

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

Minutes of September 15, 2005

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
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 Stan Uyehara, 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
Ben Wong, rep. by John McTaggart, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach
Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Don Wolfe, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
George De La O, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jon Emerson, City of Redondo Beach
Daniel Hackney, City of Los Angeles
Ben Lucha, City of Santa Clarita
Mary Ann Lutz, Task Force Alternate
Carolyn Meredith, City of Pasadena
Donna Plummer, City of Palmdale
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Sloan, Sloan Vazquez LLC
Enrique Vazquez, Sloan Vazquez LLC

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

Task Force members agreed to make changes to the agenda. This included changing the order of some items and presenters listed and canceling one item.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2005

Approval of the minutes for August 18, 2005, will be considered at the next Task Force meeting.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Alva stated the Subcommittee is continuing its efforts on the next phase of the Conversion Technology Evaluation Report. The Subcommittee will meet in October to discuss and approve the scopes of work for two contracts, one that will select and pair a technology with a materials recovery facility and another that will provide public education and outreach.

IV. PRESENTATION ON ANTELOPE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL COLLECTION CENTER

Ms. Donna Plummer of the City of Palmdale, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the opening of the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center (attached). The cities of Palmdale and Lancaster applied for and received a grant from the Waste Board, which was used to construct the Center. These cities, Waste Management, Inc., and the County of Los Angeles entered into an agreement to provide funding and support for the next three-year trial phase. At the end of the three years, the County and Waste Management, Inc., will re-evaluate the Center for cost-effectiveness. While this Center is in operation, the HHW collection events in the Antelope Valley will cease.

This 4,050 square foot facility provides an opportunity for Antelope Valley residents to bring their electronic and household hazardous waste for recycling or disposal at no cost. It is open on the first and third Saturdays of each month between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Door-to-door collection will be available to residents who are elderly or disabled.

The grand opening was held on August 19, 2005. Thus far, the center has been very successful and the residents have been appreciative.

V. PRESENTATION ON CITY OF LOS ANGELES' RENEWABLE ENERGY PLAN

Mr. Brian Koch of the City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power (DWP), conducted a presentation on DWP's Renewable Energy Plan (attached). Mr. Koch stated that as the largest municipal utility in the United States, DWP provides service to over three million residents, covering 465 square miles of territory in Los Angeles and Owens Valley through an extensive transmission and distribution network. DWP generates approximately 7,000 megawatts (MW) of energy from sources such as hydro, coal, natural gas, nuclear, and renewable resources.

Mr. Koch stated DWP, as part of its efforts to meet its 2000 Integrated Resource Plan goals has:

- installed emission control devices in several in-basin generating units
- committed more than \$1.7 billion to repowering the City's in-basin, natural gas powered generating units with combined cycle generators and state-of-the-art emissions control technologies
- committed \$200 million to the Pine Tree Wind project that will generate 120 MW of renewable power
- committed \$320 million to purchase renewable energy from a biogas power plant
- committed \$150 million toward subsidizing solar photovoltaic installation
- initiated the Alternative Maritime Power Program, enabling commercial ships to significantly reduce pollution from container vessels docked in the Los Angeles Harbor
- installed 50 micro-turbines at Lopez Canyon Landfill to convert methane gas into electricity
- invested \$70 million in reducing over 100 MW of peak load demand through conservation and energy efficiency programs since 2000

Mr. Koch described the components of DWP's Renewable Portfolio Standard policy, which was developed in response to State guidelines require that

utilities provide 20 percent of their energy from renewable resources by 2017 and approved by the DWP Board of Commissioners in June 2005. These components include DWP's goals, definitions of eligible renewable resources, a projection of the Renewables Portfolio, cost recovery and financial controls, a renewable acquisition strategy, and stakeholder participation. DWP's goals were developed to further diversify the utility's retail energy mix approximately one percent each year to meet an interim target of 13 percent renewables by 2010 and 20 percent by 2017.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated the City of Los Angeles should make a commitment for the use of conversion technologies and should make it the number one priority. Mr. Koch indicated he would take the comment back. The Task Force discussed and agreed to send a copy of the Conversion Technology Evaluation Report to the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles.

VI. PRESENTATION ON THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROPOSED FRANCHISE SYSTEM

Ms. Virginia Maloles and Mr. Alva provided an update on the County's proposed franchise system for the open-market areas within the unincorporated County areas. A community meeting was held in the County unincorporated area of South San Gabriel where comments from residents were received. A second meeting is scheduled for the same area on September 24, 2005. The County will conduct similar meetings prior the establishment of additional franchises to receive public input.

The County is considering two types of franchises (non-exclusive and exclusive) for the residential sector. With a non-exclusive franchise, waste haulers who meet the requirements set forth by the County's Request for Proposals would qualify to be placed on an approved hauler list for a specific unincorporated community. Residents of that community would then choose a hauler from that list. With an exclusive franchise system, a single waste hauler, selected as a result of the County's Request for Proposals, would be the sole waste hauler for a community. The decision to implement a non-exclusive or exclusive franchise for the residential sector in a given community would be based on input from residents, the waste hauling industry, and the Board of Supervisors.

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works proposes to establish a non-exclusive system for the commercial sector in all franchise areas.

VII. UPDATE ON AB 399

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated Mr. Michael Mendez of Assembly Member Montañez's Office requested this item. Mr. Mendez wanted to request this Task Force to continue its opposition to the Bill, however, due to an urgent matter, he was unable to attend. Mr. Mohajer provided an update on AB 399, which would have previously required that owners of multi-family dwellings arrange for on-site recycling services for their residents. Mr. Mohajer explained that this Task Force has opposed the Bill because it contains language that the purpose of the legislation is to encourage cities and counties to have such a program. However, the Task Force is concerned the Waste Board may use this and make it mandatory for those who are not yet at the 50 percent diversion rate.

Mr. Mohajer stated this language was inserted by Senator Wesley Chesbro at the request of the Northern California Refuse Removal Council, which consists of franchise haulers who have committed money for material recovery facilities.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Governor opposing AB 399. The motion passed. All members approved with the exceptions of the General Public representative and the South Coast Air Quality Management District representative, both of whom abstained.

VIII. IMPROVEMENT TO AB 939 DIVERSION COMPLIANCE SYSTEM

Mr. Mohajer stated the Waste Board had conducted a workshop on August 31, 2005, in Long Beach, to discuss changes to the diversion compliance system. These included measuring countywide disposal tonnages and program implementation. If the disposal tonnages don't meet the AB 939 requirement, then each jurisdiction would need to substantiate mathematical compliance. Another change was submitting reports on a biannual instead of an annual basis. Mr. Mohajer commented that the Waste Board's proposal would measure disposal tonnages at a countywide level rather than at a jurisdictional level. The proposal would not take into account factors such as increases in population and construction.

Mr. Mohajer stated he provided comments to the Waste Board at the August 31 workshop and included a comment for removing such words as "substantially" when referring to meeting diversion goals.

Ms. Karen Coca stated the City of Los Angeles had submitted comments to the Waste Board regarding its proposed changes, which she stated would pit cities against each other when a county failed to meet the diversion goal. Task Force members discussed the Waste Board's proposed changes, along with the implications they would have on the County of Los Angeles, which is comprised of 89 jurisdictions that operate separately and independently of each other.

IX. UPDATE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION (S. 1607 AND H.R. 3577)

Mr. Mohajer provided an update on Federal legislation, U.S. Senate Bill 1607 and its companion bill, House of Representatives Bill 3577, which would exclude solid waste disposal from the jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board (attached).

A motion was made to send a letter supporting U.S. Senate Bill 1607. The motion passed. All members approved with the exceptions of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County representative and the South Coast Air Quality Management District representative, both of whom abstained.

X. UPDATE ON AB 1090 HEARING BY THE ASSEMBLY NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Mr. Mohajer reported that he had not received any confirmation regarding AB 1090 workshop dates and locations, but had been told that the workshops may occur later this year in November. Due to the potential impact that the workshop results could have on any consideration of this Bill, Task Force members agreed to strategize its approach at the next Task Force meeting. The Task Force was also in agreement to authorize the Vice Chair to communicate with stakeholders regarding the workshop due to time constraints.

Mr. Mohajer stated that no response had been received to the Task Force's August 9, 2005, follow-up letter requesting clarification of the various statements made by Senators Alan Lowenthal and Sheila Kuehl and Assembly Member Loni Hancock regarding the Waste Board's Conversion Technology Report. He also stated that a supplemental report, which would contain information and recommendations for conversion technologies that had been removed from the Report, had not been released despite Waste Board statements that it would. Task Force members then discussed

advising other State Legislators of this Report and the still to be released addendum. Ms. Mary Ann Lutz was authorized to meet with Senator Bob Margett in regard to the Senator asking for a copy of the supplemental report.

XI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

- AB 338—Introduced by Levine

This Bill would require the usage of crumb rubber at a specified percentage per metric ton in asphalt paving materials used by the State Department of Transportation in highway construction and repair projects. It is currently enrolled to the Governor.

- AB 399—Introduced by Montanez

This Bill would require local agencies, upon issuing a building permit for new construction or substantial rehabilitation of a multi-family dwelling, to provide information on recycling programs. It is currently enrolled to the Governor.

- AB 1090—Introduced by Matthews

This two-year Bill would modify the current three-tiered solid waste management hierarchy.

- AB 1193—Introduced by Hancock

This two-year Bill would prohibit the mass mailings of CDs and DVDs for commercial purposes unless prior consent is given or a postage paid return mailing envelope is provided.

- AB 1351—Introduced by Vargas

This Bill would permit the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority to additionally issue notes, commercial paper notes, or any other type of obligation allowable by law. It is currently pending enrollment.

A motion was made to send a letter requesting that the language included in a previous version of AB 1351 to be included in a new Bill. The motion passed. All members

approved with the exception of the South Coast Air Quality Management District representative, who abstained.

- SB 926—Introduced by Florez

This two-year Bill would specify that the provisions of the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act not prohibit the Kern County Board of Supervisors from adopting an ordinance to regulate or prohibit the land application of sewage sludge in the unincorporated areas of Kern County.

- SB 1106—Introduced by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee

This Bill would consolidate, update, and clarify existing recycling laws, eliminate duplicative provisions, and establish or restate recycling goals and reporting requirements of State agencies in accordance with specified timeframes. It is currently enrolled to the Governor.

XII. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

An update from the Waste Board will be provided at next month's meeting.

Task Force members briefly discussed a letter that had been previously sent to the Waste Board regarding conversion technology and the Countywide Siting Element. No response to this letter has been received, and Task Force members requested that staff send a similar letter to the Waste Board, requesting a response.

XIII. TASK FORCE COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Postponed to next month's meeting.

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 20, 2005, at 1 p.m.

XV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Attach.