

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

Minutes of July 18, 2013

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mitchell Englander, rep by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Gail Farber, rep by Pat Proano, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep by Cindy Chen, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep by Ed Pupka, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach Public Works Department
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Eugene Sun, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dawn Dawson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Steve Howe, Howe 2 Consulting
Walter McKinnsy, Clean Waste Technology
Tobie Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Krishna Nand, Environmental Management Professionals
John Ohanesian, Law Offices of John P. Ohanesian
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Seth Samuels, Student
Chris Sheppard, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clara

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:16 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2013, MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY PLAN & REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE (FPRS)

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the subcommittee received a memo, dated June 24, 2013, to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Interagency Task Force (ITF) from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency, which contains odor mitigation recommendations. Ms. Landis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer, that the Task Force send a letter to all agencies of the ITF requesting that they consider providing a copy of the June 24, 2013, memo to the City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (CAC), incorporate any recommendations by the CAC into the memo as appropriate, and expand the list of odor mitigation recommendations to include a discussion on a reduction in daily tonnage received by the Landfill in the event the ITF's recommended mitigation measures do not produce the desired outcome.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Ed Pupka stated SCAQMD has looked at the frequency, description, and intensity of the complaints received. The number of complaints were consistent with the previous year and has slightly decreased. Their field staff reported the odors are more fleeting and less intense; however, the season can affect the odor. Steps are in place to help mitigate the odors such as installation of gas wells and the replacement of a temporary flare with a permanent one. Mr. Pupka also stated the Interagency Task Force memo was based on input from various agencies responsible for evaluating operations at the Landfill.

Mr. Pat Proano commented that the efforts of the ITF and Republic have resulted in some improvements at the Landfill and they are working diligently to correct the problems. He expressed reservations about recommending a reduction to the tonnage accepted at the Landfill.

Ms. Landis added the subcommittee felt the actions that have been taken so far by the agencies aren't to the benefit of the Granada Hills community and that the CAC should review the Interagency memo with all the alternatives to see which alternative they prefer, including decreasing the daily tonnage as a final alternative.

Mr. Pupka pointed out that a motion was made and voted on at the CAC meeting to make a recommendation to the LEA Board of Directors to include timelines, milestones, and deliverables for the appropriate agencies and consider the reduction of tonnage as part of the report.

After further discussion, it was decided the Task Force letter be addressed to all agencies of the ITF and that consideration of tonnage reduction be scientifically based, taking seasonal fluctuations into account, as well as include milestones and deadlines for implementation. The motion was passed with abstentions from Ms. Cindy Chen and Mr. Pupka.

Ms. Landis also reported that the subcommittee concurred with staff that there is sufficient evidence to require the City of Whittier to submit a Finding of Conformance (FOC) application for Savage Canyon Landfill to the Task Force. Ms. Landis made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter to the City of Whittier requesting the City to submit the appropriate application for an FOC. Mr. Proano seconded the motion, and it passed with abstentions from Ms. Chen and Mr. Pupka.

IV. UPDATE ON SB 254

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported this is a mattress stewardship bill and the Task Force previously opposed unless amended for the following reasons: (1) cost of recovery and recycling fee to be internalized, (2) stewardship organization should have a local government representative, (3) recycling facilities that receive illegally disposed mattresses to be reimbursed by the stewardship organization, and (4) address the issue of mattresses contaminated with bedbugs. Senator Hancock's office stated internalizing the cost is not an option. However, stewardship organizations are willing to work with the Task Force in that area as well as Item 3, reimbursement for illegally disposed mattresses, but not Item 4, bedbugs contamination. There is a coalition being formed with the California Product Stewardship Council along with other agencies to submit comments to the author of the bill, but they have given up trying to internalize the cost of recovery. The stewardship language doesn't call for the local government representative to be a voting member, but Mr. Mohajer suggests all representatives should be voting members. He also suggests solid waste facilities should be participating members to get reimbursed and stated the bedbugs issue should be addressed. He recommends the Task Force's position should remain the same unless the bill is amended to include the recommended changes.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Chris Sheppard reported the legislature is currently on recess and will reconvene August 5. He also presented the [attached Legislative Summary](#) and recommended action on the legislative bills listed below.

AB 997 – This bill was substantially changed since the Task Force’s previous position and now deals with Local Enforcement Agencies (LEAs). Staff is requesting direction from the Task Force and suggested Ms. Cindy Chen of Public Health (as a representative of the County’s LEA) may have additional insight regarding the provisions of the bill. Ms. Chen stated the LEA supports the bill but is uncomfortable with the some language and the fee that is attached to it. Ms. Nicole Bernson stated that the bill isn’t much different from what already exists, but her concern is that it appears the items currently reimbursable by the state are not under this bill. After a brief discussion, Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to support, seconded by Mr. Pat Proano. The motion passed with opposition from Ms. Bernson and abstentions from Ms. Chen, Ms. Margaret Clark, Ms. Reina Pereira, Mr. Ed Pupka, and Mr. Chris Salomon.

AB 1001 – Staff stated the Task Force previously supported this bill, but it has since been watered down. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to change the Task Force position from support to watch. Mr. Proano seconded the motion, and it passed with abstentions from Ms. Chen and Mr. Pupka.

AB 1126 – The Task Force has taken an oppose position on this bill, which was recently amended without addressing the Task Force’s concerns while making certain provisions worse. Staff recommended the Task Force send a follow-up letter to oppose and also send a letter to local cities suggesting they take a position of oppose as well. Mr. Mohajer made the motion to send the letters suggested by staff, including a sample letter, to each jurisdiction in the County. The motion was seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis and passed with abstentions from Ms. Chen, Mr. Pupka, and Mr. Salomon.

VI. 2013 AB 32 SCOPING PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Tobie Mitchell provided the attached [presentation](#) on the 2013 AB 32 Scoping Plan Update, which is currently being developed by the California Air Resources Board in coordination with other state agencies representing the transportation, energy, water, waste, agriculture, and natural resources sectors. The Plan will include recent climate research, an update on the progress to meet the State’s 2020 goal, and additional measures for reaching a 2050 goal. The Task Force submitted stakeholder feedback on the original Scoping Plan in 2008.

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Nicole Bernson, to send a letter on the 2013 Update to the Lead State Agencies commenting on the nexus between the waste sector and the other sectors and recommending each sector consider the objectives of the other. The letter will include the Task Force's July 11, 2013, letter to CalRecycle regarding the Waste Sector Plan. The Waste Sector Plan will influence other sectors of the 2013 AB 32 Scoping Plan Update. The motion passed with abstentions from Ms. Cindy Chen, Mr. Ed Pupka and Mr. Chris Salomon.

A separate discussion ensued regarding the way the letters are written and what the Task Force priorities are. Mr. Mohajer indicated that a list of priorities for the Task Force was adopted in May 1999. The Task Force directed staff to review the priority list for potential updates and place it on a future agenda for discussion.

VII. MRF/MWPF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS: COMPARABLE TO SOURCE SEPARATION

Ms. Tobie Mitchell provided the attached [presentation](#) on the Workshops hosted by CalRecycle regarding their draft proposal for "Comparable to Source Separation" standard. This is the third set of workshops in CalRecycle's year-long process to establish additional regulations for Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in accordance with AB 341's Mandatory Commercial Recycling requirement. This proposal would create two numerical standards for Mixed Waste Processing Facilities (MWPFs) in order to meet the AB 341 requirement that MWPFs processing commercial waste must be "comparable to source separation." Following a brief discussion, Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Chris Salomon, to send a letter expressing concerns that the proposal disregarded recommendations by stakeholders, specifically by those who have real-world operating experience, in favor of a highly prescriptive dual numerical standard that has not been environmentally, operationally, or economically vetted. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. TASK FORCE HANDBOOK

As a result of Item 6 of the August 16, 2012, meeting where the roles and responsibilities of the Task Force were discussed, it was suggested an ad hoc committee be established to complete a handbook. Staff has prepared a working draft of the handbook and requested the committee be formed to review and finalize the handbook. Ms. Margaret Clark, Ms. Betsey Landis, Mr. Mike Mohajer, Mr. Sam Perdomo, and Mr. Pat Proano will serve on the committee along with staff. Meeting dates and times will be determined by the committee.

IX. CALRECYCLE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin reported the following:

- In regards to the MRF/MWPF Performance Standards, Ms. Wallin suggested to think of feasible ideas and present them to CalRecycle along with any comments. Ms. Wallin also mentioned they are looking to change the term "Dirty MRF" to "Mixed Waste Processing Facilities." Mr. Sam Perdomo commented the residuals from the applications are greater than 50% to 60% and suggested the installation of conversion technologies in facilities as a pilot, which would be a secondary process at a facility.
- Annual Reports are due August 1.
- Form 303 – The database will be online in August. There will be a users' webinar July 25.
- Webinars will be held July 23 and 24 regarding plastic packaging compliance.
- CalRecycle will be presenting at CRRRA August 11, 2013.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2013, in Conference Room C.

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

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