to implement new programs

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to Senator Wiggins, the Bill author, and the Waste Board expressing the above concerns. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Skye reported that there were no critical updates on Legislation at the time, but updates on pertinent Bills ([see attachment](#)) will be provided at the next meeting.

#### **IX. PRESENTATION ON EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**

Ms. Heidi Sanborn and Ms. Susan Collins, of the California Product Stewardship Council (Council), conducted a PowerPoint presentation ([see attachment](#)) on extended producer responsibility.

Ms. Sanborn explained that the mission of the Council is to decrease the burden that product waste puts on local governments and ratepayers, and increase accountability and responsibility on producers to manage product waste. She indicated that the Council was formed in 2006 and its members include local governments and associations throughout California.

Ms. Collins provided a history of the evolution of product waste illustrating how 75 percent of the current per capita waste is attributed to product waste. She explained how a “cradle to cradle” system of product waste management is necessary to maintain and increase waste diversion rates in California.

A motion was made to send a letter to cities in Los Angeles County and the County Board of Supervisors requesting they evaluate and consider joining the Council. The motion passed unanimously.

A second motion was made to have the Task Force join the Council. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was also made to have Task Force staff consult with County Counsel whether the previous Council’s draft resolution could be adopted by the Task Force. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. PRESENTATION ON TRASH FOR TEACHING'S ART AND REUSE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

Mr. Chris Elliot, of Trash for Teaching, presented a video and a PowerPoint presentation ([see attachment](#)) on the use of manufacturing byproducts (which would otherwise become trash) as educational materials.

Mr. Elliott indicated that the goal of his organization is to educate children, teachers, and manufacturers about the benefits of creative reusing and recycling. He reported that in 2007 the program served 37 schools throughout the county and that Trash for Teaching hopes to expand the program to serve 60 schools next year.

**XI. PRESENTATION ON PLASTIC BULK MERCHANDISE CONTAINER THEFT**

Mr. Bill Kroese, of Rockview Farms, provided a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on milk crate theft. He explained that dairies switched from using wooden crates to plastic crates because they are reusable, but that the industry faces an increasing milk crate theft problem. He stated that dairies nationwide experienced losses of \$80 million last year in milk crate related theft.

Mr. Kroese pointed out that plastic milk crates are made from petroleum and that as a result of the increase in oil prices, the demand for plastic bulk merchandise containers has increased. He stated that the purpose of his presentation to the Task Force was to create awareness of the problem among cities.

A brief discussion ensued and Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Kroese to provide the Task Force with literature on the issue for publication in the next edition of *Inside Solid Waste*.

**XII. NEXT MEETING DATE—EITHER THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2008, OR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2008, at 1:00 p.m.

**XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.