

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

Minutes of May 9, 2002

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business Commerce Representative
Clarence Gieck, Greater Los Angeles Solid Waste Management Association
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Joseph Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
John McTaggart, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Ginger Bremberg, represented by Lois Shade, General Public Representative
Fred Leaf, represented by Virginia Maloles, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
James A. Noyes, represented by Mike Mohajer, County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works
Ed Sahikada, represented by Charles Tripp, City of Long Beach
Jim Stahl, represented by Grace Chan, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Judith Wilson, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Margaret Clark, represented by Michael Miller, League of California Cities-
Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ron Deaton, City of Los Angeles Appointee
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Ben Wong, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of L.A. DPW
Vince Cartensen, City of Pomona
Chris Ludlum, City of Arcadia
Joe Meehan, City of Covina

Phil Moralez, CIWMB
Alison Sherman, City of Torrance
Philip Tamayo, City of Pico Rivera
Brian Tex, City of Torrance

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of April 18, 2002, were approved as presented.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Clarence Gieck reported that the Subcommittee and staff are still in the process of making "Inside Solid Waste" more reader friendly and they welcome comments. Mr. Gieck stated that at the meeting held earlier in the day, the Subcommittee went through articles from the Cities of Los Angeles, Diamond Bar, and Artesia. Mr. Gieck stated that the Subcommittee is enthused by the new format, and it is much easier to read than in the past. Task Force members agreed, commenting that recent issues have also been much more informative.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Paul Alva passed out a new legislative status table (see attached) to Task Force members and stated that it contains updated information about several Bills.

AB 2308-Introduced by Chavez

This Bill regarding inert waste has been a Spot Bill for several months. The Bill has been amended to take inert waste out of the waste stream and count it as diversion.

Mr. Alva stated that this is a positive Bill and staff recommends that the Task Force support AB 2308. A motion to support AB 2308 was made and passed with one member opposed.

AB 2770-Introduced by Matthews and Bogh

Mr. Alva stated that this Bill relating to conversion technologies continues to be a Spot Bill. The Bill would provide for 100 percent diversion credit for conversion technologies.

Mr. Alva stated that the Task Force has consistently supported conversion technology and staff requests that a letter be sent from the Task Force to the authors supporting the Bill as it currently reads. A motion was made to support AB 2770 and passed unanimously.

SB 1374-Introduced by Kuehl

This Bill would have required the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) to adopt a model ordinance for local jurisdictions requiring 75 percent diversion of construction and demolition waste materials from landfills and would also require local governments to adopt a similar ordinance, no later than September 1, 2005. However, the Bill has been amended to require the CIWMB, in coordination with stakeholders, to develop a model ordinance for voluntary adoption.

Mr. Alva stated that staff now recommends that the Task Force take a supportive position on SB 1374 because the authors have incorporated Task Force's comments in the amended version by making adoption of the model ordinance voluntary. Task Force members stated that although the adoption of the model ordinance would indeed be voluntary, jurisdictions would be pressured to adopt it in order to show a good faith effort in meeting the State's waste reduction requirements. And since the revised Bill requires diversion of 50 to 75 percent in the model ordinance, Task Force members expressed concerns. A motion was made to continue to oppose SB 1374 and passed unanimously.

SB 1882-Introduced by Alpert

Prior to the May 1 amendment, this Bill would require a percentage of the State's tipping fees be used to pay for programs that will divert personal care products from disposal in landfills. This amendment deleted using funds from the tipping fees to help recycle personal care products and now requires a study to be conducted and a report submitted to the Legislature by January 1, 2004.

Mr. Alva stated that staff recommends that the Task Force take a neutral position on SB 1882. A motion was made to remain neutral on SB 1882 and passed unanimously.

V. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

Mr. Phil Morales passed out a summary sheet (see attached) and stated that the CIWMB staff continues to process County of Los Angeles Biennial Reviews. Sixteen County of Los Angeles jurisdictions were approved with rates of 50 percent or more for 2000. Mr. Morales stated that Beverly Hills received a "Good Faith Effort" approval at the April meeting and four other "Good Faith Effort" jurisdictions, Calabasas, Diamond Bar, Rancho Palos Verdes and West Hollywood, are on the consent calendar for the May CIWMB meeting. The CIWMB also approved time extensions for El Monte, Bell, and Whittier at the April meeting.

Mr. Morales reported that the CIWMB has adopted a committee structure to help streamline the CIWMB's process of considering agenda items. While Task Force members questioned whether a committee structure actually helps speed up the process, Mr. Morales stated that from past experience, committees enable items to be put on consent before going before the CIWMB and therefore accelerate the process. Task Force members also commented that it is difficult for those that do not live in Sacramento to get to the CIWMB meetings and it is almost impossible to get to all of the additional committee meetings. Mr. Morales stated it is important to attend the committee meetings because that is where the discussion occurs.

Mr. Morales stated that the CIWMB broadcasts its meetings through the Internet. Those interested should visit the CIWMB's website to listen to the meetings. Also, some items are time certain and will be heard by the CIWMB at a specific time noted in the agenda. Task Force members also suggested that the CIWMB use satellite capability to create a local location for participating in the CIWMB committee and Board meetings. Mr. Morales stated that they are looking into this option but do not currently have the capability.

Mr. Morales reported that a Federal EPA satellite conference entitled, "Communities Setting Trends in Recycling" was shown on May 1 via satellite at the California State University, Long Beach. Fifteen local jurisdictions attended the forum to hear community recycling professionals discuss topics concerning electronic waste, program funding, construction and demolition debris management, and food waste. The conference, in which both Mike Mohajer and James Kuhl were panel participants, enabled audiences across the nation to ask questions.

Mr. Morales stated that the next CIWMB meeting will be held on May 14-15, 2002, in Sacramento, and a CIWMB meeting is also scheduled for June 18-19 in Oxnard at the Del Norte Recycling and Transfer Station.

VI. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON AB 939 REGIONAL AGENCY FORMATION

Ms. Karen Coca stated that the draft Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to establish the Los Angeles Area Regional Agency (Agency) has been mailed to all of the jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles for review (see attached letter). At the end of the review period which closes on June 10, 2002, there will be a meeting to review comments, make the final decision as to what services the cities want the Agency to provide, and set the fee to join the Agency. Ms. Coca stated that the JPA will then be ready for adoption by jurisdictions.

Ms. Coca stated that as a conservative estimate, there are approximately 25-30 jurisdictions that are interested in joining the Agency. Ms. Coca stated that the estimate does not include the six largest cities after Los Angeles, although two of them are moving through the process. Additionally, the estimate only includes two cities that are over 50 percent even though there are many cities at or over 50 percent that still see the benefit of joining the Agency.

Task Force members asked if the Agency will have the authority to dictate to a jurisdiction the types of programs that it should implement in order to achieve a higher diversion rate. Ms. Coca responded that several prospective members want the Agency to have a standard for programs, but currently, the JPA states that a jurisdiction must implement the programs in its SRRE. However, if a jurisdiction is not implementing its programs, the Agency will have the power to remove that jurisdiction from the Agency.

VII. REPORT ON THE ROSE INSTITUTE'S SOLID POLICY ON SOLID WASTE CONFERENCE

Mr. Mike Mohajer gave a presentation at the Rose Institute's Solid Policy (see attached) on Solid Waste Conference. Mr. Mohajer stated that in the 1980s, the County of Los Angeles planned to have 40 percent of all waste taken to waste-to-energy facilities. However, due to political constraints and public pressure only two facilities of the 11 planned were actually built. Because planning had been based on that 40 percent, the County began to experience a disposal capacity crisis. In 1987, the Mobro Barge incident brought the landfill crisis to the public's attention and caused many politicians to get involved with solid waste issues. The State of California responded with AB 939 which established a solid waste hierarchy in the State and placed the burden of waste management on local governments, creating a deadline for jurisdictions to meet the 50 percent diversion mandate by the year 2000.

In response to AB 939, jurisdictions began to implement programs such as curbside

recycling, composting, education, and procurement policies. The unincorporated area of the County of Los Angeles has implemented 80 programs, tasks, and activities to meet the requirements of AB 939. Currently, more than 50 million tons have been diverted in the County of Los Angeles and Los Angeles jurisdictions spend more than \$100 million per year to comply with AB 939. A survey by the Department of Public Works found a 40 percent diversion rate countywide with nearly half of all jurisdictions in the County achieving 50 percent.

Mr. Mohajer stated that the in-County disposal capacity is projected to experience a shortfall of 20,000 tons per day by November 2003. To help manage this shortfall, the County proposes that the system should be changed to consider conversion technology as diversion and separate conversion from incineration in the definition of transformation. Mr. Mohajer stated that the view of diversion must change to encourage conversion technology because the process converts residual solid waste into beneficial products, conserves valuable landfill space, is environmentally friendly, and modernizes the current waste management hierarchy.

Mr. Mohajer further noted that the current view of diversion must recognize the lack of processing capacity, and the lack of markets, the deficiencies in the disposal reporting system, and the unnecessary and burdensome regulations. Mr. Mohajer also stated that the CIWMB must continue to emphasize diversion program implementation and manufacturers must take responsibility for products they produce. Furthermore, Mr. Mohajer explained that there have been several unintended consequences of the current system such as monopoly by waste management companies, local governments being forced to take over collection, and obstruction of the development of alternatives to landfilling. Mr. Mohajer stated that if the deficiencies are not addressed, it will be increasingly costly and difficult to sustain the 50 percent diversion rate.

Mr. Mohajer also discussed the need to change the perception of disposal because there are currently no suitable in-County landfill sites, and there is an expected in-County landfill capacity shortfall by the end of next year. Additionally, many studies conclude that there is no more space for new landfills. Therefore, out-of-County capacity is necessary in the foreseeable future. Mr. Mohajer stated that this policy shift will entail the need for remote landfills, the need for solid waste loading infrastructure, and public-private ownership of the system which will ultimately result in the need to pay higher fees.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Al Avoian commented that a plastics plant recently burned down in South Gate.

Mr. Avoian expressed his concern that this will put a glut of recyclables and plastics on the market and therefore drive down the market. He also noted that when newspapers get wet they cannot be recycled and are disposed in the landfill even though they were intended as recyclables.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively set for June 20, 2002, at 1:00 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

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June 10, 2002 (4:36PM)

Attach.