

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

Minutes of August 20, 2009

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.
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)
Eugene Sun, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Steve Tye, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Gail Farber, represented by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Cindy Chen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Stephen Maguin, represented by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Enrique Zaldivar, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Sonny Burkett, Food Recycle Science Corp.
Suk Chong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kit Cole, Waste Management
Jeff Duhamel, Waste Systems, Inc.
Rafael Garcia, Sunshine Canyon Landfill
Rogelio Gamiño, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Peter Kokiousis, Remediation Earth
Michelle Leonard, HDR
Virginia Maloles, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Tobie Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
David Stoller, TransLoad America
Cynthia Vant Hul, GHG Climate Team
Woody Wilson, Food Recycle Science Corp.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2009

A motion was made to approve the corrected minutes of July 16, 2009. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Eugene Sun abstaining. Mr. Steve Tye was absent at the time the vote was taken.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that earlier today the Subcommittee considered articles from City of Calabasas' school recycling program; City of Lawndale on "going green"; County Department of Public Works regarding stations for discharge of sewage; and City of Long Beach's solid waste program which was recently given recognition by the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA). Articles from the County Department of Public Works regarding recycling market development zones and the County's green building program will be published in the next edition of *Inside Solid Waste*.

Mr. Mohajer brought to the Task Force's attention a graph ([see attachment](#)) prepared by Waste Board staff and presented to Waste Board members. The graph shows a statewide diversion rate of 59 percent for the year 2008 and a decrease in disposal rates in recent years. He cautioned that the graph may be misleading for the following reasons: 1) the decrease in disposal could be the result of less economic activity and not necessarily higher diversion rates and with the new formula developed to calculate diversion rates, the numbers may benefit jurisdictions; or 2) a statewide diversion rate of 59 percent may further justify a legislative diversion rate mandate of 60 percent, as currently proposed in SB 25. Therefore, it is important to analyze the causes of the figures presented in the chart. He will explore the issue in more depth and will write an article for the next issue of *Inside Solid Waste*.

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed positive developments at the Federal level regarding the recognition of conversion technologies (CT) as renewable energy, including waste to energy. The Subcommittee's outreach activities continue to support CT development projects and statewide efforts to advance CT, including AB 222. He reported that negotiations and

work to develop agreements for demonstration projects continue and that the Subcommittee plans to present recommendations on the subject to the Board of Supervisors next month. The Subcommittee also heard a presentation from Balboa Pacific on their gasification technology, and an update from the City of Los Angeles regarding their alternative technology development project.

V. PRESENTATION BY TRANSLOAD AMERICA ON BALE TECH 3 TECHNOLOGY AND WASTE BY RAIL

Mr. David Stoller of TransLoad America provided a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on their Bale Tech 3 system and waste-by-rail. He stated that baling eliminates the nuisances associated with garbage including leakage, odor and vermin; it also preserves the option for energy conversion because waste bales are easily stored and transported. TransLoad America's baling machine is portable and has a throughput of over 100 tons per hour and produces waste bales that are hermetically sealed, dense, stable and durable.

Mr. Stoller stated that, replacing containers with bales would require 25 percent less railcars than a container system, thus reducing train lengths by a quarter mile. A railcar can accommodate a payload of 105 tons of highly compacted bales while containers have a maximum payload of 60 tons. He indicated that the baling system eliminates the need for waste compactors and specialized containers, providing significant potential capital cost savings.

Questions and discussion followed.

VI. PRESENTATION ON ECORECT WASTE FOOD REDUCTION AND CONVERSION MACHINE

Mr. Sonny Burkett of Food Recycle Science Corporation provided a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on their eCorect waste food reduction and conversion system. He stated that the eCorect machine is a multiphase, high-speed conversion system that reduces and converts any organic waste into a sterile biomass that can be used for bio-fuels and energy, and as amendment for depleted soils. The eCorect machine is easy to operate, requires no special installation and can process over 250 pounds a day, it requires no fresh water or enzymes and odors are easily controlled, reduce organic waste by 85 to 93 percent of its weight/volume in a 16 to 20 hour time-frame, and can treat food scraps and organic food waste. Untreatable items include metal waste, plastic, glass, petrochemicals, fat and greases.

Mr. Burkett stated that the machine is available in six standard models as well as custom built models, the average machine consumes three kilowatt/hour, and

extensive studies have revealed minimal environmental impacts from the machine. He also stated that customers using the systems can greatly reduce their waste hauling costs. Customers using the eCorect machine include Camp Pendleton Marine Base in San Diego County, the Hyatt in Garden Grove and San Diego, and Waste Management's transfer stations in Orange and El Cajon, among others.

VII. UPDATE ON PHARMACEUTICAL AND SHARPS WASTE MANAGEMENT AND EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY

Ms. Armine Kesablyan reported that at its June 2009 meeting, the Task Force instructed staff to look into what the County purchases in terms of sharps and pharmaceuticals in order to evaluate the purchasing power of the County in conjunction with that of cities, hospitals, and pharmacies.

She reported that in the two month information gathering period, staff contacted the County of Los Angeles Health and Public Health Departments, the City of Burbank, Kaiser Permanente and City of Hope hospitals, and CVS and Rite Aid pharmacies and have received partial information from County agencies and is waiting for additional information. Information received from the City of Burbank was limited and indicated that in general, cities do not own and operate any hospitals or clinics. Information received from pharmacies and hospitals was also limited due to the reluctance of these organizations to release data.

Ms. Kesablyan requested a two-month extension for staff to attempt to obtain additional information on the project. The Task Force granted staff the extension.

VIII. UPDATE ON THE DRAFT ORGANIC WASTE DIGESTION PROJECT PROTOCOL

Ms. Mitchell provided an update on the Climate Action Reserve's Draft Organic Waste Digestion Project Protocol. The Climate Action Reserve (CAR) is a national offset program that establishes regulatory quality standards for the development, quantification and verification of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions projects in North America. Member organizations can register projects with CAR and trade carbon offset credits among themselves if they are able to yield surplus GHG reductions by reducing their carbon emissions below standard operating procedures.

Ms. Mitchell stated that CAR has developed several protocols including the Organic Waste Digestion Project Protocol (Organic Waste Protocol). To obtain offset credits, projects have to meet the requirements established in CAR's protocol system. She noted that projects eligible under the Organic Waste Protocol must process MSW food waste and agro-industrial waste water material through an anaerobic digester,

followed by a biogas collection and monitoring system, and one or more biogas destruction devices.

Staff reviewed the Organic Waste Protocol and had concerns regarding its narrow focus. She indicated that, except for food, the protocol excludes the entire organic waste stream, and electricity or bio-fuel generation projects are not eligible under the protocol, which could be construed as an incentive not to produce renewable energy.

The Task Force instructed staff to research CAR's carbon emission credit and protocol system further and present the findings at the next meeting. A motion was made to send a letter to CAR expressing the concerns indicated by staff over the Organic Waste Protocol. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. UPDATE ON AB 2296 (LANDFILL CLOSURE, POSTCLOSURE, CORRECTIVE ACTION AND FINANCIAL ASSURANCE)

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Waste Board has made a decision on the proposed regulations regarding financial assurance for postclosure and corrective actions for landfills. Waste Board staff will finalize the regulations and release them for a 45-day public review and comment period and next month the item will be brought back to Committee to go over the regulations and specific details.

X. REPORT ON MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING WORKSHOP

Ms. Mitchell reported on the August 6, 2009, Mandatory Commercial Recycling Workshop hosted by the Waste Board. The Waste Board is beginning the process of developing mandatory commercial recycling regulations. These regulations intend to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 5 MMTCO_{2e} in order to meet the goals set forth in the AB 32 Scoping Plan. She stated that over 100 stakeholders from the region, including cities, counties, waste haulers, consultants, business owners, and others attended the workshop.

Waste Board staff presented workshop attendees with several conceptual options for discussion including the type materials to incorporate in the regulation such as cardboard, lumber, metals, paper, glass, plastic, and food waste; thresholds for business, multi-family, and mobile home participation; thresholds for construction and demolition; thresholds for self-haul; the definition of recycling; and enforcement.

Ms. Mitchell reported that by September 9, Waste Board staff will collect all comments received at workshops regarding mandatory recycling and bring them to the Waste Board for consideration. Waste Board staff plans to submit draft regulatory language to the Waste Board for approval by December 2009. The formal rulemaking process

is scheduled to begin in January 2010 and in January 2011 a commercial recycling regulation will be adopted.

Mr. Mohajer stated that the Waste Board's recent analysis regarding organics diversion assumes that recycling materials shipped from California to facilities in Pacific Rim countries are subject to the same standards as facilities in California and therefore contribute to the reduction of GHG.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Waste Board asking that materials shipped to recycling facilities in Pacific Rim countries not be eligible for GHG credit reduction until such time as data are provided to substantiate that the recycling of materials at these facilities is in fact reducing GHG according to California standards. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Mitchell also reported that the Institute for Local Government's California Climate Action Network (CCAN) has released their draft sample commercial recycling ordinance and is requesting comments from interested stakeholders by September 11, 2009. A motion was made to have staff review the draft ordinance and send comments to CCAN. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Rogelio Gamiño provided updates on the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

1. AB 1173—introduced by Huffman

This Bill would prohibit the distribution of moneys from energy efficiency investment funds to any entity for the purchase and distribution of compact fluorescent lamps, unless the compact fluorescent lamps meet certain specifications, including that the lamp manufacturer individually or collectively implement a recycling program. He indicated that although the Bill had been amended, it still does not meet the Task Force's criteria in order to support the Bill. He recommended the Task Force continue to oppose the Bill.

2. SB 832—introduced by Simitian

This Bill would, among other things, delete reference to "landfill disposal or transformation" from the section of the Public Resource Code that specifies a jurisdiction's diversion requirements within the source reduction and recycling element.

Discussion followed. A motion was made to send a letter to Senator Simitian expressing the Task Force's opposition to the Bill unless amended to eliminate references to "incineration and landfill disposal." The motion passed unanimously

XII. REPORT FROM CIWMB

No action. Item postponed until next meeting.

XIII. UPDATE ON COURT DECISION REGARDING LAWSUIT BROUGHT AGAINST REGIONAL WATER BOARD

No action. Item postponed until the next meeting.

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2009, at 1 p.m.

XV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mohajer requested a discussion for the purposes of immediate action on Item 13 of the August 18, 2009, Waste Board meeting, *Consideration of Modification or Elimination of The Policy Requiring the Geographic Distribution of Grant Funds*. A motion was made to place the item on the Task Force agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer reported that at its meeting of August 18, 2009, the Waste Board discussed the elimination or modification of the current policy that prescribes how grant funds to jurisdictions throughout California are distributed. He stated that the current policy is fair and based on the fact that jurisdictions in Southern California have a larger population, generate most of the waste, and pay most of the tipping fees that fund Waste Board grants. The current policy makes 61 percent of grant funds available to Southern California jurisdictions and 39 percent to Northern California jurisdictions.

Mr. Mohajer stated that one of the reasons Waste Board staff cites for the proposed elimination or modification of the policy is that they receive better grant applications from Northern California than from Southern California. He asked Waste Board Members to oppose the measure or delay action on it to allow jurisdictions to review the proposed changes to the policy. The Waste Board agreed to delay action for a month. Mr. Mohajer clarified that he attended the meeting as a private citizen and not as a representative of the Task Force.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Waste Board expressing opposition to the elimination of the current policy requiring the geographic distribution of grant funds, and letters to cities in the County of Los Angeles informing them of the Waste Board's proposed policy changes to give them the opportunity to write to the Waste Board and indicate their position regarding the proposed policy change. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Peter Kokiousis of Remediation Earth Inc. asked how the abolishment of the Waste Board is going to affect the work of the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer stated that the Waste Board operation may be transferred to the Department of Resources and noted that the Governor has expressed his desire to maintain the new department to be part of Cal EPA. He stated that there may be legislative proposals to keep the Waste Board under Cal EPA's umbrella and to extend Waste Board operations for an additional six months.

Mr. Kokiousis also indicated that the State of Massachusetts recently banned algae, miscanthus, switchgrass, and oil from microorganisms from qualifying under the Clean Energy Biofuels Act. He noted that the ban does not affect fuels made from waste feedstock.

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.