

ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Minutes of January 21, 2005

Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Station
111 South Del Norte Blvd.
Oxnard, CA 93030

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Michael Theroux, Theroux Environmental Consulting
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Fernando Berton, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Chris Mastro, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services
John McTaggart, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Ed Wheless, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles for Councilman Greig Smith
Bill Corrao, Republic Services, Inc.
Jay Duncan, City of Oxnard-Recycling Manager
Grant Dunne, City of Oxnard-Solid Waste Division
Shapoor Hamid, URS Corporation
Gerard Kapuscik, County of Ventura, EPD
Dan Predpall, URS Corporation
Greg Shifley, Bioenergy Association
Don A. Smith, City of Oxnard-Solid Waste Manager
Gabrielle Weeks, Prometheus Fund

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. CONTRACTOR UPDATE

Mr. Shapoor Hamid from URS Corporation provided the committee with an update covering the company's activities for December 2004.

III. DISCUSSION OF CONTRACTOR DELIVERABLES

Mr. Hamid addressed the following deliverables (handout)

1. Draft ranking criteria for evaluation of conversion technology and conversion technology suppliers/vendors
2. Draft Public Outreach Plan
3. Questionnaire to the technology suppliers was sent on Thursday January 13, 2005. Responses are due Monday February 14, 2005.

According to Mr. Hamid, ranking criteria for item 1 was submitted to the County after the technology ranking criteria had been discussed, and item 2 is awaiting comments from vendors in order to finalize the Draft Public Outreach Plan. For item 3, Mr. Hamid stated a questionnaire to suppliers was mailed on January 13, 2005; this was followed by telephone calls to technology suppliers who were given 30 days to respond; URS will be evaluating replies. Mr. Hamid expressed the next step for URS is to facilitate the Subcommittee evaluation of MRF facilities. Mr. Hamid stated facilities' ranking criteria will be submitted to the County following the MRF visits and be finalized thereafter. Technology suppliers' ranking will be done after responses are received and evaluated.

Mr. Mohajer and Dr. Martin raised a concern regarding the five ton per day minimum stipulated in the questionnaire. Mr. Mohajer and Dr. Martin noted many promising technologies would be eliminated because of the stringent five ton per day requirement.

Mr. Skye commented that the determining criteria had been developed over a span of a several months, and the Subcommittee agreed five tons was an appropriate cutoff for the questionnaire. Both he and Mr. Alva suggested an additional questionnaire be sent to companies that would otherwise be disqualified because of the lack of ability to process tonnage.

Mr. Mohajer introduced a motion requesting a clarification letter be sent inviting all proposals. Mr. Alva commented that the clarification letter should be sent to those companies that haven't responded to the questionnaire, explaining the Subcommittee would still like their information to be submitted, and wanted facilities that didn't receive the survey to also respond. It was decided that URS would send a letter to those companies either disqualified by the five ton per day requirement, or recommended by Subcommittee members by Tuesday, January 25, 2005. New facilities originally not receiving the questionnaire were given a two week extension. URS requested that the documents regarding the public outreach plan and ranking criteria be finalized by the end of January 2005.

Mr. Theroux suggested the County develop a website for Task Force members to be used as a coordinating tool to check Task Force schedules, recent documents, meeting locations, etc. Mr. Alva agreed and informed the Subcommittee that the County would provide an update to the Subcommittee at the next Subcommittee meeting.

IV. WASTE BOARD CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE UPDATE

Mr. Alva mentioned the task force will send out a letter stipulating support of the January 10, 2005 Task Force staff letter to the Waste Board regarding the draft report to the legislature on conversion technology, however, it would contain three amendments..

Mr. Wheless noted the lifecycle and impact study of the legislative report contained many errors. He said two of the biggest errors of the report were 1) it compares things that are not done in California with conversion technology and 2) the report did not project how conversion technologies in the future compare with existing practices. He also stated any additional comments on the report are due to the Waste Board by February 15th, 2005.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Open discussion ensued in which Mr. Mohajer gave a brief dialogue about Paul Relis, an active member in the environmental community who is promoting alternative technology, and is providing data about conversion technology facilities in Europe.

VI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 17, 2005 at 10 a.m., unless a MRF facility tour is scheduled on a Friday.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

VIII. DEL NORTE FACILITY TOUR

Mr. Kapuscik of the County of Ventura, provided a PowerPoint presentation on Ventura County's waste facilities and current methods of waste disposal. The presentation was followed by a guided tour of the Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Facility.