

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

**Minutes of June 19, 2014**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Gail Farber, rep by Pat Proano and Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep by Jeanne Biehler, County of Los Angeles Department of  
Public Health  
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Mitchell Englander, rep by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep by Ed Pupka, South Coast Air Quality Management District

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles  
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach Public Works Department  
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle  
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita  
David Coscia, 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  
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Anna Gov, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Betsey Meyer, LACWMA  
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC  
Kevin Best, Real Energy  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services  
Patti Costa, Republic Services  
Jon Emerson, City of Redondo

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:09 p.m. by Mr. Mike Mohajer.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 17, 2014, AND MAY 15, 2014, MINUTES**

Ms. Betsey Landis made the motion to approve April 17, 2014, minutes; Mr. Mike Mohajer seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mr. Ed Pupka, Ms. Nicole Bernson, and Ms. Jeanne Biehler abstaining. Ms. Landis made the motion to accept the May 15, 2014, minutes as corrected, and Mr. Pat Proano seconded the motion. Motion carried with Ms. Bernson, Mr. Pupka, Ms. Biehler, and Mr. Chris Solomon abstaining.

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

Mr. Clark Ajwani reported that the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee discussed the upcoming Conversion Technology event, Air and Waste Management Association Conference in Long Beach on June 23, 2014, where Mr. Coby Skye and Mr. Mark McDannel will chair two sessions. Mr. Ajwani also gave an update on Conversion Technology outreach activities. Ms. Alisa Karlan from Cerrell has been assisting with the preparation of the Sustainable Solid Waste Management Future Roadmap as well as reaching out to local agencies and governments groups regarding support for SB 498. Mr. Ajwani also mentioned that the CR&R anaerobic digestion project is advancing. They are pursuing additional grants which would allow them to accelerate the project to a commercial scale.

A presentation by David Schneider of Anaergia Inc. was made on their wet extrusion process technology where they can separate organics from MSW with less than 0.1% contamination in the organics stream, then use anaerobic digestion technology to process the organics.

The ATAS also had a presentation by Tim Cesarek of Enerkem about the inauguration of their Edmonton facility. Enerkem is commercializing a technology that produces biofuels and renewable chemicals from trash. They operate two facilities and are entering the commercial phase of the first biorefinery in Edmonton. The Edmonton facility is the first mixed solid waste to chemicals and biofuels facility in commission.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that a press release by CalRecycle made references to the recycling rate for California which remained the same for 2013 at 50 percent as compared to 2012. That was surprising from the standpoint that CalRecycle has been claiming that recycling rate was 64 percent. It would be interesting to

find out where that number came from, he added; or did it go from 64 to 50 percent.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has not provided an odor complaint summary for the month of May for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Therefore, the May and June odor complaint summaries will be reported at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Patti Costa from Republic Services (Republic) presented their responses to various questions regarding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill that came about during previous Subcommittee meetings. Ms. Landis noted that Republic will continue to work on their revegetation efforts at the landfill as the results have not been entirely successful.

There was a presentation on the Initial Study for the Countywide Siting Element Revision, and requested that all comments be submitted as soon as possible.

Staff had a presentation on the proposed Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) revision for the Azusa Land Reclamation facility.

Ms. Landis also mentioned that a question was raised at the last Subcommittee meeting regarding the use of one million gallons of water at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill and where the water was coming from. She reported that Ms. Jeanne Biehler informed the Subcommittee that one million gallons of water is used for irrigation and dust control at the landfill and is coming from a well.

#### **V. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Ms. Jennifer Wallin of CalRecycle reported that the 2013 Electronic Annual Report form has been released to jurisdictions; it is due August 1, 2014. In regards to the budget change proposal, the Cap and Trade related grants were approved. CalRecycle is moving forward to execute grant agreements pertaining to the Cap and Trade funds.

There were some changes to the funding source for the Beverage Container program. The City/County Payment program will be intact for 2014/2015. In relation to the Mattress Stewardship law, the regulations were approved and signed by Director Carol Mortensen.

##### Cap and Trade Grants:

- Reduction Organics Grant Program (FY2014/15) is due **July 1, 2014**
- Fiber, Plastic & Glass Grant Program (FY2014/15) is due **July 31, 2014**
- Non-competitive Oil Payment Program, application is due **June 26, 2014**

- Beverage Container Recycling Grant (Competitive) will be available on **July 15, 2014**
- Solid Waste Disposal and Codisposal Site Cleanup Grant Program (FY 2014/15) will come out in **July 2014**

Public Meetings:

- June 24, 2014, SCHHWIE, Oceanside's Civic Center Community Rooms, Oceanside
- July 15, 2014, CalEPA Building, Byron Sher Auditorium, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
- July 21, 2014, Green Sports Alliance Summit, Santa Clara Convention Center
- July 31, 2014, CalCon Expo 2014, Long Beach Convention & Entertainment Center

Mr. Mohajer asked Ms. Wallin to double check on the 50 percent recycling rate.

## **VI. INITIAL STUDY FOR THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT REVISION**

Mr. Patrick Holland made a presentation on the initial Study for the Countywide Siting Element (Siting Element) Revision. Mr. Holland reported the Initial Study, Notice of Preparation and Notice of Scoping Meetings were released on June 16, 2014. Staff sent out a mass email to about 185 responsible agencies. Mr. Holland clarified that staff will be accepting comments until July 28, 2014. Hard copies were sent to each Task Force members and to 19 libraries throughout the County. There will be six scoping meetings throughout the County from July 14 2014 to July 24, 2014. Instruction on how to submit comments using the website were also provided.

The consultant Tetra Tech BAS, along with its subconsultant, HDR Engineering, Inc., prepared the Initial Study and concluded that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared. Mr. Holland showed the Task Force members a table of the environmental factors analyzed on the Initial Study.

Mr. Holland discussed the Siting Element's website. He explained how to use the website to obtain information and how to submit comments. The Draft EIR is being prepared and will be released along with the Draft Siting Element later this year or early 2015. Mr. Holland also mentioned considering updating the Draft Siting Element to change the base year from 2010 to 2013 before the release of the Preliminary Draft Siting Element and Draft EIR.

Mr. Pat Proano commended Mr. Holland and Ms. Emiko Thompson for doing a wonderful job on this assignment. Mr. Proano has been reaching out to the City of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Santa Clarita and is scheduled to meet with the City of Glendale, Pasadena, and Burbank. He wants to reach out to the Cities so

they are aware of what we are doing. On July 11, 2014, Mr. Proano will be attending the Independent Cities Association summer seminar meeting to get the word out on the Siting Element. Ms. Nicole Bernson asked the reason why only 19 libraries were reached out to on the Siting Element. Per Mr. Proano, the County works directly with 19 County libraries but he is open to any suggestions on other locations to forward the word out.

Mr. Mohajer indicated that when circulating the original Siting Element, Public Works used City Services representatives to hand carried the documents to City Managers and Engineers, and they were prepared to answer any questions. Mr. Mohajer recommends that the same procedure be followed for this Siting Element.

#### **VII. AB 1126: ENGINEERED MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE (EMSW) CONVERSION, AND IMPACTS TO THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**

Ms. Julia Weissman with County Counsel updated the Task Force on her communications with CalRecycles' Council regarding AB 1126 which pertains to Engineered Municipal Solid Waste (EMSW) conversion. Ms. Weissman discussed how AB 1126 could potentially impact the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (Siting Element). Prior to AB 1126 the Siting Element was only required to discuss disposal capacity. However, AB 1126 requires EMSW conversion facilities to be included in a countywide siting element with a description of the areas to be used for the development of EMSW conversion facilities. It also provides that an EMSW facility only requires approval by the jurisdiction in which it's located.

After the passing of AB 1126, Public Works staff made a presentation to the Task Force to discuss the changes needed to be made to the Siting Element. The Task Force decided to table these changes until receiving regulations from CalRecycle on how to implement AB 1126. The Task Force sent a letter to CalRecycle requesting that they expedite the development of the implementing regulations for AB 1126. In response to this letter and an e-mail from Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Howard Levenson from CalRecycle, stated that CalRecycle determined that they did not need to issue any regulations for AB 1126. Mr. Levenson pointed to guidelines on CalRecycle's website which was issued in November 2013.

After receiving the information that CalRecycle was not going to be developing implementing regulations, Mr. Mohajer communicated with Mr. Levenson on several issues as to why certain regulations were not necessary, particularly that the current regulations were not accurate and also that there were some inconsistencies in the statute that need to be explained. It's difficult for the County to complete a Siting Element that complies with AB 1126 without further clarification. We got a response from Mr. Elliot Block, Chief Counsel for CalRecycle, who had two main points. First, from the legal stand point, if a

regulation conflicts with a statute, the statute controls, so CalRecycle is not required to update the regulation. Secondly, CalRecycle does not have authority to fix statute.

After, Mr. Block's letter, Ms. Weissman, communicated with Mr. Block's via e-mail to make three points (copy of the e-mail was circulated at the Task Force meeting). Discussion ensued including the need for further clarification regarding how to incorporate any proposed EMSW facilities into the Siting Element; clearer distinction between the uses of the terms "revision" and "amendment" to the Siting Element; and the processes through which jurisdictions would update the Siting Element to incorporate EMSW facilities.

Mr. Mohajer added that another concern with the guidelines was that the Task Force involvement with EMSW conversion facilities was missing. As a result of these communications the November 2013 guidelines had been revised to incorporate some of the Task Force concerns. However, the date on the guidelines remained the same.

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

Mr. Chris Sheppard gave the legislative update as follows:

- AB 1594 – This bill relates to ADC, there have been a number of amendments since the last Task Force meeting. Beginning January 1, 2020, this bill would provide that use of green material, as alternative daily cover does not constitute diversion through recycling and would be considered disposal for purposes of AB 939. It requires local jurisdictions to include information in their annual reports on how they intend to address diversion of green material starting August 1, 2018. The bill also exempts green material from the State \$1.40 disposal fee. The previous position was opposed unless amended; no change in position is recommended.
  
- AB 1743 - This bill is related to Hypodermic needles bill and would, until January 1, 2021, authorize a pharmacist or physician to provide an unlimited number of hypodermic needles and syringes to a person 18 years of age or older solely for his or her personal use. The previous position was support if amended, oppose unless amended, no change in position is recommended.
  
- AB 1826 - This bill is related to organic waste recycling and would require businesses that generate certain thresholds of organic waste per week to arrange for "recycling" services for that organic waste in a specific manner. The most recent amendments added a definition to the bill for "organic waste recycling facility." Those facilities are being defined as a facility that meets the definition of a

compostable handling operation that is currently in statue. Changes were also made to the tiers and the timing for when each tier will take effect. The previous position was opposed unless amended; no change in position is recommended.

- AB 2284 – This bill was originally an EPR bill, but has since been amended to remove all EPR language. Staff recommends the Task Force send a letter to oppose AB 2284, unless amended back to the original EPR bill. Mr. Ron Saldana made a motion to send a letter as recommended by staff, and Ms. Landis seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Chris Solomon and Ed Pupka abstaining.
- SB 1014 – This bill would require CalRecycle and the California State Board of Pharmacy on or before January 1, 2016 to jointly develop and adopt regulations to authorize a participant to establish a program to collect and properly dispose of home-generated pharmaceutical waste, based upon the model guidelines developed by CalRecycle. Mr. Mike Mohajer recommends taking a “watch” position.
- SB 1274 – This bill amends the Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act. This bill would require permitted solid waste facilities and authorized solid waste operations to accept mattresses from the public, which may negatively impact public agency maintenance yards. The Task sent a letter to oppose unless amended on April 22, 2014. The bill is still moving forward, no new position is recommended at this time.
- SB 498 - This bill would revise the definition of the term “biomass conversion” to mean the production of heat, fuel, or electricity by the controlled combustion, or the use of other noncombustion thermal conversion technologies on biomass materials. The bill was heard and passed by the Natural Resources committee, voted 9-0. We are currently working on some amendments proposed by CalRecycle. The bill will be heard next week.

#### **IX. SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT FUTURE PLAN PRESENTATION**

No discussion on this item. Item postpone for July Task Force meeting.

#### **X. 5-YEAR REVIEW REPORT PRESENTAITON**

Mr. David Coscia gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Draft Five-Year Review Report of the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. Section 41822 of the Public Resources Code (PRC) requires each city and county to review its Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CoIWMP) at least once every five years to correct any deficiencies in the CoIWMP and

comply with the source reduction and recycling requirements established under Section 41780 of the PRC, and revise the ColWMP as necessary.

The Report has seven discussion points.

- Changes in County demographics
- Changes in quantities of waste
- Changes in funding sources for administration of the Countywide Sitting Element and the Countywide Summary Plan
- Changes in administrative responsibilities
- Programs that were scheduled to be implemented but were not
- Changes in available markets for recyclable materials
- Changes in the implementation schedule

Mr. Coscia briefly discussed the changes which have occurred regarding these discussion points since 2010. These included changes in demographics and waste generation, successful diversion programs, and outside influences such as China enforcing its environmental laws in "Operation Green Fence."

Mr. Coscia distributed copies of the Draft Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Five-Year Review Report to members of the Task Force who were present at the meeting. He requested that members of the Task Force review the Draft Report and provide written comments no later than Tuesday, July 8, 2014. These written comments will be consolidated and presented to the Facility and Plan Review subcommittee at the meeting of July 19, 2014. If the corrections are accepted by the subcommittee, the subcommittee may make a motion of the Task Force to accept the reviewed draft report. If the Task Force approves the motion, the corrections will be integrated into the report and the final report will be submitted to CalRecycle for review.

#### **XI. PROPOSED SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT REVISION FOR THE AZUSA LAND RECLAMATION FACILITY**

Ms. Anna Gov gave a presentation on the Solid Waste Permit (SWFP) Revision for the Azusa Land Reclamation Facility (ALR). She showed maps of the location, vicinity and zones, and discussed details regarding each zone's usage and acreages.

Ms. Gov reported that the ALR submitted an updated application for a revised SWFP in response to the LEA's 5-year permit review in December 2012. According to the LEA, the agency will complete its review of the permit revision application and make a determination of the completion of the permit package. Once done, within 60 days, the LEA will submit its recommendation to CalRecycle for concurrence. Once CalRecycle concurs with the recommendation, the revised permit may be issued.



Ms. Gov informed that the May 2014 Initial Study/Environmental Checklist & Addendum to the 1988 Negative Declaration, the Joint Technical Document Volume 1 and 2, and the 1988 Negative Declaration were documents that were used to present information in her presentation. According to the LEA, the May 2014 Initial Study may be subject to change and will only be finalized once the SWFP is issued.

Ms. Gov reported that ALR is currently permitted to accept 6,500 tons per day of waste and since October 1996, the facility was only allowed to accept non-hazardous special waste, asbestos, and unclassified inert waste.

Ms. Gov indicated that the proposed SWFP Revisions will provide clarification on the following items:

- Tonnage to match historical levels of operations at the Azusa Landfill – The facility will continue accepting up to 6,500 total tons per day of inert waste with a peak daily waste throughput of 8,000 tons per day and a maximum of 39,000 tons per week. The proposed peak daily waste tonnage is based on the historically realized level of operation at the landfill, and the truck trips generated by the 8,000 tpd is within the 1,200 truck trip analyzed in the 1988 Negative Declaration. Consequently, the May 2014 Initial Study concluded that preparation of an Addendum to the previously adopted Negative Declaration would be appropriate to comply with CEQA for purposes of the SWFP Revision;
- Acreage of the Landfill – The facility will be revised to reflect the total acreage of 302, and disposal acreage of 266 acres;
- Types of inert and beneficial use materials – The facility would continue accepting inert and beneficial reuse materials;
- Disposal operations of waste tires and inerts – The revised SWFP will clarify the disposal operations for the co-disposal of waste tires and inerts in zones 3 and 4;
- Base grade for zone 3, 4, and 5 - The revised permit will specify in some manner the base grade for zone 3 at 330', zone 4 at 305', and zone 5 at 230';
- Update to the remaining estimated site capacity and site life - The LEA is currently working with the operator to recalculate the closure date to reflect closure of the site based on remaining proposed capacity and anticipated disposal rate.

According to Section 10.4 of the Countywide Siting Element, Azusa Land Reclamation needs a Finding of Conformance (FOC) from the Task Force.

Therefore, staff recommends that the Task Force send a letter to the facility operator stating that a FOC is required and to submit an application to the Task Force.

Ms. Landis made a motion to send a letter to the Azusa Land Reclamation Facility Operator notifying them that a Finding of Conformance is required from the Task Force for their SWFP revision; Mr. Chris Solomon seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mr. Ed Pupka and Ron Saldana abstaining.

Ms. Landis also introduced another motion for the Task Force to send a letter to the Local Enforcement Agency, expressing their interest to provide comments on the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist and Addendum to a Negative Declaration for the proposed SWFP revision. Mr. Mohajer seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mr. Solomon and Mr. Pupka abstaining.

## **XII. CHIQUITA LANDFILL CEQA/CUP**

No discussion on this item. Item postponed for the July Task Force meeting.

## **XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Kevin Best of Real Energy had a comment for Ms. Landis on AB 1826. Mr. Best believes it's no fantasy to get the organics out of MSW and also believes if you do, you can get the smell out of the landfills and convert it to renewable fuel and liquid fertilizer. As 30 year energy developer, Real Energy is currently working to permit to wet anaerobic digestion plants in California.

Mr. Best also had a comment for Ms. Julia Weissman. It's very difficult when a party doesn't do the clarifying work and they leave the marbles on the floor for the developer.

## **XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2014, in the **Alhambra Conference Room**.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

fm

P:\eppub\EA\EA\TF\TF\Minutes\2014 Minutes\TF Minutes MayFM