

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

Minutes of July 17, 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
Mayor Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
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, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Grace Chan, rep by Debra Bogdanoff, 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:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach Public Works Department
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle
Wendy Dunlap, CalRecycle
Brenda Eells, CH2M Hill
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita
Jeanne Biehler, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Carlos Ruiz, 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
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Trish Pietrzak, Platinum PR Solutions
Stephen Betz, Real Energy
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 JUNE 19, 2014, MINUTES

Ms. Betsey Landis made the motion to approve the revised June 19, 2014, minutes; Mr. Pat Proano seconded the motion. Motion carried with Mr. Gerardo Villalobos abstaining.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Clark Ajwani reported that the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS) had a presentation from Keith Thomsen and Briggite Ahring of Washington State University on their research of a pretreatment process to increase waste digestibility and biogas yields. Their pilot studies proved to double the methane production of green waste as well as previously digested biomass/biosolids.

Mr. Ajwani also reported Mr. Jacques Franco will provide a report on Monterey County's Anaerobic Digestion (AD) project to disseminate to the ATAS members. Ms. Alisa Karlan, of Cerrell Associates, mentioned they were assisting Public Works with a presentation at the Independent Cities conference and scoping meetings for the Countywide Siting Element revision that also touched on the future of Conversion Technologies (CT). Mr. Ajwani stated there weren't any updates from CalRecycle regarding convening a workshop to discuss CTs.

Mr. Ajwani informed the Task Force that the EIR for Chiquita canyon was released with land set aside for CT. The nature of the CT project is not determined. Public Works had a meeting with Regional Planning to discuss permitting of the proposed AD facility at Lancaster Landfill. There continues to be discussion of CT's at other sites in LA County.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Azusa Land Reclamation has not responded to the letter sent by the Task Force, regarding submitting an application for a Finding of Conformance to the Task Force.

Staff is preparing draft comments to submit to the County on the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Five-Year Review Report. Comments are being compiled and are expected to be completed by September.

Ms. Landis gave an update on the odor complaints for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. In the month of May, there were a total of 52 complaints made to the AQMD hotline. The total decreased from 122 complaints received in April, but there was an increase in the number of odor complaints from last year (from 46 to 52). For the month of June, a total of 28 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline, which is less than the number of complaints received in May and June 2013.

V. TASK FORCE ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

Mayor Mary Ann Lutz recapped prior Task Force discussions about hosting a seminar or conference to educate the community about key waste issues, especially organic waste and conversion technology. Mayor Lutz introduced Trish Pietrzak, of Platinum PR Solutions, who volunteered in facilitating the planning of the seminar. Ms. Pietrzak made a presentation on the need and the interest of this particular conference. She also mentioned ways she would be able to assist the Task Force in facilitating the seminar.

A workshop committee was formed in April 2014 and the members were confirmed; Mayor Lutz, Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Pat Proano, Mr. Carlos Ruiz, Mr. Ron Saldana, Mr. Chris Salomon, and Mr. Gerry Villalobos.

Mr. Mohajer explained how the talks about having the seminar came about. Mr. Mohajer highlighted AB 1826 and the significant impact it will have in Los Angeles County. Mr. Mohajer invited Ms. Pretazak to the Southern California Waste Management Forum Conference on November 12 where there will be three panelists: Mr. Howard Levenson from Cal Recycle; Mayor Lutz, representing local government; and Mr. Jim Ambroso from Republic Services, representing Industry.

Mayor Lutz made a motion to approve working with Ms. Pietrzak on this program, utilizing the Task Force workshop committee that was previously put together and clarifying that this would be at no financial cost to the County of Los Angeles or to the Task Force; Mr. Ron Saldana seconded the motion. The motion carried with Mr. Ed Pupka abstaining.

VI. U.S. EPA PROPOSED UPDATE TO REDUCE METHANE GAS & OTHER HARMFUL POLLUTION FROM NEW LANDFILLS

Ms. Anna Gov gave the [attached presentation](#) to the Task Force on the two draft publications that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be publishing in the Federal Register that may affect Los Angeles County landfills. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion for staff to review the draft publications and send a commenting letter to the EPA if staff determines there is going to be a negative impact on the local jurisdictions. Ms. Betsey Landis seconded the motion and it was carried with Mr. Ed Pupka abstaining.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The attached legislative table was distributed. No discussion took place on this item since the Legislature is currently in recess.

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin of CalRecycle reported that the 2013 Annual Report is due August 1, 2014. Ms. Wallin also reported that in the June meeting, CalRecycle approved an increase in the covered electronic waste (CEW) recover and recycling payment rates. Effective July 1, 2014, the standard statewide recovery rate will be \$0.18 per pound (increased from \$0.16 per pound), and the standard statewide combined recovery and recycling payment rate will be \$0.44 per pound (increased from \$0.39 per pound). This action follows on two stakeholder meetings held May 12 and June 11 to discuss staff's analysis of industry cost documentation. More information on the RFA can be found at: calrecycle.ca.gov/Actions/PublicNoticeDetail.aspx?id=1244&aiid=1131. At its July meeting, CalRecycle made a separate determination that the electronic waste recycling fee assessed on consumers at the time of retail purchase of a new covered electronic device would remain the same.

Open Grant Cycles

- Beverage Container Recycling Grant (Competitive, \$1,500,000)- due **July 31, 2014**
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and Loan Programs – due **July 31, 2014**

Mr. Mohajer wanted to express his appreciation to Ms. Wallin for her assistance in getting the guidelines for AB 1126 (Engineering MSW conversion) revised. The guidelines were up-to-date and ready to go.

IX. PROPOSED SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT REVISION FOR THE AZUSA LAND RECLAMATION FACILITY

Status Update on FOC Application

Ms. Anna Gov provided an update regarding the status of the Finding of Conformance (FOC) application for the Azusa Land Reclamation (ALR) Facility. There was a motion passed to send a letter to the ALR Facility Operator requesting them to submit a FOC application to the Task Force as the Facility is currently undergoing a Solid Waste Facility Permit revision process. A Task Force letter was sent to the Azusa Land Reclamation Facility on June 26, 2014. Staff had sent a follow-up email on July 7, 2014 and left a voicemail message on

July 14 with Mr. Brent Anderson of Waste Management to see if there are any questions in regards to the application for the FOC. However, staff has yet to receive a response from the operator at this time. Ms. Gov will provide new information to the Task Force as it becomes available.

Ms. Gov also reported that at June's Task Force meeting, a motion was passed to send a letter to the LEA requesting that the Task Force be given the opportunity to provide comments on the May 2014, Initial Study/Environmental Checklist and Addendum to the 1988 Negative Declaration for ALR's Solid Waste Facility Permit revision. The LEA responded with a letter to the Task Force, dated July 7, 2014, which was disseminated to the Task Force via email on July 8, 2014. The LEA stated they would answer any questions the Task Force may have regarding the pending application to provide the Solid Waste Facility Permit.

Address Task Force's Questions from the Previous Meeting

Mr. Gerry Villalobos provided clarification on the proposed Solid Waste Facility Permit revision for the ALR Facility. According to Mr. Villalobos, pursuant to CEQA guidelines, the Addendum of an existing CEQA document to the 1988 Negative Declaration does not require circulation for comment; however, because the LEA anticipates there was going to be a FOC presentation to the Task Force the Addendum document was provided to staff for the preparation of that presentation.

Mr. Villalobos indicated that the permitting action that the LEA is taking does not involve any changes to what is currently taking place at the Facility as the purpose of the permit revision is to update the permit as well as to update the facility information. The updates include: clarifying the activities that are taking place at the site, identifying various zones, defining the types of activities that are going to be taking place in those zones as well as increasing the tonnage from 6,500 to 8,000 tons per day. The tonnage increase is well below the vehicle threshold that was analyzed for in the original 1988 CEQA document. Mr. Villalobos also stated that there would be no physical expansion of the facility and that municipal solid waste would continue to be prohibited from disposal at the landfill.

Mr. Villalobos also spoke about the concerns regarding asbestos which has been received by ALR historically and placed in the lined portion of the landfill. The facility has an asbestos management plan in their operating document which is part of the replacement document of the permit revision. Mr. Villalobos also discussed the concerns with regards to the detention ponds and overflow of storm water at the site. These detention ponds are not going to be overflowing because of their depth and location within ALR.

Mr. Villalobos also mentioned that ALR's most recent updated WDRs are dated 2009 which clearly specified no MSW is permitted to be accepted at the site and this is also reflected in the proposed document. The Solid Waste Facility Permit when it is revised and issued will also indicate the types of waste that the site can receive.

Mr. Ron Saldana asked a question regarding MSW and inert waste contamination. Mr. Villalobos estimates the level of extraneous material at one percent, and there is a load checking requirement for the facility which is very specific as far as the types of materials that can be brought in.

Mr. Villalobos discussed where certain materials can be placed with respect to the mean sea level (MSL) elevation. He stated there are parts of the landfill that are still under mining or excavation where material could be placed below the 355' MSL. In those certain zones that go below 355' MSL, they will be filled with inert materials until they've reached 355' before any asbestos, tires, or cured asphalt can be placed.

X. SUSTAINABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT FUTURE PLAN PRESENTATION

Mr. Coby Sky gave the [attached presentation](#) to the Task Force on Sustainable Waste Management Future Roadmap that Public Works is leading the efforts to develop.

On April 22, 2014, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion directing Public Works to establish a working group among County Departments, as well as the Sanitation Districts, to develop a roadmap for a Sustainable Waste Management Future. This is an opportunity for the County to evaluate the solid waste management system in the unincorporated areas, and strive to achieve higher diversion rates.

Public Works and the Interdepartmental Working Group have developed a draft Roadmap that includes four proposed strategies:

1. Quality Programs and Services,
2. Measure for Results,
3. Facilities and Infrastructure, and
4. Outreach and Education

The Board gave Public Works six months to develop the Roadmap and come back to the Board. In order to meet the short timeframe, break out working groups that focus on different sections of the Roadmap were formed to help draft the Roadmap. The draft was shared with the Working Group and on July 14, 2014, the Working Group met to discuss the key goals and strategies. The goal is to finalize the Roadmap by August 11, 2014, and file the Roadmap for Board approval in October.

Mr. Skye invited the members of the Task Force to the August 11, 2014, Working Group meeting to hear a more detailed presentation of the Roadmap. Mr. Pat Proano emphasized the invitation by saying that the recommendations being proposed to the Board in the Roadmap could affect a lot of people and business; he welcomes everyone's attendance and comments. Ms. Nicole Bernson wanted a clarification on the proposed areas. Mr. Proano clarified that the proposal is meant for unincorporated areas, County buildings, and County facilities, and large venues in the unincorporated areas.

Mr. Mike Mohajer suggested two items: First, to have a section on cost-benefit analysis for each of the programs. And secondly, to identify those programs that are already being mandated as a result of a recent state law.

Mr. Proano added that the presentation given today was only for information and to share with the Task Force as to what Public Works is doing. At this time, there is a tight timeframe under which the Roadmap needs to be submitted, after there will be a cost-benefit analysis being prepared after October.

Mr. Mohajer added, although comments are not being taken at this time, he suggested staff to review of AB 32 plans that the County adopted.

Mr. Skye echoes Mr. Proano by appreciating and welcoming Mr. Mohajer's comments. Mr. Skye will do his best to include any constructive comments.

XI. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CHIQUITA LANDFILL CANYON LANDFILL EXPANSION

Mr. Karlo Manalo gave the [attached presentation](#) to the Task Force on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Proposed Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion.

Ms. Landis made a motion on behalf of the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) to have members of the Task Force and the FPRS submit comments to Ms. Emiko Thompson by August 12th and for staff to prepare draft comments regarding the DEIR for the Proposed Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion for review and approval by the Task Force at the next meeting. After Mr. Mohajer seconded this motion, discussions ensued prior to carrying the motion.

Mr. Pat Proano commented that based on the County's disposal capacity analysis there is still a need for the expansion of Chiquita Canyon Landfill to provide local disposal capacity. Mr. Mohajer explained how waste management has changed since 2011, and as the Task Force views these issues on a regional basis, the Task Force will have to consider the need for organic waste recycling infrastructures as well as the disposal capacity in meeting the County's needs.

In response to Ms. Karen Coca's inquiry regarding whether anyone can submit comments regarding the DEIR, which Mr. Mohajer responded the DEIR is open for public comment. Mr. Mohajer also clarified that the letter which will be prepared by staff will be submitted on behalf of the Task Force as its own entity.

Regarding the DEIR, Ms. Landis expressed concerns on potential mud and flood flows in the Newhall Ranch development in the vicinity of the Landfill. Mr. Proano assured Ms. Landis that the County's geologists and experts will be looking into that matter and will be providing their comments to County Regional Planning. Ms. Mary Ann Lutz also assured Ms. Landis that having prior involvement with the Water Quality Control Board she is confident these concerns will not be overlooked by the Water Board. Ms. Lutz proposed amending the initial motion put forth by Ms. Landis to include that the compilation of comments regarding the DEIR be presented to the Task Force for its members to agree on the contents of the letter.

Ms. Nicole Bernson agreed with Ms. Lutz's amendment of the motion for purposes of transparency, which was agreed to by Ms. Landis. The motion was carried.

Ms. Landis made the amended motion for members of the FPRS and Task Force to send their comments on the DEIR to Ms. Emiko Thompson by August 12th, and for staff to compile the comments and prepare a draft letter for approval by the Task Force at the August 21st meeting. Mr. Mohajer seconded the motion, and the motion carried with Mr. Ed Pupka abstaining.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to submit a request to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning to extend the 45-day public review period by 45 days, for a total of 90 days, with copies going to all five members of the County Regional Planning Commission as well as Board of Supervisors. Ms. Margaret Clark seconded the motion. The motion was carried with Mr. Proano, Ms. Bernson, Mr. Ron Saldana, and Mr. Pupka abstaining.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2014, in the Conference Room C.

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

fm

P:\epub\EA\EA\TF\TF\Minutes\2014 Minutes\TF Minutes July17finaldraft