

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

Minutes of July 16, 2015

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
Sam Pedroza, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Gail Farber, rep by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Cynthia Harding, rep by Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Grace Robinson Hyde, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of
Los Angeles County
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of
Sanitation
Barry Wallerstein, rep by Ed Pupka, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Dr. Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Jim Kuhl, City of Long Beach Public Works Department
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
Cathy Warner, California League of California Cities
David Thornburg, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tranette Sanders, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jon Emelson, City of Redondo Beach
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Jason Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dale Sargent, City of Santa Clarita
Rob Sherman, Republic Services
Frank Chin, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m., by Ms. Margaret Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 18, 2015, MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the June 18, 2015, minutes, motion was passed with three abstentions (Mr. Ed Pupka, Mr. Gerardo Villalobos, and Mr. Chris Salomon).

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

The subcommittee did not meet; therefore, there was no reporting from the ATAS.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis gave her report from the Facility Plan & Review Subcommittee (FPRS). She reported that the Subcommittee discussed the odor complaints for Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) in the month of June, of which 41 complaints were called in. In comparison to the previous month, the number of complaints increased by 242 percent (from 12 to 41 complaints). Compared to June 2014, the number of complaints this June increased by 46 percent (from 28 to 41 complaints). Ms. Landis also reported that there were no Notices of Violation from the South Coast Air Quality Management District for the month of June. The FPRS also discussed the update on the proposal for the Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Project, which is being resubmitted to Public Works for further review. Ms. Landis also reported that County Counsel was also present and discussed the fact that the steps taken by the SCL-LEA might not be in compliance with the Sunshine Canyon Landfill CUP. The FPRS also discussed briefly the Finding of Conformance report for Lancaster Landfill.

V. GOVERNOR/CALRECYCLE POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR NEW SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FEES

Mr. Mike Mohajer discussed the Governor/CalRecycle potential legislative proposal for new solid waste management fees, AB 1063. Mr. Mohajer emphasized that this bill is very critical and will impact cities and counties.

The bill would substantially increase the State's solid waste disposal fee from \$1.40/ton to \$5.00/ton (an increase of approximately \$137 million per year),

effective January 2017. The bill would also create a solid waste generator charge on all generators of solid waste throughout the State, including all residences and businesses, effective January 2019 to be collected by cities and counties. The amount of the solid waste generator charge initially would be approximately \$15/year for each single family home and higher for multi-family residences and businesses. Mr. Mohajer added that this amount is expected to increase or be reduced in future years based on the operational needs of the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). Mr. Mohajer questioned CalRecycles' lack of transparency in the matter as affected stakeholders such as cities throughout Los Angeles County were not involved in the development of the proposal.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter opposing AB 1063, as amended July 15, 2015, and include a letter to cities expressing this concern. Mr. Sam Pedroza seconded the motion. The motion passed with three abstentions (Mr. Ed Pupka, Mr. Gerardo Villalobos, and Mr. Chris Salomon).

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Gabriel Arenas presented the legislative update (see attached table). Mr. Arenas informed the Task Force that the legislature would begin their Summer Recess on July 17 and will reconvene on August 17 at which point legislative committees will resume hearings. Staff will continue to monitor bills and will send letters to committees as bills that the Task Force has a position on move through the committee process.

VII. LA COUNTY PHARMACEUTICAL ORDINANCE/PROGRAM

Mr. Patrick Holland updated the Task Force on the proposed LA County Pharmaceutical Ordinance/Program. Mr. Holland reported that on June 2, 2015, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors approved a motion by Mayor Antonovich directing the Director of Public Works to coordinate with the Chief Executive Office, the Department of Public Health, Mental Health, Health Services, and Internal Services; the Sheriff Department; and the County Sanitation Districts to investigate the feasibility of adopting an ordinance similar to the take-back ordinances adopted by the Counties of Alameda, San Mateo, San Francisco, and Santa Clara and to investigate utilization of the County's purchasing power to negotiate producer/pharmacy take-back programs and report back in 30 days.

The motion also requested additional items to be included in the report that will be due in four months. Those were to investigate options on how to reduce the improper use and disposal of unused/expired medications, increasing public awareness and education and improving the current management system for

unused/expired medications in the County. It will also include a partnership with the pharmaceutical industry to develop a public awareness campaign to educate residents on the importance of how to properly store and dispose of unused medications and the negative effects to the environment when medication enters the waste stream and waterways.

Last, the report will include for the County to actively support and pursue extended producer responsibility legislation and take back programs for sharps and pharmaceuticals at the State level consistent with the County's adopted Legislative Agenda and Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future.

- The County Departments and the agencies formed a working group and prepared a report which the Director of Public Works signed and submitted to each Supervisor on July 2, 2015. The report covered the health, safety, environmental, and financial issues associated with not having a rigorous and sustainable take back program. Current programs that take sharps and pharmaceuticals include Sheriff Stations and HHW events administered by Public Works. These programs are not sustainable nor do they provide adequate or convenient disposal for the County residents. The report recommended the Board adopt a pharmaceutical and sharps waste extended producer responsibility ordinance in which pharmaceutical manufacturers and producers would develop and fund a take-back program providing collection services that are reasonably convenient and adequately meet the needs of the population being served. Mr. Holland stated, upon the Board's direction, the Working Group will prepare a draft ordinance and initiate stakeholder engagement to the pharmaceutical industry and other stakeholders to solicit their feedback.

In addition, Mr. Mohajer would like staff to provide an update on the LA County Pharmaceutical Ordinance/Program for the August Task Force meeting.

VIII. UPDATE ON MATTRESS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Frank Chin gave an update on the Mattress Stewardship Program. Mr. Chin reported that the California's mattress recycling program is less than six months away from starting. The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC), the mattress stewardship organization certified by CalRecycle to administer the program, had submitted the Mattress Recycling Plan to CalRecycle on July 1, 2015, for approval. MRC's Plan objectives and implementation strategy are focused on diverting discarded mattresses from landfill disposal, and instead delivering them to recyclers that will dismantle them so that the steel, foam, fiber and fabric, wood and other materials recovered from that process can be used to manufacture new products.

The plan calls for a mattress recycling charge of \$11 for each piece of mattress sold in California. In comparison, the State of Connecticut has a mattress recycling charge of \$9 per mattress piece. Roughly 85.5% of the fees will pay for mattress collection: mattress collection (10.2%), transport and recycling (72.8%), and CalRecycle direct cost reimbursements (2.5%). The remaining 14.5% will pay for education and outreach, research and development, and administrative costs.

The solid waste facilities will be reimbursed for costs related to the handling of the mattress to place it into a trailer provided by the MRC. The facility would save on labor and transportation costs of taking the mattresses normally to a landfill and on the disposal fees that ranges from \$15 to \$18 a mattress piece. The mattress will be taken to one of 11 expected MRC-contracted recycling centers to be taken apart and the recyclable materials such as foam, steel, and wood are sold in the open market to be reused for items such as carpet padding, wood pallets, and other products. Four of the 11 mattress recyclers are located in Los Angeles County.

Mr. Chin added that a component of the proposed mattress recycling program is to incentivize residents to take their own mattress or even collect mattresses and bringing them to a MRC-designated location and get paid \$3 per piece. Up to five pieces of mattresses per load would be paid for. By providing this incentive, MRC hopes to reduce illegal dumping and lower governmental cost in the collection of illegal dumping. The limit of five mattresses helps reduce fraud from out-of-state mattresses making it into the California mattress recycling program.

Governmental agencies responsible for collecting illegally dumped mattresses within their jurisdictions will also be able to get some reimbursements back for their costs. The MRC set aside \$750,000 to fund this portion of the program for next year. Agencies would need to document the number of illegally dumped mattresses collected and send the necessary information and application back to the MRC. Payout for each piece of mattress will be the based on the \$750,000 divided by the total number of mattress reported in the state.

When the program starts, residents will be able to drop off their mattress at participating solid waste facilities at no cost. MRC will be advertising their website through an education and outreach effort. The website will offer a convenient location finder feature to assist them in locating the nearest facilities.

IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

No updates from CalRecycle.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pedroza would like to add an item on the August Task Force meeting on the collection of expired Marine Flares.

Ms. Landis would like to add a presentation for the August Task Force regarding the composting operations biosecurity problems. Ms. Landis handed out material to the Task Force members regarding this subject and expressed her concern on this matter.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2015, in Conference Room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

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