

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

Minutes of July 21, 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
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Michael Miller, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
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 John Kilgore, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Don Wolfe, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Ben Wong, rep. by Mary Ann Lutz, 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
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

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
Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Toyasha Black, City of Arcadia
Grace Chan, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Janet Coke, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
George De La O, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nardy Drew, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Neil M. Gulielmo, City of Los Angeles
Travis Lang, City of Santa Clarita
Vivian Márquez, City of Los Angeles
Phil Morales, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Primitivo Nuñez, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Ronald Roque, City of Los Angeles
Fred Rubin, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Councilman Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 16, 2005

A motion was made to change the last sentence of Item V of the June 16, 2005, minutes, from "approve the amendment," to, "approve the staff recommendation". The motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESENTATION ON RENEW LA REPORT

City of Los Angeles Councilman Greig Smith presented RENEW LA, a twenty-year plan for the City of Los Angeles designed to reduce or eliminate the City's use of landfills. The plan calls for the construction of conversion technology facilities throughout the City, which would decrease the need for landfill space. The plan includes an oversight committee, business, and multi-family residential complex education programs, tax incentives, City staff training, and assistance from policy makers to make changes in the City's waste policy. The plan also calls for changes in how the City does business, such as the procurement policy, which will include preferential treatment for recycled content products.

Councilman Smith expects to see 6 to 7 plants sited within the City of Los Angeles, and stated that the system, once implemented, might generate up to 340 Megawatts of energy which may be used to offset the City's energy needs. Councilman Smith estimates the cost for implementation to be anywhere from \$60 to \$80 million. Funding may come from bonds, nickel funds, and may even be initially subsidized by the equipment manufacturer itself.

Further discussion ensued on the plan following the presentation, and the Task Force members commended Councilman Smith.

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Alva stated that on Tuesday, July 19, 2005, the Subcommittee completed the Conversion Technology Report, and a copy would be forwarded to the Task Force for consideration at the August 2005 Task Force meeting.

The Report states there are six promising conversion technology facilities that should be explored further. Four are gasification type and two are emerging

type facilities. One is Changing World Technologies, which made a presentation to the Task Force a few months ago. The Report also identified six materials recovery facilities (MRF's), of which the Subcommittee recommended three willing to host a conversion technology facility.

If adopted by this Task Force, the Subcommittee will begin implementation of phase two to ultimately identify one conversion technology and one Materials Recovery Facility for development. The Report will also include a strategic plan to implement the Reports' recommendations, a public education outreach plan, a market analysis, and a siting analysis section.

V. UPDATE ON THE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS' WASTE-BY-RAIL FACILITIES

Ms. Janet Coke provided a Power Point presentation on the County Sanitation Districts' waste-by-rail project, slated to be operational in the year 2009.

Ms. Coke stated there would be a significant shortfall in landfill capacity by the year 2014 when Puente Hills Landfill closes. In order to compensate for this projected shortfall, a waste-by-rail program is in development which may accommodate the additional waste.

The new Puente Hills MRF opened on July 11, 2005. It is a 215,000 square-foot facility that has a 4,000 ton per day capacity. The facility operates on a system of screens and conveyor belts that separate the waste. There is an initial hand sorting process. Larger pieces are removed and waste is screened into progressively smaller pieces. Residual waste gets pushed out into transfer trucks. With the waste-by-rail facility, rail containers would replace transfer truck containers.

The CSD is considering a neighboring 17-acre parcel just west of the 605 freeway for its intermodal facility. The existing parcel has a 350,000 square-foot building that would need to be demolished and converted to allow for transfer waste onto rail containers. CSD has an option to buy this property for \$23 million which it intends to do once the California Environment Quality Act process is complete.

Ms. Coke also gave an update of CSD's two remote landfills. Eagle Mountain is in escrow until pending Federal litigation over the land exchange that Kaiser Steel undertook to get the site permitted is resolved. Mesquite Regional Landfill is located in Imperial County, and is owned outright by the CSD. Each facility is permitted to accept 20,000 tons per day, and at that rate, each facility is expected to be operational for 100 years.

Ms. Coke stated that the Cost Transition Program was voted on and approved by the CSD Board of Directors in January 2005 and would set aside \$150 million dollars for the funding of the waste-by-rail system. These funds would come from the waste-to-energy program and from graduated tipping fees at Puente Hills Landfill.

VI. CIWMB's ALTERNATIVE AB 939 DIVERSION COMPLIANCE SYSTEM

Mr. Paul Alva stated that the Waste Board has been conducting stakeholder workshops throughout the State to determine if we can move away from a numerical compliance-based system to a program-based system. On July 19, 2005, Waste Board staff provided input to the Waste Board regarding this undertaking. Waste Board staff recommended two additional stakeholder meetings, one in Northern California and one in Southern California to gather additional input. These workshops will present four options to stakeholders for discussion:

1. Programmatic Approach where compliance would be measured on a countywide basis.
2. Same as option one, however, growth would be accounted for.
3. Option 3 is still unclear, but would require a one-time waste generation study.
4. Maintain the status quo and conduct periodic generation studies.

Mr. Alva stated that option two would be good for Los Angeles County as there is much growth in the northern part of the County.

Stakeholder meetings are scheduled to take place in August 2005 and the Waste Board would ultimately select one option after considering the input from stakeholders. Following adoption of the preferred option, the Waste Board would introduce legislation, if necessary.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Coby Skye provided a status on the following Legislative items and updates (attached).

Mr. Skye responded to an earlier comment regarding Task Force Letters. Mr. Skye noted that the draft letter to legislators Senator Sheila Kuehl, Senator Allan Lowenthal, and Assemblyman Loni Hancock has been prepared and will be emailed to the Task Force. In addition, as requested by

the Task Force, the letter to the CIWMB was placed on hold until Mr. Steve Uselton had a chance to look into the status of the previously sent Task Force letter.

- AB 259—Introduced by Hancock

This Bill was introduced to allow Contra Costa County to place a lien on a property on behalf of their private franchise hauler for any unpaid fees. The Bill is now applicable statewide.

- AB 399—Introduced by Montañez

The Task Force had sent a letter of opposition because it required owners of multi-family dwellings constructed after May 1, 2007, to arrange for onsite recycling services for residents. That requirement has been stricken.

A discussion ensued and the Task Force voted to have staff send a letter clarifying its opposition to the Bill as amended.

- AB 1001—Introduced by Nava

The Bill would have required Cal Trans to increase its use of recycled aggregate base in proportion to the total amount of aggregate base used. The Bill was gutted and now proposes a car dealer prep-fee increase from \$45 to \$55.

The Task Force voted to have staff send an opposition letter to the Bill as amended.

- SB 928—Introduced by Perata

Requires an unspecified percentage of solid waste to be diverted on and after January 1, 2011.

Mr. Skye mentioned staff had received a copy of a letter of opposition to SB 928 from the Cities of Azusa and Diamond Bar. The City of Diamond Bar also sent a second letter of opposition with regards to SB 420.

VIII. UPDATE ON AB 259 AND AB399

Mr. Mike Mohajer provided an update on AB 259 and AB 399. Mr. Mohajer stated that AB 259 brings the Public Resources Code in line with the Government code, essentially giving jurisdictions the option of placing a lien

against a property for unpaid solid waste collection fees. Language regarding solid waste disposal costs has not yet been included in the Bill.

Mr. Mohajer discussed AB 399 and stated that current language regarding recycling at new multi-family units states that it should be encouraged by jurisdictions. This may effectively become a mandated requirement for jurisdictions, at some point in the future.

IX. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

Mr. Uselton provided updates for the Task Force, and stated there would be a

Southern California workshop on August 25, 2005, at the Long Beach Energy Building regarding improvement to the AB 939 compliance system [Note: after the meeting it was determined that the Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2005, at 9:30 a.m.]. The other meeting is to be held in Northern California.

Mr. Uselton stated he was unable to get a formal response regarding the letter the Task Force had prepared for the classification of conversion technologies in the Countywide Siting Element. Mr. Uselton stated Mr. Fernando Berton is working on an Issue Paper regarding the Waste Board's Conversion Technology Report, which may provide a more formal response from the Waste Board with regard to conversion technology.

Mr. Uselton stated the review of Biannual Reports for the County has been completed, and that a preliminary review letter would be sent out to each jurisdiction.

The State has improved its diversion rate by one percent over last year to 48% while disposal increased two percent. Lastly, there was a third penalty issued on a jurisdiction, the City of Fortuna. Penalties would be waived if the City fully implements its program by October 2005.

X. TASK FORCE COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Mr. George De La O finalized changes and comments regarding Task Force communication and operating procedures for calling Special Meetings.

He described the proposed procedures for conducting special meetings as well as emergency meetings. After a brief discussion, the Task Force voted to have County Counsel approve these procedures as-to-form prior to adoption by the Task Force.

XI. NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING DATE

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2005.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mohajer indicated that on July 20, 2005, the Regional Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Permit for the expansion of Athens MRF. He indicated that to his knowledge, this Permit incorporates the most comprehensive mitigation measures of any MRF in the Nation and recommended that copies of the Permit be made available to other jurisdictions that are considering similar facilities.

Staff agreed to provide the Task Force a copy of the Athens CUP to all Task Force members as soon as it becomes available.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Attach.