

Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Minutes of January 15, 2009 Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

John McTaggart, General Public Representative
Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Carol Ly, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carl Pederson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2008

A motion to approve the Minutes of the December 18, 2008, meeting was unanimously approved.

III. COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT CHAPTER 9 REVISIONS

Mr. Russell Bukoff made a power point presentation on the third draft revisions to Chapter 9 of the Countywide Siting Element (CSE).

In the third draft revisions, staff expanded and updated the definitions; added Table 9-7 (“Summary of Out-of-County Class III Landfills Currently Available for Los Angeles County Solid Waste Export”), formerly Table 4-21; developed remaining tables, maps, fact sheets, and figures; extensively reformatted all tables, figures, and maps; and updated information and data in text, tables, figures, and maps, based on the additional landfill survey results.

Also, the Chapter 9 write-up was modified to clearly emphasize the use of conversion technology and other in-County options to address disposal capacity shortfall before using the out-of-County disposal option. Also, more emphasis was placed on waste-by-truck.

In addition, Table 9-8 of Chapter 9 (“List of Permitted Solid Waste Transfer/Processing Facilities in Los Angeles County”) was revised, and the list of facilities was re-categorized into Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs), Transfer Stations (TS), Construction, Demolition and Inert Debris (CDI) Processing Facilities, and other facilities.

Mr. Bukoff summarized the Findings of the out-of-County disposal option as follows, based on the information collected and available so far:

- Based on Table 4-19 of Chapter 4 (“Summary of the Export Need for the Various Disposal Capacity Need Analysis Scenarios”), export need is approximately 44,326 tons per day (tpd) in the worst-case scenario (and without including Sunshine Canyon Landfill as an existing combined landfill).
- Based on Table 9-8 of Chapter 9 (“List of Permitted Solid Waste Transfer/Processing Facilities in Los Angeles County”), the total average daily throughput for MRFs, TS, and CDI Processing Facilities located in Los Angeles County is approximately 29,000 tpd; whereas the total maximum permitted daily intake capacity is 71,253 tpd.
- Based on Table 9-1 of Chapter 9 (“Summary of Existing and Proposed New Out-of-County Class III Landfills Located in California Potentially Available for Out-of-County Disposal”), the total average daily throughput for out-of-County class III landfills located within California is greater than 70,000 tpd; whereas the total maximum permitted daily intake capacity is greater than 161,000 tpd.
- Based on Table 9-1 of Chapter 9, the total average daily throughput for landfills located out-of-County, but within 200 miles from Los Angeles County, is greater than 55,000 tpd; whereas the total maximum permitted daily intake capacity is greater than 107,000 tpd.
- Based on Table 9-2 of Chapter 9 (“Summary of Existing and Proposed New Out-of-County Class III Landfills Located Outside California Potentially Available for Out-of-County Disposal”), the total average daily throughput of the out-of-State Subtitle D-equivalent landfills is greater than 32,000 tpd; whereas the maximum permitted daily intake capacity is unlimited.

Based on these findings, Mr. Bukoff concluded that (1) the combined maximum permitted throughput of the MRFs, TS, and CDI Processing Facilities in Los Angeles County is adequate to handle the projected Los Angeles County solid waste export during the planning period, and (2) there is adequate out-of-County class III (and Subtitle D-equivalent) landfill disposal capacity potentially available to handle the projected amount of export.

Mr. Bukoff noted that in light of the dynamic nature of solid waste management data and information, Chapter 9 revisions will continue to be updated as new information become available. Staff will resubmit the final draft of Chapter 9 to the Subcommittee along with the rest of the revised CSE, upon completion of the entire CSE draft revisions.

The Subcommittee discussed the Chapter 9 third draft revisions and provided staff with comments and further instructions, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Continue to focus Chapter 9 discussion on the issue of establishing adequate out-of-County disposal capacity to handle the export need and to remove portions of the revisions that are better addressed in other chapters of the CSE (such as Chapter 4) or other planning documents (such as the Non Disposal Facility Element).
- Revise and simplify the definitions for MRF, TS, CDI Processing Facilities, solid waste station, transfer/processing facility, and transfer or processing station.
- Research environmental and regulatory issues associated with waste-by-rail projects, based on similar projects in other jurisdictions, such as the State of New Jersey.
- Work with County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (CSD) to provide the Subcommittee with a status update on the CSD's waste-by-rail project, including how environmental issues associated with the project were handled in the project's environmental impact report.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

To be announced at a later date.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.