

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

Minutes of June 21, 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
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Pat Proano, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services, Inc.
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood
Council
Sevak Khatchadorian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Linda Lee Miller, 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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 17, 2012, MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the May 17, 2012, meeting was unanimously approved subject to revision of the last paragraph of Section IV on page 6. The paragraph is revised as follows:

“After further discussion, the Subcommittee directed staff to review the Countywide Siting Element (CSE) and examine the use of the word *expansion* in the document for any discrepancies, assist the City as much as possible, and obtain grading plans in order to make a decision on whether or not this project is an *expansion* based on the definition in the CSE.”

III. SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL IN THE CITY OF WHITTIER, FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Ms. Linda Lee Miller informed the Subcommittee that as directed by the Subcommittee at last month’s meeting, staff has verified that there were no discrepancies in the definition of “Expansion” in the CSE. Staff was also asked to obtain grading plans and other information from the City of Whittier in order to make a determination on whether the changes to the landfill require a Finding of Conformance from the Task Force. Subsequently, the City of Whittier asked staff for an extension to July 15, 2012, to research and obtain supplemental documents for CalRecycle, the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), and the Subcommittee. Therefore, staff recommended that the Subcommittee postpone making a decision on this matter until the July 2012 Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to table this item until the next Subcommittee meeting in order to provide the City of Whittier additional time. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. REVIEW OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Ms. Emiko Thompson mentioned that at last month’s meeting, the Subcommittee requested staff revise the CSE based on the comments received. Accordingly, the following key revisions were made in the Executive Summary, Chapter 2 (Goals and Policies), and Chapter 9 (out-of-County Disposal):

- Removed references to developing new landfills and bioreactors in the Executive Summary and Chapter 2
- Reorganized the Goals and Policies for consistency with the new Waste Management Paradigm in the Executive Summary and Chapter 2

- Placed more emphasis on conversion technology and its importance as part of the overall solid waste management strategy in the Executive Summary and Chapter 2
- Further emphasized the importance of the Mesquite Regional Landfill and waste-by-rail system as part of the overall solid waste management strategy in Chapter 2
- Removed references to the proposed Eagle Mountain Landfill in Chapter 9
- Removed references to out-of-State landfills, including references to waste-by-sea in Chapter 9
- Enlarged Figures 4 and 5 in the Executive Summary to make them more legible

Ms. Betsey Landis suggested that the color used for conversion technology in the figures should be outlined with a distinct bright color to emphasize its importance to the reader. Mr. Bahman Hajjaliakbar mentioned that Public Works will be hiring a consultant to do graphic design work and review the use of color and aesthetics in order to best present the information.

Mr. Mohajer suggested that staff change the name of conversion technology throughout the document to conversion/recovery technology to emphasize the recovery aspect of conversion technology. Mr. Pat Proano stated that such a change would be a great opportunity for the Task Force and the County to take a more proactive approach in communicating the need for conversion technology as the County pursues State legislation to address Statewide conversion technology issues.

Ms. Landis stated that she does not consider composting as recycling, therefore she suggested removing the word composting from the term “recycle and compost” in the New Waste Management Paradigm on page 2 of the Executive Summary and include it as conversion/recovery/composting. This makes a statement that the County and the Task Force consider conversion, recovery, and composting processes to have the same priority. Ms. Landis further suggested that the word compost also be removed the term “recycle and compost” on the old paradigm since this term was not originally included in the paradigm.

Mr. Christopher Salomon recommended reinstating references to the proposed Eagle Mountain Landfill, given that the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County still considers the site for a potential landfill, and that they have not given up the right to move the project forward. Ms. Landis agreed to leave this reference in.

The Subcommittee additionally instructed staff to revise the CSE as follows:

- Revise the first paragraph on page 1 of the Executive Summary to include the phrase “approved by the majority of cities containing the majority of the cities’ population” where appropriate.
- Revise the description (overview) of Chapter 6 in Table 1 of the Executive Summary to include the term conversion/recovery after the term transformation facilities in the last sentence of the paragraph.
- Revise the third bullet on page 3 of the Executive Summary to read: “Update the goals and policies to be consistent with the new solid waste management paradigm to enhance the comprehensiveness of Los Angeles County’s solid...”
- Revise the fifth bullet on page 3 of the Executive Summary to read: “Promotes the development and use of infrastructure to transport solid waste to out-of-County landfills, such as Mesquite Regional Landfill to complement the County’s waste management system.”
- Revise Goal 1 on page 5 of the Executive Summary to read: “To continue to promote extended producer responsibility, development of adequate markets, and increase the use of recycled materials and compost products in an environmentally responsible manner.”
- Revise Goal 7 on page 5 of the Executive Summary to read: “To provide siting criteria that..., including conversion/recovery, transformation facilities, and landfills.”
- Reduce the Schedule column from 5-year increments to the full 15-year implementation period of 2010-25 in Table ES-3 of the Executive Summary and Table 2-1 of Chapter 2.
- Revise Policy No. 2.2 on page 5 of Chapter 2 to read: “The County will continue..., and expand countywide solid waste management programs, and promote the development of alternative technologies which complement recycling efforts.”
- Revise the definition of residual solid waste on page 4 of Chapter 9 to read: “Refers to the materials remaining after source reduction, recycling, and processing for beneficial products (reusing).”
- Remove Figure 9-5 (The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Rail Lines in the United States) and Figure 9-6 (Union Pacific Railroad Rail Lines in the United States).

After the discussion concluded, motions were made to approve the Executive Summary, Chapter 2, and Chapter 9. The motions were unanimously approved. The Subcommittee also made a motion which was unanimously approved for staff to submit the entire CSE for approval at the July 2012 meetings of the Subcommittee and Task Force.

Ms. Thompson also informed the Subcommittee that Public Works will be requesting proposals from qualified firms to do graphic design, editing, environmental document preparation, public outreach, printing and duplication, mailing, and distribution of the CSE in four to six weeks.

V. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Ms. Miller informed the Subcommittee that in May of this year, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) received 97 complaints from the community, of which 40 percent were confirmed. Half of these complaints originated from trash. The other half originated from landfill gas.

For the first half of June, AQMD received 18 complaints, which is a significant decrease compared to the number of complaints received in the previous months.

Mr. Proano mentioned that the Department of Public Works Building and Safety Division recently approved the permit for the construction of Flare 9. The expectation is that once Flare 9 is operational, methane issues will be reduced significantly.

Mr. Anthony Bertrand, the Area Environmental Manager for Republic Services, the operator of Sunshine Canyon Landfill, stated that the temporary flare installed in February is operational, and Flare 9 is expected to be installed at the end of July or early August. Republic is working with AQMD to amend the Landfill's abatement order to extend the installation deadline from June 2012 to July/August 2012. The Landfill has already seen a 50 percent increase in the volume of landfill gas destroyed.

He further stated that the number of complaints received in February to May of this year has been reduced by 33 percent compared to the same period last year. The change is a result of the installation of the temporary flare. Once Flare 9 is operational, Republic expects to see an even greater decrease in complaints.

Republic will be replacing the current blowers of the three older flares with larger units. They should be permitted and installed by October. Republic has also started the permitting process for Flare 10 which should be operational in 2013.

Mr. Bertrand notified the Subcommittee that DTE Energy has received permits from AQMD and can now proceed with the gas-to-energy project. They are in the process of submitting their building plans to the County in August or September of this year, with the hope of starting construction by the end of 2012 or early 2013. By the end of 2013, the gas-to-energy plant is expected to be online and fully operational.

Mr. Wayde Hunter inquired about Republic's contingency plans when power surges shut down landfill flares. Mr. Bertrand mentioned there will be backup generators in place once the gas-to-energy plant is in operation. Upon request by the Subcommittee, Mr. Bertrand agreed to keep the Subcommittee informed of Republic's plans to keep the flares online after power surges.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no discussion/public comment.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

July 19, 2012.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.