

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

**Minutes of January 18, 2007**

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.  
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  
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles  
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Gerry Miller, rep. by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles  
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  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
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. Jonathan Fielding, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Hossam Banna, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Diane Gilbert-Jones, City of Los Angeles  
Derrick Lee, City of Los Angeles  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
John McTaggart, General Public Representative Alternate  
Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division Alternate  
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita  
Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Ursula Schmidt, City of Pasadena  
Angela Williams, City of Inglewood

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2006**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 16, 2006. The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Jay Chen, Mr. Charles Modica, and Mr. Greig Smith were absent at the time the vote was taken)

**III. SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR AL AVOIAN**

Ms. Margaret Clark presented Mr. Al Avoian, who is retiring from the Task Force effective February 1, 2007, with a Certificate of Recognition for his many years of service to the Task Force. Mr. Avoian expressed his appreciation of the recognition. Several Task Force members voiced their gratitude for his dedication, expertise, and input over the years.

**IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Coby Skye provided an update on the Southern California Conversion Technology Demonstration Facility Project. The Subcommittee is planning to tour facilities from a selected short list of five conversion technology suppliers. The Subcommittee is also in the final phase of evaluating the short listed material recovery facilities where the demonstration facility would be co-located.

Mr. Skye stated the following tasks are to be conducted:

- Interviews with five technology suppliers to assess which technology will work best with each material recovery facility
- Tour facilities, in the U.S., Europe, Japan, and Israel, starting in late February through March 2007
- Select three Subcommittee members and selected staff to join the tour
- Complete the final report for the facilitation phase
- Begin negotiations for partnerships in May/June 2007

Mr. Skye announced that a BioCycle Conference will be held in San Diego in April. The topic of conversion technologies will be discussed. Also, Mr. Wesley Chesbro was appointed to the Waste Board by the California Senate Rules Committee. Mr. Chesbro will be speaking at the Southern California Waste Management Forum at the Energy Resource Center, in Downey, on March 14, 2007.

**V. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Avoian stated that a request from the landfill owner, Browning Ferris Industries, for a Finding of Conformance for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (County extension), will be held in the next Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee continues to review Chapter 5 of the Countywide Siting Element and made recommendations to Staff. An update will be provided at the next Task Force meeting.

**VI. ELECTION OF FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR**

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that Mr. Avoian will be retiring February 1, 2007 and vacating the Subcommittee's Chairperson position. A motion was made to elect Ms. Betsey Landis as the Chairperson of the Subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously.

**VII. PRESENTATION ON THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES' TERMINAL ISLAND RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT**

Ms. Diane Gilbert-Jones of the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation, conducted a PowerPoint presentation on the Terminal Island Renewable Energy Project (Project) ([see attachment](#)). The Project is located at the Terminal Island Wastewater Treatment Plant near the Port of Los Angeles.

Ms. Gilbert-Jones began by providing a brief background on how the City currently manages biosolids. The City transports about 250,000 tons of treated biosolids yearly to the City owned farmland in Kern County. Due to recent legislation, the City's biosolids can no longer be spread on their farmland. In January 2007, the City filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn the Kern County ban. There is also a proposed Bill, SB 55, which seeks to impose stricter standards for transporting biosolids for disposal. Therefore, the City is seeking alternate methods for disposal.

Ms. Gilbert-Jones stated the Project is experimental and consists of injecting biosolids deep into the ground in abandoned oil and gas reservoirs. The biosolids would then be converted into methane gas and extracted to generate electricity. She discussed the beneficial use and disposal alternatives for the biosolids.

Ms. Gilbert-Jones provided schematic diagrams of the Project, discussed safety features used in the well construction, and permitting. The Project has a technical advisory committee comprised of representatives from the State, EPA, the California Institute of Technology, U.S Geological Survey, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

She outlined the benefits of the Project including production of renewable energy, reduction of the truck traffic going to Kern County, prevention of ground settlement in the Harbor area, and reduction of the greenhouse gases released. She mentioned that the Project will begin in May or June 2007 pending the final permit and CEQA documentation. If initial results are favorable, the City may be able to use all of the City's biosolids in the Project.

#### **VIII. UPDATE ON THE FRANCHISE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SYSTEM FOR THE COUNTY UNINCORPORATED AREAS**

Mr. Hossam Banna, of the County Department of Public Works, provided an update on the Franchise Solid Waste Collection System (Franchise System) ([see attachment](#)). The Franchise System is replacing the current open-market system of waste collection. The County has conducted about 50 community meetings to seek input on selecting the type of services to be provided in the franchises. To date, the County has identified approximately 30 franchise areas and has awarded five exclusive residential franchise agreements. Four additional residential franchise areas are to be implemented by fall 2007.

A typical agreement has provisions setting minimum customer service standards at competitive rates. The standards include automated three-can service; unlimited curbside bulky item collection for up to two times a year; annual clean-up events; four community clean-up projects; a senior citizen discount; and roll-out services. A 10 percent franchise fee is collected and is used to implement new and improved solid waste management recycling programs. These programs include Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) and Electronics Waste (E-waste) Collection Events, school recycling programs, sharps disposal programs, and Smart Gardening workshops.

Mr. Banna stated the implementation of the franchises has been well received by residents. The County will add the commercial sector to the franchise collection system in the future. Information on the Franchise System is also available on the County's website ([888CleanLA.com](http://888CleanLA.com)).

Mr. Banna further discussed the sharps disposal program to collect needles and lancets. Mr. Mohajer added a State law requires counties and cities to provide for the collection of sharps by July 2008.

#### **IX. PRESENTATION ON PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC'S U-WASTE PROGRAM**

Ms. Margaret Clark stated that the presentation would be conducted by Mr. Leonard Robinson, of the Department of Toxic Substances Control, at the next Task Force meeting.

**X. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB**

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

**XI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Skye stated he would monitor SB 55, referred to in Ms. Gilbert-Jones' presentation, and will provide analysis and recommendations at a future Task Force meeting.

Mr. Skye also gave an overview of the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

- AB 35 – Introduced by Ruskin

This Bill would enact the Sustainable Building Act of 2007 and require the Waste Board by July 1, 2009, to adopt regulations of sustainable building standards related to the construction or renovation of buildings owned or leased by the State. It would require on or after July 1, 2010, that State buildings be built, designed, and operated in accordance with those regulations.

- AB 48 – Introduced by Saldana

This Bill would define the term "Restriction Of Hazardous Substances" (ROHS) and amend the definition of Consumer Electronic Device (CED) to include most consumer electronics. This Bill would also phase out sales of such devices containing certain heavy toxic metals beginning January 1, 2010. The proposed definition of CED's and phase out provisions would parallel ROHS Directives adopted by the European Union in 2003.

Mr. Skye reported the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a comprehensive energy and environmental initiative requiring County projects of at least 10,000 square feet to achieve at least Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver Level of Certification. The County is also planning to implement a green building standard for private developments. The initiative can be found on-line at [888CleanLA.com](http://888CleanLA.com).

**XII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2007, at 1 p.m.

**XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mike Mohajer provided an update on his correspondence with Southern California Edison (SCE) regarding the disposal of compact fluorescent light bulbs ([see attachment](#)). Mr. Mohajer had asked SCE to consider providing their customers with a program similar to the one offered by Pacific Gas and Energy in northern California. According to Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Steven Conroy, of SCE, responded that they do not have a program in place at this time. Mr. Conroy recommended their customers to dispose of their non-functioning compact fluorescent light bulbs as recommended by the manufacturer.

Ms. Mary Ann Lutz stated that she would take this matter to her next San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Environmental Committee meeting and discuss with a SCE representative.

A concern regarding a recycling center accurately applying the correct amount of the California Refund Value (CRV) due to the recent increase of the CRV was raised. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Charles Boehmke announced that Mr. Jim Stahl was retiring. Mr. Steve Maguin will replace him as the Chief Engineer, and will be the official Task Force member. Mike Selna, the Assistant Chief Engineer, will be an alternate for Mr. Steve Maguin.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.