

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

Minutes of September 15, 2011

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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 (Formerly GLASWMA)
Eugene Sun, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Carl Clark, rep. by David Thornburg, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Mitchell Englander, rep. by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Gail Farber, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Stephen Maguin, rep. by Chuck Boehmeke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Enrique Zaldivar, rep. by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Michael Conway, City of Long Beach
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Larry Fink, The Carpet Recyclers
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Corey Mayne, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carey Merrill, The Carpet Recyclers
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Matt Suska, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2011

A motion was made to approve the August 18, 2011, minutes with minor corrections. The motion passed with one abstention from Nicole Bernson.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (ATAS)

Mr. Coby Skye reported the subcommittee received updates from their consultants on public outreach activities. They are also developing a work plan for outreach and education activities to explore becoming more effective in getting change in Sacramento. Alternative Resources, Inc., reported there were a total of 37 responses from technology companies in response to the request for expression of interest, including two companies already involved from Phase II, and 11 responses were received from the financial request for expression of interest for Phase IV of the project. They will attempt to partner with these companies and take an approach similar to Phase III and establish partnerships between site developers and technology and financial companies. The timeline for the Phase IV projects is dependent on the sites and technology, so no firm timeline can be established since there are over 20 sites in various stages. They hope to have projects identified soon.

Mr. Skye also mentioned there was discussion regarding the C&R demonstration project. CR&R received conditional approval from the Local Airport Commission, which was needed due to the proximity of a nearby airport, and will be releasing a mitigated negative declaration in the next few weeks. The next steps will be to revise the solid waste facility permit with the state and hopefully break ground to develop the project.

The subcommittee viewed a presentation by Mr. Eugene Tseng regarding the work he's doing for the Department of Navy. The Navy is looking for sites around the country to develop conversion technology facilities to better manage their residual waste. They are also looking to partner with adjoining cities and jurisdictions to expand the facilities to be more cost effective. Mr. Tseng will share the official report with the subcommittee once it is available.

Mr. Skye mentioned that Sakuma Hideaki from JFE and Paul Vogel, chairman of the Environmental Protection Authority from Western Australia, attended the subcommittee meeting.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the subcommittee had an extensive discussion on the impacts of AB 341. Additionally, staff gave a report on the status of the Countywide Siting Element, and a final draft is scheduled to be completed by 2014. Ms. Landis made a motion for staff to develop a flow chart or schedule indicating the timeframe within which the Task Force would be considering the final draft for approval. There was a second motion in regards to a letter from David Cieply of Republic Services claiming that leaving dirt in place each day is not standard operating procedures. Ms. Landis made a motion to send a letter requesting Mr. Cieply to substantiate that claim. The two motions were seconded by Ms. Nicole Bernson and both passed unanimously.

There was also a request for the Task Force to place onto the agenda each month issues pertaining to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. It was decided that the issues will be addressed at the subcommittee meetings and brought forth during the subcommittee's report to the Task Force.

Ms. Landis also reported that the matter regarding Sunshine Canyon Landfill accepting out-of-county waste remains outstanding. Although it is a Planning Department issue, Ms. Landis asked Ms. Linda Lee to give a brief report of the agencies working together to address the matter. It was clarified that the enforcement would fall under the County's Conditional Use Permit and the City's Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Lee stated the Task Force's concerns were forwarded to the appropriate County Department and will also be forwarded to the appropriate City Department. A status update will be given at the next meeting.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye stated September 9 was the last date for bills to be passed and sent to the Governor for signature. Over 600 bills were sent for his consideration, and he has until October 9 to sign or veto the bills. The Governor has stated he plans to veto a fair number of the bills he deems unnecessary. The Legislature will reconvene January 1, 2012.

Mr. Skye stated overall it has been a successful year for the Task Force's legislative goals. AB 1149, SB 41, and SB 771 were all sent to the Governor for signature, and AB 1178 was sent back to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and is now a two-year bill. Mr. Skye also gave an update on the [attached Legislative Table](#) and specifically addressed the following bills:

1. AB 341 (Chesbro)

This bill is on its way to the Governor, and a letter requesting his to veto is being prepared. Mr. Carlos Ruiz highlighted the following key areas of concern with the bill: (1) the goal mandates 75% waste reduction, which excludes conversion technologies, (2) the bill mandates commercial recycling similar to CalRecycle's regulations, (3) Non-disposal Facility Element plans for cities and counties will no longer require CalRecycle's approval and excludes local task force review and comment, and (4) solid waste facilities will be allowed tonnage increases without revisions to their permit. The increase will be treated as a minor change, which means there will be no CEQA process and a minimum level of review.

Mr. Mike Mohajer added that the proposed mandatory commercial recycling regulations have been put into the legislation by CalRecycle, and requires jurisdictions to implement mandatory commercial recycling as a part of their good faith effort compliance with AB 939. This is an unfunded mandate that will be costly to the local jurisdictions.

Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to send a strong veto letter to the Governor. Ms. Mary Ann Lutz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

2. AB 525 (Gordon)

Staff noted the addition of language related to the paint stewardship bill and recommended continuing to support the bill. No additional action was needed by the Task Force.

3. SB 833 (Vargas)

Staff recommended continuing to oppose this bill despite amendments limiting the bill to be active only in San Deigo. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to the Governor requesting his veto. Ms. Betsey Landis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. UPDATE ON CARPET & PAINT STEWARDSHIP REGULATIONS

Mr. Mike Mohajer updated the Task Force on his September 8 trip to Sacramento for the carpet and paint stewardship workshops. At the paint workshop he emphasized the joint letter from the City, County, County Sanitation Districts, and the Task Force and their specific concern that the proposed regulations ignore coordination with local government. He mentioned paint companies gave opposition stating the regulations are too numerous and costly. CalRecycle will revise the regulations and post them on their website on September 30. They

will host a public meeting on October 3 to discuss the revisions. A 15-day comment period will begin October 10 and will end October 25. Mr. Mohajer suggested sending a follow up letter if CalRecycle doesn't make changes per the Task Forces' previously sent comment letter. In regards to the carpet regulations, CalRecycle decided to expand AB 2398 to divert carpet waste away from landfills and transformation facilities with no legal justification. The Task Force's previous letter addressed this concern. The revised regulations will be out September 19, and the comment period will end October 4. There will be a workshop September 27 to discuss the revisions. Staff will monitor to see if the Task Force's concerns are addressed.

VII. STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD INFORMAL STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that he attended the August 31 Water Board informal stakeholder workshop. CalRecycle has a goal to reduce organic waste by 50% by 2020. They intend to achieve the goal by promoting composting and streamlining the permitting of composting facilities. The State Water Resources Control Board proposes to utilize tiered water quality protection measures for permitting depending on the size and type of facility, waste type, and the potential impact to the state water. The purpose of the workshop was to get feedback from stakeholders and form a working group to draft a composting permitting process. There will be other workshops in September and October. Staff from Public Works will attend the workshops and update the Task Force on the progress.

VIII. AB 32 MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING MEASURE

Mr. Matt Suska reported that Mandatory Commercial Recycling regulations are in the formal rulemaking process as of September 3, and the comment period will open up October 19. Mr. Suska stated the Task Force previously sent comments on the regulations and recommended resubmitting those same comments because they have not been addressed. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to resubmit the Task Force's previous comments to CalRecycle and Ms. Betsey Landis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. THE CARPET RECYCLER'S FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND FACILITY: KEEPING CARPET OUT OF LANDFILLS, SAVING OIL, CREATING GREEN JOBS

Mr. Larry Fink, President of The Carpet Recycler's, gave a presentation with video ([see attached](#)) of their new carpet recycling facility and the benefits of carpet recycling including creating green jobs and the valuable products produced as a result.

X. REPORT FROM CALRECYCLE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin reported there will be a Rigid Plastic Packaging Containers workshop on October 5, 2011, and the tire enforcement grant will be available in October.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011, in Conference Room B.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Wayde Hunter thanked the Task Force and the Facility Plan Review subcommittee for agendizing Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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