

Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Minutes of April 19, 2012 Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Pat Proano, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Becky Bendikson, City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory
Committee
Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services, Inc.
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rainer Globus, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood
Council
Linda Lee Miller, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
David Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
David Pang, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Duy Tran, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 15, 2012 MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the March 15, 2012, meeting was unanimously approved subject to moving Mr. Gerado Villalobos' name from the Subcommittee Members Not Present List to the Subcommittee Members Present List on the first page of the document.

III. REVEGETATION AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Russell Bukoff introduced Mr. Anthony Bertrand, Area Environmental Services Manager for Republic Services, Inc. (Republic), to the Subcommittee and informed them that John Minch and Associates (JMA), Republic's environmental consultant will attend next month's meeting to discuss the First Quarter 2012 Quarterly Vegetation Project Status Report.

Mr. Bertrand informed the Subcommittee that Republic has hired Architerra Design Group, a landscape architecture company, to review sage mitigation efforts on both the County and City sides of the Landfill. Ms. Betsey Landis inquired if this company has experience with native plants, and Mr. Bertrand responded by saying that the Architect Design Group is qualified to perform the work.

Mr. Bertrand further discussed that the nursery at the Landfill has plants originally destined for the Chatsworth Mitigation Project, a wetlands project. Due to a delay in the project, Republic is considering using these plants at the Landfill. Ms. Landis asked about the age of the container plants, and added that if they are over two years old, they will probably be too root-bound to survive when planted. Ms. Landis further discussed that these plants may not be suitable for the climate of the Landfill. If the plants are not suitable for the Landfill, Mr. Wayde Hunter suggested that they could be offered to local residents for their landscaping needs.

Mr. Pat Proano inquired about the status of the new gas collection system. Mr. Bertrand stated that temporary flares are online, and Flare 9 is expected to be operational by July 2012. With Flare 9 operational, Republic expects an additional methane extraction capacity of 5,000 standard cubic feet. Republic will also be seeking permits for Flare 10, with the goal of having it operational before the gas collection system is in place next year.

IV. REVIEW OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa made a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element (CSE) and indicated that comments on the CSE are still being accepted from Subcommittee members.

Mr. Aiyetiwa commented that 55 percent of the waste generated in the County is currently being recycled; and if the County continues managing solid waste as it has been, there will be a shortage in disposal capacity within the next 15 years. On the other hand, there is much opportunity for reducing the shortage if most of the County's waste is diverted, and the remaining waste is processed through conversion technologies, transformation, and then landfilling in accordance with the new waste management paradigm advocated by the County. By assuming a 75 percent diversion rate, expanding in-County landfills, utilizing available out-of-County disposal capacity, and developing conversion technologies, the County's disposal capacity would be adequate to meet its disposal needs through the 15-year planning period.

Mr. Aiyetiwa commented that a request for proposal will be advertised in May 2012 for a contractor to design and format the CSE for a professional "look and feel." Public Works expects the contract to be awarded and executed by October 2012.

Mr. Christopher Salomon commented that the document is overly complicated. The CSE should simply indicate if there is sufficient capacity available to the County for handling solid waste in the next 15 years and discuss those technologies to be utilized in meeting that capacity.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that a short summary identifying how the County will be managing solid waste in and out of the County would not meet the original intent of the Board of Supervisors who approved the structure of the CSE as it looks today pursuant to State regulations and guidelines. Additional Board action replaced the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Action Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors in April 1988 with the CSE as the policy document for solid waste management planning in the County after the enactment of the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.

Ms. Landis emphasized that in her written comments provided to Staff, she requested the language addressing conversion technologies needs to be strengthened to encourage their development, while removing mention of new landfills. Mr. Aiyetiwa responded by saying that staff is revising the CSE according to comments provided by both Ms. Landis and Mr. Mohajer and will be bringing the document back to the Subcommittee for review and comment. Mr. Aiyetiwa further commented that staff will

remove references to siting of new landfills in the goals and policies section of the document.

Regarding conversion technologies, Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that the document's treatment of conversion technologies is thorough, and the document includes 24 sites that could potentially be developed. The proposed capacities of these facilities were considered in developing the document. Mr. Mohajer added that the CSE also identifies geographical areas where conversion technology sites could potentially be located. A conversion technology facility may only be developed if listed in the CSE. Mr. Pat Proano emphasized that the County is committed toward the development of conversion technologies, but legislative challenges and uncertainties with State permits continue to hinder the development of siting such facilities.

Mr. Salomon expressed that the County Sanitation Districts support conversion technology, as long as it is cost effective. However, he pointed out that the County Sanitation Districts has spent nearly \$500 million on the waste-by-rail project to transport waste to Mesquite Regional Landfill in Imperial County, and that landfilling is still the most cost-effective means of managing solid waste at the present time. Mr. Mohajer further discussed that since public funds were used to construct the waste-by-rail system and Mesquite Regional Landfill, a greater emphasis should be placed on them in the CSE. Mr. Proano affirmed that the County is supportive of waste-by-rail, and the utilization of out-of-County exports fits into the County's plans for a balanced approach to solid waste management in the County.

Mr. Proano also commented that the Board offices will be briefed on the contents and direction of the CSE. If they have comments that need to be addressed by the Subcommittee, staff will bring the document back to the Subcommittee for direction.

Mr. Aiyetiwa concluded his presentation by requesting that the Subcommittee approve forwarding of the document to the Task Force for discussion at their May 2012 meeting. Subcommittee members stated that they would like to review the revised CSE further before taking it to the Task Force.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no discussion/public comment.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

May 17, 2012.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.