

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

**Minutes of March 20, 2014**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Gail Farber, rep by Pat Proano, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep by Ed Pupka, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach Public Works Department  
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles  
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles  
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kevin Best, Real Energy  
Stephen Britz, Real Energy  
Frank Chin, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC  
Jason Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Tobie Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Chris Sheppard, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle  
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:08 p.m. Due to the lack of a quorum, no actions were taken. Minutes from this meeting are not official

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2014**

Approval of the February 20, 2014, minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

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

Mr. Gabriel Arenas reported the following from the subcommittee: A presentation was given by Cortus Energy from Sweden on their WoodRoll gasification technology. The County is considering outreach activities in regards to the legislative efforts of SB 498 and other waste and recycling efforts. CalRecycle announced that on April 29, 2014, they will be hosting the first in a series of workshops on the barriers of siting waste-to-energy facilities. Lastly, Alternative Resources, Inc., is compiling a list of stakeholders interested in developing a conversion technology project at an existing solid waste facility. As requested by Mr. Mike Mohajer, the County will compile a list of existing commercial scale projects processing 100 tons or more per day.

**IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY PLAN & REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE (FPRS)**

Ms. Betsey Landis gave an update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill and reported 37 odor complaints came in for the month of February, which was slightly more than that of January (32) but decreased from February 2013 (108). Staff prepared several graphs that could depict potential sources of odors. The subcommittee felt more information such as major events that had happened at the landfill are needed on these graphs to provide clearer correlation with the number of odor complaints.

Ms. Landis also reported Sunshine Canyon Landfill has to satisfy the City of Los Angeles' requirements before they can complete installation of the sewer. The Order for Abatement issued by the AQMD to BFI has timed out, but the Granada Hills Advisory Council is requesting the agency continue the Abatement Order. AQMD has sought consultant services as part of the NOV settlement between AQMD and Republic Services to develop a conceptual landfill gas collection system design. This is a \$208,000 consultant services contract over two years for the consultant to test, analyze, and design a new system to control odor and gas emissions

**V. PRESENTATION – BIOGRADER**

Ms. Tobie Mitchell reported Jay Conner couldn't attend the meeting but will come at a later date. He will be discussing the enclosed composting units they are working on installing in a Boys and Girls Club in the Florence-Firestone area and Roosevelt High School to compost food waste generated in their cafeterias.

**VI. PRESENTATION – INEOS BIO'S INDIAN RIVER BIO ENGERGY CENTER**

INEOS BIO wasn't able to attend the meeting, but they were requested to present on their conversion technology facility operating in Florida, which is the first in the US. They have been in operation since 2012 and are producing cellulosic ethanol and renewable power using yard, vegetative, and agriculture waste as their food stock. They will hopefully be able to attend a future meeting.

**VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Chris Sheppard distributed and presented the [attached Legislative Summary Table](#). Since there wasn't a quorum, no new actions were taken on any of these bills.

AB 1594 – Mr. Mike Mohajer asked for this bill to be placed on the agenda to discuss its relation to AB 341, which requires CalRecycle to prepare a report to the legislature by January 1, 2014, on their plan to reach the 75% diversion goal through composting, recycling, and source reduction. The report hasn't been submitted to the legislature due to the issues of what to do with the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) and the mandate of the AB 32 scoping plan that certain organics must be diverted from disposal by 2020. This bill will address diversion credit provided for green waste used as ADC.

Mr. Pat Proano added that the Governor's office would like for CalRecycle and Californians Against Waste to work with the local governments and industry. The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) has been attending the meetings and providing feedback. He also stated the County is working on a Waste-Free policy and will get back to the Task Force on the status. Mr. Proano suggested CalRecycle host a workshop with the County, cities, and haulers on organics and food waste and how to manage the organics. Mr. Mohajer mentioned Mr. Howard Levenson will be at the meeting in May and may be able to address this issue.

AB 1743 – Staff recommended to support if amended. Mr. Mohajer agreed to this position but suggested adding oppose unless amended to take "make available" language out of the bill as the Task Force previously requested. Since there was no quorum, staff will be sending a letter based on the Task Force's previous position.

AB 1893 – Staff recommended the Task Force watch this bill.

AB 1970 – Staff recommended the Task Force support this bill.

AB 2284 – Staff recommended the Task Force watch.

AB 2390 – Staff recommended the Task Force support this bill.

AB 2633 – Staff recommended the Task Force support this bill in concept.

AB 2658 – Staff recommended the Task Force take a support and amend position.

SB 1274 – Staff recommended the Task Force oppose unless amended. Mr. Mohajer emphasized this is a mattress bill, and the Task Force previously took an oppose position on the previous mattress bill, SB 254 and that position should stand even though it's a new bill. Mr. Coby Skye stated that since there was no quorum, for this bill as for the others discussed today staff can send a letter reiterating the Task Force's previous position on this issue, and state that the Task Force will be sending their formal position on this bill when a quorum is reached.

Mr. Sheppard stated staff is currently reviewing additional bills to determine their impact and will possibly place them on the next update. He also reminded the Task Force members that comments requested on the draft AB 32 Scoping Plan letter are due next week in order to meet the comment period deadline to ARB.

#### **VIII. AB 1126 – CALRECYCLE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS**

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported they are working with County Counsel to prepare a response back to CalRecycle.

#### **IX. UPDATE ON THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT'S DRAFT CEQA DOCUMENT**

Mr. Patrick Holland updated the Task Force on the Countywide Siting Element CEQA document and reported a draft Initial Study has been prepared for the Siting Element and is currently being reviewed by Public Works staff and County Counsel. The draft Initial Study, prepared by TetraTech BAS/HDR, makes a preliminary conclusion that an environmental impact report will be prepared for the Siting Element. Staff tentatively plans to present the details of the Initial Study tentatively at next month's FPRS and Task Force meetings.

The draft Initial Study (and Notice of Preparation) will be released to responsible agencies (such as the 88 cities; all applicable State agencies including State Clearinghouse, local association of governments) and the Task Force for a 30-day review and comment period. The draft Initial Study is tentatively anticipated to be released in May or June 2014.

After considering the comments received on the Initial Study and Notice of Preparation a Draft Environmental Impact Report will then be prepared. The Draft Environmental Impact Report will be submitted to the Task Force for review and comment. Thereafter, the Preliminary Draft Siting Element and the Draft Environmental Impact Report are anticipated to be released for public review in early 2015. In order to be transparent, Mr. Pat Proano stated the County would like to reach out and set up meetings with some of the cities to educate them on the Siting Element and have them identify who the appropriate contact is for our Department to work directly with. The Department will be at the California Contract Cities Association seminar in May and is possibly getting on the agenda to present the Siting Element. Ms. Betsey Landis stated she would like time to discuss the Initial Study with her environmental agency to get their comments. Mr. Mike Mohajer recommended staff work with City Services Section of Programs Development Division to help with the outreach with the various Cities.

#### **X. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL EXPANSION**

Mr. Karlo Manalo reported on June 5, 2013, the Department of Regional Planning circulated the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Master Plan Revision, Screencheck Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), for review by Los Angeles County Departments of Regional Planning, Forester and Fire Warden, Public Health, and Public Works. On July 9, 2013, Waste Connections' consultant, CH2M Hill, hosted a meeting to discuss the Screencheck Draft EIR amongst County agencies. On July 22, 2013, Regional Planning also circulated a Permit Consultation Review for County agencies to provide comments on the proposed Exhibit "A" Site Plan. The Department of Regional Planning compiled and submitted the County agencies' comments on the Screencheck Draft EIR in a letter dated September 19, 2013, to CH2M Hill. However, this is not a public document.

Currently, CH2M Hill is reaching out to agencies to discuss their respective comments on the Screencheck Draft EIR. According to Regional Planning, CH2M Hill has not yet determined a release date for the Draft EIR for public review. Based on its current permit, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill is set to expire when (1) an elevation of 1,430 feet is reached; (2) the landfill has taken in 23 million tons of disposal; or (3) on November 24, 2019, whichever occurs first. With the landfill's current daily disposal intake, it is estimated the landfill will reach its 23 million ton limit by the end of 2015 or early 2016. Once the Draft EIR

becomes available for public review, staff will bring it to the Task Force's attention for review and commenting.

**XI. MANDATORY COMMERCIAL ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING UNDER PREPARATION/CONSIDERATION BY CSAC & OTHERS**

Mr. Chris Sheppard reported Assembly Member Chesbro's office has been working with CalRecycle and CAW on draft language for organics collections via Assembly Bill 1826; however, it is not yet in print. CSAC and the Solid Waste Industry Group have also been working on language as a counterproposal to the proposed bill. The main issues being discussed are the timeline for implementation - how soon would local jurisdictions be required to have an organics collection system in place, and tiering - what type and size entities would have to comply. There has also been discussion on tying the organics collection back to ADC and what to do with all the compost created from the organics collected. Staff will track the development of the bill and report back when any amendments to AB 1826 are in print.

Mr. Mike Mohajer added that the AB 341 report has been pulled back by CalRecycle until they get the language for AB 1594 (ADC) and AB 1826 (Mandatory Commercial Organic Recycling - food waste) finalized, which is the basis for introducing the bill. He's been working on the organic waste language for a while and has defined organic waste to mean food, green, landscape, pruning, and wood waste, but CalRecycle wants to change the word "means" to "includes," which changes the definition. He also has not been successful in getting answers to what is going to be done about the needed infrastructure to manage the waste and what the state is willing to do to help jurisdictions with this issue. He gave the example of Marina del Rey, a multi-residential/high-rise community. When the recycling came about they were challenged with where to place the bins because of limited space. Implementing mandatory composting in this area adds to the problem because not only is space limited, food waste is included in the compost bin, which should be processed within 48 hours. These are just some of the issues jurisdictions are faced with that need to be considered.

**XII. UPDATE ON MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND PROPOSED CLEAN-UP LEGISLATION**

Mr. Frank Chin, staff to the Task Force, has been appointed as a member to the Mattress Recycling Organization's Advisory Council, which is selected by CalRecycle. Mr. Chin reported an informal rule making workshop regarding the mattress EPR bill passed last year was conducted by CalRecycle on March 13 and the informal draft text can be found on CalRecycle's website on the public meeting notice page. They are seeking mattress disposal data from industry to determine a baseline for program language. The comments are due by

March 27, 2014. A public meeting will be held in May, final proposed regulations released in June, a public hearing will be held in July or August, and the Office of Administrative Law is expected to provide final approval or disapproval by early 2015. Mr. Chin met with Mike O'Donnell of the mattress recycling council and Chris Hutchins of the International Sleep Products Association, and they stated they will not be forming mattress recycling contracts with municipalities directly, but rather the contracts will be with the recyclers and renovators who will make contacts with recycling facilities.

### **XIII. CALRECYCLE**

Ms. Jennifer Wallin restated that Howard Levenson will be coming in May and would be available to answer questions the Task Force may have. She also offered local assistance in regards to organics and stated they could be used as a resource for hosting a meeting. Ms. Wallin also reported the following:

- CARE and CalRecycle will be a workshop on April 17 at Lakewood City Hall to discuss the plan, its implementation, and get stakeholder input. A web-based workshop will be held April 16 for those who can't attend the April 17 workshop. Also, a list of manufacturers covered under CARE is posted on their website.
- The Beverage Container Recycling Grant has typically been a competitive grant up to \$1,500,000 annually, but the budget change proposal, if approved, will refocus the funds currently used for the City/County payment program resulting in an additional \$3,500,000 for the 2014/15 grant period. The application materials for FY 2014/15 will tentatively be available June 2014 pending budget approval.
- Out-of-state beverage container recycling – a manifest process for material coming in from out of state would require additional documentation be provided to acknowledge it as scrap material and not CRV credit since it's coming from out of state.

### **XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Kevin Best of Real Energy updated the Task Force on of the progress of their two southern California projects. The first project is a sorting system to separate organics from MSW at CLARTS. He thanked the Task Force members for their help in educating them on permitting and contracting strategies. The second project is a food waste to biogas system and a green waste to diesel system at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. They are in discussions with the owners of the landfill to potentially site a project there. If the expansion is approved, they may be able to process renewable gas to fill up to 1,200 trucks a day.

Ms. Mary Ann Lutz requested to agendize the discussion of hosting a workshop to address the siting element, organics, CTs, pharmaceuticals, mattresses, and County resolution

Ms. Tranette Sanders reminded Task Force Members that the Form 700, Conflict of Interest forms are due to her by April 1, 2014.

**XV. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2014, in Conference Room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

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