

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

Minutes of April 20, 2006

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
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Dr. Bruce Chernof, represented by Ken Murray, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
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
Don Wolfe, represented by Carlos Ruiz, County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. By Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Waronek, rep. by Michael Miller, League of CA 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, Inc.
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles Appointee

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Hossam Banna, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Diego Cadena, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mel Finstein, ArrowBio
Terri Grant, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Virginia Jauregui, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Michelle Leonard, SCS Engineers
Teri Cohan Link, ArrowBio
John McTaggart, General Public Representative Alternate
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Cynthia Vant Hul, Waste Management, Inc.
Yair Zadik, ArrowBio

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 16, 2006

A motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2006, was made with the following change: reword the last sentence on second paragraph of page 6. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. PRESENTATION ON EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

Mr. Hossam Banna conducted a presentation on Public Works' Earth Day activities ([see attachment](#)). Mr. Banna provided a brief history of Earth Day and stated that its efforts emphasize the importance of environmental awareness. Mr. Banna stated Public Works is conducting an Earth Day event for its employees and visitors on April 20, 2006. The event includes an informational booth and two Smart Gardening workshops. The booth and workshops provide information on how the attendees can help the environment.

Mr. Banna discussed County sponsored Earth Day events which include the opening of the Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center an additional Saturday on April 29, 2006, two Household Hazardous Waste Collection events, Smart Gardening workshops, Waste Tire Amnesty Day Collection events, and Antelope Valley Pride Week activities.

As part of their outreach, Mr. Banna informed the Task Force that Public Works designed an Earth Day web page that included the history of Earth Day, a listing of County sponsored events, and a link to Earth Day activities by local agencies. In addition to the website, Public Works placed a two-page advertisement insert featuring Public Works' programs in the San Gabriel Valley Tribune, the Pasadena Star News, and the Whittier Daily News.

Ms. Terri Grant described additional Earth Day activities conducted by Watershed Management Division (WMD). WMD's responsibilities include flood protection, water conservation, and stormwater quality. WMD has taken Earth Day as an educational opportunity to foster community involvement, inspire the public, beautify the communities, and enhance the natural habitat. They identified sites throughout the County and invited residents and nearby schools to participate in planting native vegetation at the County right-of-ways.

This year, WMD is conducting five Earth Day events at the Ballona Creek in Playa del Rey, Dominguez Watershed in Gardena, North Santa Monica Bay in Malibu, Santa Clara River in Castaic Lake, and Los Angeles River in the Cities of Bell and Cudahy.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Virginia Jauregui provided status on the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

- AB 2296—Introduced by Montanez

This Bill would require a person owning or operating a solid waste landfill to submit to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board), California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the local enforcement agency, evidence of financial ability to provide for closure, post closure maintenance, and corrective action. Corrective action means the required response to all known or reasonably foreseeable releases of pollution to the environment.

Discussion ensued with concerns of financial assurance, perpetual maintenance, and setting up a fund. A motion to send a letter of support for AB 2296 was made. The motion was passed with Mr. Charles Boehmke opposing, and Mr. Jay Chen and Mr. Albert Avoian abstaining.

- AB 2118—Introduced by Matthews

This Bill, among other things, would have classified conversion technology facilities as solid waste disposal facilities and place conversion technology facilities on par with incineration. The Assembly Natural Resources Committee heard the Bill on April 17, 2006, and decided the Bill will be gutted. The Bill will move out of Committee and new amendments will be released shortly.

- SB 757—Introduced by Kehoe

This Bill would enact the Oil Conservation, Efficiency, and Alternative Fuels Act, which would declare that it is State policy for State agencies to take all cost-effective and technologically feasible actions needed to reduce the growth of petroleum consumption and increase transportation energy conservation, efficiency, and the use of alternative fuels.

Mr. Mike Mohajer commented that the Bill uses a lot of verbiage and does not have a clear intention of the use of alternative technology. A motion to watch SB 757 was made. The motion was passed unanimously.

- AB 2845—Introduced by Bogh

This Bill would increase from \$10,500,000 to \$15,000,000, the amount the Department of Conservation is authorized to expend annually for payments to cities and counties for beverage container recycling and litter cleanup activities. It would also increase the per capita payments to cities and counties for beverage container recycling and litter reduction activities.

A motion to send a letter of support for AB 2845, including the comment to amend the Bill by clarifying “supermarket site” to read “supermarket redemption site” was made. The motion was passed with Mr. Chen abstaining.

- SB 1573—Introduced by Alarcon

This Bill would require the Waste Board to establish guidelines for the manufacture, purchase, and disposal of packaging in order to reduce excess packaging. It also requires a “manufacturer take-back” program and establishes specific percentages of recycled content material in packaging. The Bill also requires the Waste Board to develop educational programs on packaging alternatives and packaging information.

A motion to watch SB 1573 was made and the motion was passed unanimously.

V. UPDATE ON SB 926, SB 1778, AND SB 1835

Mr. Mohajer provided information regarding the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

- SB 926—Introduced by Florez

Mr. Mohajer stated this Bill addresses the development and siting of a solid waste facility by the ballot initiative process. The development of a landfill by the ballot initiative process occurred in San Diego County several years ago. Development of another landfill was attempted through this process in Ventura County, but failed. Now, there is talk of developing a landfill in Kern County through a ballot initiative

process and, therefore, bypass the local land use permit and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.

This Bill would prohibit the Waste Board from issuing a solid waste facility permit if an environmental impact report for the project has not been prepared and certified, even if the project was approved by a local ballot initiative.

A concern was raised that these requirements would effectively kill a project. A motion was made to send a letter to support SB 926. The letter should request the Bill be amended to refer to a "CEQA document" rather than an "environmental impact report" and the "host jurisdiction" rather than the "County." The motion was passed with Mr. Boehmke and Ms. Karen Coca opposing, and Mr. Chen abstaining.

- SB 1835—Introduced by Florez

This Bill would prohibit an enforcement agency from proposing, submitting, or issuing a solid waste facilities permit for a solid waste facility approved by a local initiative measure unless the solid waste facility meets specified conditions. These include the County to prepare and certify the CEQA document and the facility operator obtain all permits including water, air, and land use before the local enforcement agency can issue the draft solid waste facility permit.

A discussion ensued regarding the CEQA process. A motion to support SB 1835 was made. The motion was passed with Mr. Boehmke opposing and Mr. Chen abstaining.

- For SB 1778—Introduced by Alarcon

This Bill would require that source separated green waste utilized as alternative daily cover be considered disposal rather than diversion as current law stipulates.

A motion to send a letter of opposition to SB 1778 was made. The motion was passed with Mr. Chen abstaining. (Ms. Coca being absent)

VI. CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION BIOENERGY DRAFT PLAN

Ms. Jauregui summarized the Recommendations for a Bioenergy Action Plan for California (Plan) prepared by the Bioenergy Interagency Working Group ([see attachment](#)).

The Plan focuses on four broad policy objectives as follows:

1. Creating a positive environment for bioenergy production and consumption
2. Enhancing State agency coordination for bioenergy products
3. Accelerating California's existing research, development, and demonstration programs to address all aspects of biomass resource production
4. Promoting awareness amongst the general public and policy makers of the importance and benefits of bioenergy

The Plan was finalized in mid-April. The Plan also adopted the following recommendations to the State:

1. Revise the statutory definition of transformation and a new definition for conversion technology
2. Establish funding mechanisms for bioenergy programs
3. Establish financial incentives to encourage investments and support innovation in bioenergy technology

The Plan would recommend that the Waste Board be directed to change State law, define a clear regulatory framework for biomass waste conversion facilities, and provide diversion credits to local jurisdictions for solid waste processed by these technologies.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Governor and the Legislature (Speakers, President Pro-Tem) to support the Plan's recommendations and requesting them to develop legislative language that will allow conversion technology in California. The motion was passed with Ms. Betsey Landis and Mr. Chen abstaining.

VII. PRESENTATION ON THE 2004 ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa presented the 2004 Annual Report on the Countywide Summary Plan and the Countywide Siting Element for the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Plan ([see attachment](#)). Public Works submitted the 2004 Annual Report to the Waste Board in March 2006.

The role of Public Works is to advise the Board of Supervisors on waste management issues and to develop and administer the Countywide Siting Element (the County's Disposal Plan). The Countywide Siting Element goals and policies are as follows: to support in-County disposal capacity, maximize utilization of out-of-County disposal capacity, support in-County infrastructure for exporting solid waste, and promote alternatives to landfilling and incineration.

The 2004 Annual Report is comprised of two Sections. Section One is the Countywide Summary Plan Assessment and Section Two is the Countywide Siting Element Assessment. Section One describes the revisions to the Summary Plan and the regional issues, while Section Two addresses the changes in permitted capacity, the strategy for maintaining adequate disposal capacity, and waste plan conformance.

For the Countywide Siting Element Assessment, five scenarios were created to project waste generation for a 15-year period by using various measures including demographic changes, business growth, population growth, and taxable sale revenues. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that depending on the scenario, the County would be exporting between 17,000 and 39,000 tons per day to out-of-County landfills.

Mr. Aiyetiwa stated jurisdictions must continue efforts to encourage development of alternatives to landfilling. Out-of-County landfills are a necessity, but the infrastructure needs to be developed.

A map of Major Permitted Municipal Solid Waste Facilities in Los Angeles County showing waste intake by jurisdiction of origin will be forwarded to all members and alternates.

VIII. AB 1497 DRAFT PERMIT REGULATIONS

Mr. Aiyetiwa stated the Waste Board released the draft of the Permit Implementation Regulations for public comment. Comments will be accepted between April 7 and June 6, 2006. The Task Force previously commented and sent a letter to the Waste Board expressing their concerns on the proposed regulations.

A motion was made to forward a letter to all 88 cities requesting the cities forward a letter to the Waste Board expressing their disapproval of the regulations since they fail to require the Waste Board to verify the solid waste facility application is consistent with the local land use permit. The motion was passed with Mr. Boehmke abstaining.

IX. PRESENTATION ON ARROWBIO

Mr. Yair Zadik, Co-CEO of ArrowBio, Inc., conducted a presentation on the ArrowBio process ([see attachment](#)). The ArrowBio process is an environmentally friendly waste treatment system to manage and recover resources from unsorted or sorted municipal solid waste.

Mr. Zadik stated ArrowBio's solution offers a more efficient and cost-effective waste treatment system. The process treats mixed or segregated waste with a watery sorting process and a classical watery anaerobic treatment.

Benefits of the system include:

- The water sorting process lowering the need of a landfill and eliminating contamination
- The system does not use high temperatures
- The water pipes and tanks prevent any pollution or odor nuisance to the environment
- The system reuses its own water
- The recovery rate for the process is about 90 percent

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2006, at 1 p.m.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.