

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

Minutes of June 21, 2004

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
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Ben Wong, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Thomas L. Garthwaite, rep. by Virginia Maloles, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
James A. Noyes, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
David Roberti, represented by Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rita Robinson, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Jim Stahl, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ron Deaton, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Christopher J. Garner, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Eric Casper, CWS
Robert T. Dickey, City of South Gate
David Ellis, City of El Monte
Jon Emerson, City of Redondo Beach
Leonard Grossberg, City of Vernon
Richard Ledesma, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mary Ann Lutz, Task Force Alternate
Benjamin Lucha, City of Santa Clarita
Marsha McLean, Task Force Alternate
John McTaggart, Task Force Alternate
Carolyn Meredith, City of Pasadena
Howard Morris, City of Pomona
Angela Williams, City of Inglewood

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2004

A motion was made to approve the minutes of May 20, 2004. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Alva stated the Request for Proposals (RFP) was released by the County in early May for a comprehensive evaluation of conversion technologies in Southern California. The Subcommittee and County staff have concluded the evaluation process for the proposals and are now into the contract award phase. Mr. Alva stated the project is on target for awarding the contract in July 2004.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Albert Avoian stated the Subcommittee met this morning to consider two amendments to city Nondisposal Facility Elements (NDFE). These are for the City of Pomona and the City of Los Angeles. The Subcommittee voted to recommend the Task Force approve the amendments to the NDFEs for the cities.

V. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF POMONA'S NONDISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT

Mr. Avoian stated the Subcommittee recommends the Task Force approve the Amendment to the City of Pomona's NDFE. A motion was made to approve the Amendment to the NDFE. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES' NONDISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT

Mr. Avoian stated the Subcommittee recommends the Task Force approve the Amendment to the City of Los Angeles' NDFE. A motion was made to approve the Amendment to the NDFE. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CoIWMP) FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

Mr. Coby Skye provided an update on the CoIWMP Five-Year Review Report. Mr. Skye stated comments submitted by the Task Force were addressed within the Report and a table of all the comments was included in Appendix E. The County intends to forward the Report on June 23, 2004. Mr. Skye conducted a PowerPoint presentation outlining the final revisions based on Task Force's comments on the draft Report. County staff also requested a letter of concurrence from the Task Force, pending the approval of the Report.

After some discussion, it was recommended adding a summary of the County's achievements in waste diversion and to include a table showing the stability in waste disposal rates despite the increase in population. A motion was made to adopt the Report with the inclusion of the summary and table. The motion was passed unanimously.

VIII. STATUS OF TASK FORCE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON BRADLEY LANDFILL

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa discussed the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning letter dated June 2, 2004. The letter is in regards to the City's approval of Bradley Landfills' elevation of 1,010 feet instead of 1,000 feet. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that staff has reviewed the information regarding this matter, but further analysis is needed before the Finding of Conformance (FOC) can be brought before the Task Force for consideration.

Ms. Betsey Landis provided a brief history on the FOC for Bradley Landfill. She also expressed her concerns with the delays in the process and the City of Los Angeles.

After discussion, a motion was made to:

- invite Doug Cocoran, of Waste Management, Inc., and Robert Janovici and Daniel Green of the Department of City Planning to the next Task Force meeting to address the Task Force questions
- have County Counsel review City of Los Angeles letters to determine if the Task Force can make a determination on the FOC for Bradley Landfill
- obtain County Counsel's opinion regarding the methane gas migration beyond the boundary of Bradley Land fill

A copy of the invitation letters to Waste Management, Inc., and the City of Los Angeles is to be sent to the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles and Councilmember. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

A representative of the Waste Board was unable to attend.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated he would like to comment on the response letter from Mr. Patrick Schiavo of the Waste Board dated May 26, 2004, since its content is relative to this agenda item. Mr. Mohajer stated the letter failed to address the Task Force's concerns regarding the Board's Diversion Study Guide and its Enforcement Policy Part II namely, "underground regulations."

Mr. Mohajer stated the response letter pointed out the Waste Boards' inclusion of additional language in SB 2202 which indicated they were enforcing an agency-adopted policy as "underground regulation" and is clearly in violation of State law.

A motion was made to forward this letter to County Counsel to determine whether the Waste Board's interpretation has legal ground. After some discussion, the motion was amended to include the constant changing of the Waste Board's reasoning regarding this issue. The motion was passed unanimously.

X. STATUS REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S PROPOSED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLE RULE

Mr. Mohajer stated the California Air Resources Board's regulation has been sent to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). The OAL has until July 16, 2004, to make a determination on whether or not to approve the regulation.

XI. STATUS ON SB 20 IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Mohajer provided an update on AB 901. This Bill would delay the implementation of the collection of fees by retailers from July 1, 2004 to November 1, 2004. This Bill is up for consideration and has to be enacted by the State by July 1, 2004.

Mr. Mohajer stated SB 50 has been significantly amended, and would also delay the fee-collecting component from July 1, 2004, until November 1, 2004. A further revision to the Bill requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control to adopt regulations to determine under what conditions can discarded electronic devices be considered as hazardous waste.

XII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Paul Alva stated there are six Bills that are of interest to the Task Force (attached).

- SB 537 – Introduced by Romero

Mr. Alva commented on the recent revisions to SB 537 which would prohibit the siting of any new materials recovery facilities within the County of Los Angeles which are designed to receive more than 4,000 tons per day of solid waste. It would also require each Sanitation District in the County of Los Angeles to contribute a minimum of \$15 million annually into a proposed "Air Pollution Mitigation Fund" which is subject to expenditure restrictions imposed by the State Air Resource Board and South Coast Air Quality Management District. This provision would have a significant impact on the 25 Sanitation Districts operating in the County of Los Angeles since the proposed changes would result in an estimated cost of \$375 million annually.

On June 11, 2004, the Task Force sent a letter opposing the Bill due to the inclusion of provisions that would impair local governments' ability to manage the solid waste needs of their communities, create dramatic rate increases, encroach on local governments' land use authority, and by design would confiscate funds needed to manage waste reduction programs.

- AB 1808 – Introduced by Yee

Mr. Alva stated that in April the Task Force sent a letter in support of this Bill since it would impose a fine for anyone caught littering cigarette butts on State beaches. However, Mr. Alva stated the Bill has been gutted altering the Bill's original intent and is now connected to the States' tobacco information campaign. A question was raised regarding whether the previous stance to support would automatically accompany the Bill in its current state. Mr. Alva stated that if a Bill was significantly altered all letters of support or opposition would have to be resubmitted. The Task Force will not send a comment on this issue but will continue to monitor.

- AB 901 – Introduced by Jackson

Mr. Alva stated he would like to expand on the information provided earlier by Mr. Mohajer. SB 20 requires retailers selling any cathode ray tubes to collect recycling fees, between \$6 and \$10 depending on screen size, from the consumer at the point of sale beginning July 4, 2004. AB 901 postpones the implementation date to November 1, 2004.

- SB 50 – Introduced by Sher

Mr. Alva stated SB 50 is a clean-up Bill to SB 20 regarding the e-waste recycling issue. Due to its length, staff is still reviewing the Bill's content and will provide the Task Force with an analysis at the next meeting.

- SB 1078 – Introduced by Chesbro

Mr. Alva stated SB 1078 would increase the Statewide landfill fee by 50 cents. The monies collected would be used to retrofit solid waste collection vehicles. This increase is projected to impact the County of Los Angeles by \$6 million annually. This Bill was initially amended in early September 2003, two days before the end of the 2003 Legislative session. This amendment was discussed at the September 2003 Task Force meeting and the Task Force reached a consensus to oppose the Bill. However, because the session was over and the Bill died on the floor, a motion was not made. This Bill was revived ten days ago and based on the reasoning of the previous discussion staff recommended that it should be opposed.

A motion was made to send a letter of opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 15, 2004, at 1 p.m.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.