

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

Minutes of May 19, 2005

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Thomas Garthwaite, rep. by Ken Murray, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
Rita Robinson, rep. by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Jim Stahl, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Don Wolfe, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Ben Wong, rep. by John McTaggart, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
George De La O, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Adriana Figueroa, City of Norwalk
Travis Lange, City of Santa Clarita
Mary Ann Lutz, Task Force Alternate
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Richard Stewart, Golden Age Conversions
Cynthia Vant Hul, Waste Management, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2005

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 21, 2005. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote of those members present.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Alva reported on the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee. He stated the Subcommittee was currently discussing the draft final report which would be completed for the Task Force's review by the end of June 2005, when the contract with URS Corporation expires. Mr. Alva stated the Subcommittee would schedule teleconferences throughout the end of May and June in order to keep the discussion on the draft final report ongoing. He added that the Subcommittee would ultimately select and recommend one MRF and one conversion technology proponent with whom the Task Force could partner to develop a demonstration conversion technology facility.

IV. CALIFORNIA BIOMASS COLLABORATIVE DRAFT REPORT

Postponed to the June 16, 2005, meeting.

V. PRESENTATION ON GREASECAR CONVERSION SYSTEM

Mr. Richard Stewart of Golden Age Conversions conducted a PowerPoint presentation on his company's greasecar conversion system, which is used to convert diesel engines to operate on vegetable oil (attached). Mr. Stewart stated this technology was developed as an alternative fuel source and in response to the growing problem of global warming and increased levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

He explained that diesel engines were originally designed to run on vegetable oil, and thereby support local agriculture. Mr. Stewart explained the environmental and economic benefits of converting diesel-engine vehicles and described how this technology is easy to use and maintain on various vehicles. Mr. Stewart stated that diesel-powered vehicles running on straight or waste vegetable oil are better for the environment because they emit less greenhouse gases than gasoline engines and are 30 percent more fuel efficient, while using a renewable source of fuel.

VI. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Steve Uselton reported that the Waste Board was currently reviewing the 2003 Annual Reports and would provide jurisdictions with responses by mid-June. Mr. Uselton stated the Waste Board had added several new features to its website, among them being a site which provides information on electronic waste recycling and a database of community resources. He encouraged jurisdictions to visit the site as it provided information on some of the multi-family, commercial, and residential programs being implemented by other jurisdictions.

Mr. Uselton stated the Waste Board has developed new guidelines and a certification sheet with the intent of simplifying the process of developing a new base year and improving coordination between the Waste Board and the jurisdictions. He added that because there were now a limited number of Waste Board members, committees had been reorganized (attached), and the unanimous approval from Waste Board members was now necessary for any item being considered.

VII. UPDATE ON WASTE BOARD DISPOSAL REPORTING SYSTEM REGULATIONS

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa provided an update on the Disposal Reporting System (DRS), for which revisions to the regulations have been proposed and discussed through the course of several stakeholder workshops since 2002. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that among the items discussed at an April 12, 2005 Waste Board workshop was a waste industry request that local governments not adopt ordinances impacting the waste industry that are more stringent than the State regulations.

Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that several local agencies, including the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, had opposed any proposed limitations on a jurisdiction's ability to adopt ordinances. Upon further deliberation, the Waste Board indicated that it had no jurisdiction over the matter and, ultimately, supported local government's authority to require additional information related to the DRS. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated the Waste Board would conduct a 15-day public comment period, beginning May 16, 2005, to allow stakeholders the opportunity to provide comments on any of the proposed revisions.

VIII. UPDATE ON WASTE BOARD CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

Mr. Coby Skye provided an update on the Waste Board's Conversion Technology Report to the Legislature, which the Waste Board had revised to remove information not specifically requested by Assembly Bill 2770. This included comparative data to recycling and composting and recommendations for diversion credit. Mr. Skye stated that although the Waste Board had adopted this "stripped down" Report, thanks to pressure from the Task Force and numerous other stakeholders the Waste Board also approved a second supplementary document. This supplementary document includes the information that had been removed from the Conversion Technology Report along with additional data provided by the University of California, Riverside, which had not been included previously. This data further promotes the positive aspects of conversion technologies.

A motion was made to obtain a copy of this supplementary document as it becomes available and send copies to State Legislators, city mayors, and recycling coordinators. The motion passed. All members approved with the exception of the South Coast Air Quality Management District representative, who abstained.

IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye provided a status on the following Legislative Bills (attached).

- AB 399—Introduced by Montanez

This Bill would require owners of multi-family dwellings constructed after May 1, 2007, to provide on-site recycling services for their tenants.

- AB 574—Introduced by Wolk

This Bill would authorize the use of recycled concrete by CalTrans but forbid its use unless specifically requested by CalTrans.

A motion was made to send a letter which references the structural issues of recycled concrete and the lack of a "level playing field" for all State and local agencies to consider the use of recycled concrete, and urge revision of the Bill to do more to promote the use of recycled concrete. The motion passed. All members approved with the exception of the South Coast Air Quality Management District representative, who abstained.

- AB 1001—Introduced by Nava

This Bill would require CalTrans to increase the amount of recycled aggregate base used unless it was not cost-effective.

A motion was made to send a letter supporting this Bill. The motion passed. All members approved with the exception of the South Coast Air Quality Management District representative, who abstained.

- AB 1049—Introduced by Koretz

This Bill would encourage the placement of a label on specified packages/items informing the consumer that the package/item is recyclable.

- AB 1125—Introduced by Pavley

This Bill would require retailers of household batteries to establish a collection program.

- AB 1193—Introduced by Hancock

This Bill would prohibit the mass mailing of CDs and DVDs for commercial purposes unless a postage paid return mailing envelope is provided.

- AB 1333—Introduced by Frommer

This Bill would require businesses to arrange for grease collection by a certified collector.

- AB 1389—Introduced by Oropeza

This Bill would increase the established fines for littering.

- AB 1668—Introduced by Niello

This Bill would authorize illegal dumping officers to arrest illegal dumpers.

- SB 411—Introduced by Alarcon

This Bill would eliminate the diversion credit for greenwaste used as alternative daily cover.

A motion was made to send a letter opposing this Bill. The motion passed. All members approved with the exception of the South Coast Air Quality Management District representative, who abstained.

- SB 1106 – Introduced by The Senate Environmental Quality Committee

This cleanup Bill would require local governments and State agencies to purchase recycled products if they cost the same or less than non-recycled products and are equal in both fitness and quality.

A motion was made to send a letter supporting this Bill. The motion passed. All members approved with the exception of the South Coast Air Quality Management District representative, who abstained.

X. COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT CHAPTER 6 REVISIONS

Mr. Chuk Agu provided the Task Force with draft revisions to Chapter 6 (Facility Siting Criteria) of the Siting Element (attached), which provides guidelines for siting of solid waste land disposal and transformation facilities. Task Force members discussed the revisions to Chapter 6 and provided staff with feedback and comments.

Staff indicated that there are a number of issues that are under consideration/unresolved and which may impact the discussion on the siting criteria, such as the proposed diversion credit for conversion technologies, the permitting of inert waste landfills and the finding of conformance process. Staff most likely will be bringing back this chapter for further Task Force input prior to circulation of the document.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2005, at 1 p.m.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION / PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Miller announced that the California Resource Recovery Association would hold its annual conference July 10 through 13, 2005, at the Biltmore Hotel in Downtown Los Angeles.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.