

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

Minutes of August 17, 2006

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
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
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Margaret Clark, rep. by Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Gerry Miller, rep. by Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Rita Robinson, rep. by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Greig Smith, rep. by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Don Wolfe, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach
Dr. Bruce Chernof, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Health Services
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Jim Stahl, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Glenn Acosta, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Christine Casino, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mike Lara, City of Pasadena
Ben Lucha, City of Santa Clarita
John McTaggart, General Public Representative Alternate
Lee Miller, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Louis Morales, City of Commerce
Cardena Morgan, Southern California Association of Governments
Farouk Ossman, City of Los Angeles
David Pang, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jorge Santiesteban, City of Los Angeles
Ursula Schmidt, City of Pasadena
Cynthia Vant Hul, Waste Management, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2006

A motion to approve the minutes of July 20, 2006, was made with the following correction:

- On page 7, item XII, the location of Kettleman landfill in Bakersfield, CA should be changed to Kings County.

The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Rafael Prieto being absent)

III. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Al Avoian stated that Staff will be revising Chapter 7 of the Countywide Siting Element (CSE) and will be bringing it back for final approval. The Subcommittee is reviewing Chapter 8 of the CSE.

IV. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported the following articles were submitted to the Public Education and Information Subcommittee for review:

- The City of Artesia wrote an article regarding their collection event of bulky items and household hazardous and electronic waste.
- The City of Los Angeles provided an article on a recycling program in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District to provide recycling bins to all elementary schools within the district.
- A green building and sustainability article was submitted by the City of Santa Monica.
- Staff submitted an article recognizing Ben Wong and Joe Massey for their outstanding work with the Task Force.
- The Emerging Technology Forum at the University of California, Los Angeles on July 27, 2006, will be featured.
- An article on legislation.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned other articles to be considered, including an update to the Siting Element, the Governor's Executive Order S-06-06, which addresses bioenergy and greenhouse gases, an update on the Bioenergy Plan supported by the Task Force, and an article on the Legislative Analyst's Office report on Financial Assurance for landfills. If space permits, an update on the

collection of universal waste being collected at household hazardous waste collection events will be included.

V. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye indicated that the contractor for the facilitation phase for the Conversion Technology Demonstration Facility Project, Alternative Resources, Inc., has contacted all the materials recovery facilities on the short list. The feedback received was positive and the facility operators are willing to participate. Alternative Resources, Inc. is also confirming space allocation of all the sites and the feedstock to be used.

The request for information will be issued to the most capable technology vendors that were identified in the facilitation phase by the end of August 2006. The Subcommittee is working on a fair and open process to identify the best vendors. A conference call has been set up at the end of August and a policy will be determined by the September 2006 Task Force meeting.

The request for proposals for the public outreach contract is expected to be released soon. Under this contract, the contractor would be responsible for reaching out to the community, getting feedback on the process, and educating the public.

VI. UPDATE ON THE WASTE BOARD'S DISCUSSION OF THE 2006 EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FORUM

The California Integrated Waste Management Board Agenda item 22-Discussion of the 2006 Emerging Technologies forum was pulled from the August 15, 2006 Waste Board meeting. Consequently, Mr. Fernando Berton will provide an update on this matter at a later date.

Mr. Skye mentioned a copy of the BioEnergy Producers Association's August 11, 2006, letter was sent to the Task Force ([see attachment](#)). The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee discussed the letter, and noted many important and valid points on conversion technology. An issue raised in the letter was that the Waste Board should be more aggressive in their actions to help conversion technology.

Mr. Mohajer indicated he sent an e-mail to the chair of the Waste Board on August 12, 2006. He read an excerpt from his e-mail.

VII. PRESENTATION ON THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES SAFE CENTER OPERATIONS

Mr. Jorge Santiesteban provided a brief background of the City of Los Angeles' Safe Centers (Centers) ([see attachment](#)). The household hazardous waste (HHW) program was established in 1998 and initially was a mobile program that serviced a number of areas.

The City of Los Angeles (City) was divided into 15 areas to service the city and all Los Angeles County residents through a partnership with the County. Working with a fixed budget and an increasing participation rate, the City needed to make improvements or decrease the service of the mobile events.

In 2004, the City started operating the Centers and the number of mobile events was reduced substantially. The Center's objectives and goals were to meet demand for services, reduce the occurrence of illegal dumping, have convenient access for residents, integrate other collection programs, and implement potential reuse programs. Also, the City wanted to increase operating capacity to serve 50 percent more households, develop innovative disposal and operating techniques, provide an enhanced level of service, provide fiscal flexibility, and establish strategic partnerships.

The Centers are funded from State used oil grants, State HHW opportunity grants, sewer capital fund, stormwater pollution abatement fund, County contributions, and Senate Bill 20 refund.

There are currently five Centers that are operational and three that are under design or construction. Locations of the operating Centers are at the City of Los Angeles Hyperion Sewage Treatment Plant, Gaffey Street in San Pedro, Washington Boulevard in the East Los Angeles area, Randall Street in Sun Valley, and at University of California, Los Angeles.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES SAFE CENTERS ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION

The presentation on the City of Los Angeles' Safe Centers' engineering and construction was consolidated with the presentation on the City of Los Angeles Safe Centers' operations. Please see item VII.

IX. PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS UPDATE

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa stated that the Waste Board agreed to some of the comments provided by the Task Force, and a teleconference was scheduled to discuss them. Mr. Mohajer, representing the Task Force, Mr. Carlos Ruiz and Mr. Aiyetiwa, representing Public Works, participated in the

teleconference. The Waste Board agreed to some of the issues raised, but two issues identified by the Task Force still remain.

The first issue is the Executive Director's authority to decide on the modified permit process. The Waste Board agreed to provide additional language to clarify the Executive Director's role, and to discuss the process for appealing.

The second issue is the required submittal of a land use permit. Currently, facility operators are required to include a copy of this permit in the documentation submitted to the Local Enforcement Agency (L.E.A). The current proposal is to remove the requirement that a copy of the land use permit be provided when an applicant files an application for a solid waste facilities permit. Waste Board staff states there is language, which allows L.E.A.s to continue to require this document. The requirement for a land use permit will now be at the discretion of each of the L.E.A.s. This is where we differ. The Waste Board will consider the proposal on September 5, 2006, and at the general Waste Board meeting on September 12, 2006. Task Force Staff plans to be at this meeting to express the Task Force's concerns.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Michael Miller and Ms. Mary Ann Lutz requested information regarding the permit implementation regulations be e-mailed to them.

X. COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT CHAPTER 7 REVISIONS

Mr. Chuk Agu presented the draft revisions ([see attached](#)) to Chapter 7 of the Countywide Siting Element (CSE). The purpose of Chapter 7 is to provide a description and location of sites identified as potentially suitable for the development of new Class III landfills, inert waste landfills, transformation facilities, conversion technology facilities, and biomass processing facilities and potential expansion of the existing facilities.

Mr. Agu discussed the major issues, assumptions, and revisions; the potential new facilities and expansions of existing facilities; and status of the CSE Chapter revisions.

The major revisions include (1) restructuring the contents of the chapter into distinct categories such as Class III landfills, inert waste landfills, transformation facilities, conversion technology facilities, and biomass processing facilities; (2) adding a definition section; (3) broadening the definition of expansion to include increase in daily disposal rate, throughput, and/or intake/processing capacity; (4) limiting the definition of transformation to incineration, (5) excluding conversion technology from transformation, (6) developing a map of areas potentially suitable for developing conversion technology facilities in Los Angeles County; (7) listing Lancaster Landfill's

proposed increase in disposal rate as an expansion, (8) listing Savage Canyon Landfill project as an expansion pending determination by the Local Enforcement Agency, and (9) expanding the discussion of inert waste landfills and including status of the inert waste landfills in Los Angeles County.

Task Force provided Staff with comments including the following:

- Replace references to “solid waste disposal facilities” with the phrase “Class III landfills, inert waste landfills, transformation facilities, conversion technology facilities, and biomass processing facilities, as appropriate.”
- Define the acronyms when they first appear in the Chapter or provide a list of the acronyms.
- Change the term “non-combustible” to “non-combustion” in the definition of conversion technology.
- In Section 7.5.2.2, Bradley Landfill and Recycling Center Expansion, page 7-7, the last sentence of the second to the last paragraph, change the term “daily disposal rate” to “permitted daily disposal rate.”
- In Section 7.5.2.6 Sunshine Canyon Landfill Expansion (City and County sides), page 7-11, second paragraph, confirm if the expansion into the “bridge area” on the County side is 20 acres or 42 acres and revise accordingly.
- In Section 7.7 Transformation Facilities, page 7-12, first paragraph, first sentence, replace the word “divert” with “waste minimization,” “landfill extension,” or other appropriate terminology.
- In Section 7.8 Conversion Technology Facilities, page 7-13, the second paragraph, last sentence, change the sentence: “The City’s efforts is highlighted by the adoption of the Renew L.A. Resource Management blueprint for the City of Los Angeles which promotes conversion technologies” to “The City’s efforts is highlighted by the adoption of the Renew L.A. Resource Management blueprint for the City of Los Angeles which is a zero waste policy that promotes the use of conversion technology.”

Also, state that a City of Los Angeles mayoral directive requests the first facility be sited by 2010.

- On page 7-26, Table 7-3, footnote #7, add the sentence: “It is estimated that once the permitted capacity is exhausted, approximately 6 million tons of potentially available capacity will remain on the site.”

XI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye indicated that all Bills must pass the State Legislature by the end of August 2006. Governor Schwarzenegger will have 30 days to veto or sign the Bills, or they become Laws by default. Mr. Skye provided status on the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

- AB 32–Introduced by Nunez and Pavley

This Bill relates to greenhouse gas emissions. A motion was made to send a letter requesting landfills be referenced as a source of greenhouse gases in AB 32 and raise the issue of an unfunded mandate. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 1688-Introduced by Niello

This Bill authorized illegal dumping officers to exercise the powers of arrest and serve warrants. The Bill was amended to clarify that peace officer retirement benefits would not apply to them.

- AB 1980-Introduced by Bass

This Bill would essentially extend AB 1688 to City of Los Angeles Security Officers. A motion to send a letter of support was made. The motion passed with Ms. Nicole Bernson abstaining.

- AB 1992-Introduced by Canciamilla

A letter of support was sent in March 2006. Since March 2006, additional provisions, such as increasing fines for illegal dumping activities, were incorporated in the Bill.

- AB 2296-Introduced by Montanez

This Bill addresses post-closure financial assurances. It no longer requires the landfill operator to submit a corrective action plan or proof of financial assurance. A motion to send a letter of opposition unless amended to reintroduce provisions for closure and post-closure maintenance mechanisms. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 2449-Introduced by Levine

This Bill would require stores to establish an in-store recycling program that allows customers to return their plastic bags for free

and to make reusable bags available to customers for purchase. Discussion ensued. A motion to send a letter of support was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 928-Introduced by Perata and Lowenthal

This Bill would increase the diversion rate by an unspecified amount. This Bill would delete the reference that gives the Waste Board authority to grant a time extension, until January 1, 2006, to jurisdictions to meet the diversion requirements of AB 939.

- SB 1305-Introduced by Figueroa

This Bill related to home-generated sharps has now been enrolled and chaptered.

- SB 1368-Introduced by Perata

This Bill prohibits new contracted electricity companies, including the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, from entering into long-term agreements for purchasing energy unless it is below the baseline. This Bill is a companion Bill to AB 32. A motion to send a letter of opposition was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 1835-Introduced by Florez

This Bill prohibits an enforcement agency from determining that a solid waste facilities permit application is complete or being deemed complete. It also prohibits an enforcement agency from proposing, submitting to the Waste Board, or issuing a solid waste facilities permit, for a solid waste facility approved by a local initiative measure, unless certain conditions are met.

- SB 369-Introduced by Simitian

This Bill would extend the sunset date of the rubberized asphalt concrete grant program to June 30, 2006. It also increases funding to \$250,000 and requires projects eligible for the grant to use at least 1,250 tons of rubberized asphalt concrete.

Mr. Skye announced the appointment of Ms. Linda S. Adams as Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency. A motion to send a letter congratulating Ms. Adams for her appointment and inviting her to a Task Force meeting was made. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Steve Uselton was not able to attend today's meeting. An update from the Waste Board will be provided at the next meeting.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2006, at 1 p.m.

XIV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John McTaggart announced Mr. Avoian's participation with the 20th Annual Torrance Memorial Health Care Foundation's Golf Tournament.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.