

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

Minutes of March 20, 2008

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Dean Efstathiou, represented by Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, repd. by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health
Stephen Maguin, represented by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County
Gerry Miller, represented by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Greig Smith, represented by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, represented by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Enrique Zaldivar, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine Andersen, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Ben Cortez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
John Drucker, Smurfit Stone Recycling Company
Ray Huitric, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County
Denise Lellan, City of Santa Clarita
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Janice Murray, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Allen Wang, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28, 2008

A motion was made to approve the minutes of February 28, 2008. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Mary Ann Lutz and Mr. Jay Chen were absent when the vote was taken.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day to discuss various phases of the development of conversion technology facilities in Southern California. The current phase is the development of a demonstration project. The following phase will be a focus on a commercial-scale development of a conversion technology facility in Los Angeles County.

Mr. Skye indicated that the other primary issue discussed was whether the existing list of four material recovery facilities (MRF) identified in the Phase II Conversion Technology Report would be sufficient or whether additional sites should be considered. Mr. Skye stated the Subcommittee recommended to move forward with the MRF sites identified, but also to develop additional ways to work with the technology suppliers if they were unable to partner with one of the remaining MRFs and wanted to work with sites that are not identified in the Phase II Report.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed the Finding of Conformance and the upcoming March 25, 2008, meeting of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) in Granada Hills. The Waste Board will be considering BFI's Solid Waste Facility Permit application for a combined City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill operation at this meeting.

Ms. Landis stated BFI's application is incomplete per Title 14, Section 18756 of the California Code of Regulations, as they have not obtained a Finding of Conformance. Ms. Landis further explained that the Subcommittee's position

against BFI's application is consistent with the February 28, 2008, Task Force's position on AB 2415.

Per the Subcommittee's recommendation, she presented a motion to have the Task Force represented by Mike Mohajer at the Waste Board meeting to present the position against BFI's application because a Finding of Conformance has not been issued. The motion passed unanimously.

V. UPDATE ON AB 2296 FINANCIAL ASSURANCE FOR SOLID WASTE LANDFILL'S POST-CLOSURE AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported the Waste Board met on February 29, 2008, to discuss how much money would be needed to pay for post-closure and corrective action under various scenarios. He said the working group explored about 20 scenarios. These scenarios assume a constant disposal rate of 42 million tons per year for the next 50 years.

The worst case scenario would require a fee of \$2.40 per ton to pay for post-closure and corrective action. The best case scenario, clean-up, would require a fee of \$0.08 per ton. He said Waste Board staff will continue researching the issue.

Mr. Mohajer reported the March 10, 2008, meeting included an educational component to define what constitutes post-closure, corrective action, or major maintenance in order to determine which fund will pay for each. Having a pool fund to pay under different scenarios and extending the post-closure period beyond 30 years, were also discussed at this meeting.

Mr. Mohajer explained the consensus of the working group was that the landfill owners should be financially responsible for post-closure and maintenance. The State should not impose additional landfill fees. The next meeting on this item will be on April 14, 2008. The goal is for Waste Board staff to have a proposal by May 2008.

VI. UPDATE ON SB 1016 SOLID WASTE REPORTING BY LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

Mr. Mohajer reported the Waste Board met on March 14, 2008, and discussed diversion credit for transformation facilities (waste-to-energy) and biomass facilities (incineration of certain solid waste such as agricultural waste) in relation to a new measurement system based on either generation or disposal.

Mr. Mohajer stated the position of the Waste Board is to eliminate the 10 percent diversion credit jurisdictions get for waste sent to biomass facilities. This would require changing State law. He said that jurisdictions will be able to continue claiming the 10 percent transformation credit as it exists today.

VII. PRESENTATION ON GREEN HOUSE GAS EMISSION COMPARISON – GREEN WASTE ALTERNATIVE COVER VS. COMPOSTING

Mr. Ray Huitric, of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, conducted a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on green house gas (GHG) emission comparison. The study looked at emissions produced by green waste when used as alternative daily cover (ADC) versus green waste used in composting activities.

Mr. Huitric explained that the comparison was made using a comprehensive GHG lifecycle analysis. This analysis uses three different models:

1. the EPA WARM which is a general purpose model useful for analyzing a variety of municipal solid waste (MSW) management scenarios
2. the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) model which is similar to EPA WARM, but uses the latest factors, and
3. the Canadian EPIC model for yard trimmings composting and landfilling, from which results are taken and included in the study as they are similar to the green waste scenarios

Mr. Huitric stated that with the use of all available lifecycle models, green waste ADC is shown to reduce GHG emissions three times more than green waste composting. He concluded by saying that composting is an important waste diversion strategy that complements, rather than replaces, green waste ADC use.

A discussion on the potential phasing out of green waste as ADC by the Waste Board followed ([see attached](#) 3/9/08 email from Mr. Mohajer to the Members of the Waste Board). A motion was made to send a letter to the Waste Board requesting that the Task Force be part of the working group involved in the green waste discussions. Staff would provide a representative and Mr. Mohajer would serve as an alternate. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Nicole Bernson was not present at the time the vote was taken.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye provided updates on the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

1. AB 2071—introduced by Karnette

This Bill would authorize local and State governments to impose civil liability (\$500 first infraction, \$1,000 second infraction) if a plastic bag is sold as “compostable,” “biodegradable,” or “degradable” without meeting the specified standards.

2. AB 2730—introduced by Leno

This Bill would require a nonprofit convenience zone recycler to be located within one mile of a supermarket that is in a convenience zone not served by a recycling center. This provides an exemption from the current requirement to have a certified recycling center or location within every convenience zone.

A discussion ensued. Staff was instructed to conduct a survey of five percent of cities and County of Los Angeles to learn what jurisdictions’ positions are on the Bill since it involves decisions related to land use. Staff will report back to Task Force with the findings.

3. SB 1357—introduced by Padilla

This Bill would allow up to \$20 million to be expended between January 1, 2009, and January 1, 2010, on grants for beverage container recycling and litter reduction programs.

4. SB 1426—introduced by Calderon

This Bill would require, in the case of carpet and related products, the Department of General Services to adopt at least two methods by which manufacturers may demonstrate compliance with specified requirements by State agencies purchasing recycled products.

5. SB 1625—introduced by Corbett

This Bill would require the Department of Conservation to adjust reporting rates to eliminate the potential for over-reporting redemption rates.

6. SB 1663—introduced by Denham

This Bill would exempt from the waste and used tire hauler registration requirements a person who is an owner or employee of an agriculture business that is not a waste tire generating business.

Mr. Mohajer then commented on AB 501 (Swanson). He explained this Bill requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to provide prepaid, mail-back sharps containers to consumers, but only if requested.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to change the Task Force's position on the Bill from "support" to "support and amend" to make sure all consumers of sharps are provided with the appropriate mail-back containers, and to send a letter to Assembly members from Los Angeles County asking them to support the Bill. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

Mr. Steve Uselton, of the Waste Board, reported on the following items:

1. Organics: through a strategic directive, the Board wishes to reduce the amount of organics in the waste stream by 50 percent by 2020. This includes changes to green waste ADC policy which would require statutory amendments and consideration of regional differences.

Because of the complexity and sensitivity of the ADC issue, the Board has developed a working group to discuss recommendations for reducing green waste ADC. The working group will post notes from their meetings on the Waste Board's website and solicit feedback on comments made during the meetings.

2. Facilities survey: the Waste Board is still seeking comments on barriers to siting organic diversion facilities. To fill out a survey, contact Bobbie Garcia at (916) 341-6291. Alternatively, surveys can be completed at the Biocycle Conference on April 16, 2008, in San Diego and on April 23, 2008, at the Cal-EPA building in Sacramento. Survey results to date will be discussed at these events.

3. Sharps and pharmaceuticals collection: workshops were conducted on March 17, 2008, to solicit input and provide suggestions on the implementation of SB 966 (Simitian) and SB 1305 (Figueroa). Information obtained through the workshops will be posted on the Waste Board's website for interested parties to network and comment on the issue.
4. Appointments: Rosalie Mule was reappointed to the Waste Board by the Governor. Jeffrey Danziger will serve as advisor to the Waste Board Chair, leaving an opening for Waste Board member.
5. Events: California Green Summit and Exposition 2008 will take place April 7-9, 2008, at the Sacramento Convention Center. For registration and information, visit www.green-technology.org.

X. PRESENTATION ON SOLID WASTE CHAPTER OF THE DRAFT 2008 REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

No Action. Item postponed until next meeting.

XI. PRESENTATION ON CITY OF LOS ANGELES' SOLID WASTE INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

No Action. Item postponed until next meeting.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE—TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 2008

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008, at 1 p.m.

XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.