

MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2006
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste
Management Task Force

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, Integrated Waste Management Task Force; Glenn Acosta, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County; Laura Cronin, City of Santa Monica; and Ben Lucha, City of Santa Clarita

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Cynthia Vant Hul, Waste Management; Kenneth Murray, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services; and Carolyn Meredith, City of Pasadena

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ken Pellman, Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works; Andrew Perry, City of Artesia; Grace Huizar, City of Redondo Beach; Joe Maturino, City of Los Angeles; Angela Williams, City of Inglewood; and Josh Rosenbaum, City of Signal Hill

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:06 a.m. by the Chair, Mike Mohajer. Mohajer asked for introductions, and explained how to join the subcommittee by sending a letter.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 17, 2005, and February 22, 2006 were approved.

III. NEWSLETTER ARTICLES, See Attachments

City of Santa Clarita – The article is on the “We Recycle” Campaign. The article was approved as written with a comment to change “Staff decided” to “the City decided”.

City of Los Angeles – The article is about a pilot multifamily recycling program in apartment buildings and condominiums. A number of revisions were suggested and Ken Pellman will discuss with the City for finalization.

County of Los Angeles – The article is about Public Works’ Smart Gardening Program. It was suggested that the article should be expanded to provide information on how to obtain a copy of the video.

City of Burbank – The Burbank Recycle Center was honored twice recently. It was noted that the article needs a more descriptive title as well as clarification of the program results. Staff will finalize with the City.

City of Signal Hill – This article is on turning construction debris into new construction material. Minor changes and additions were needed.

Mike Mohajer requested DPW staff prepare additional articles covering the areas listed below for publication in an upcoming Newsletter:

- Legislative Update
- Other items recently considered by the Task Force

IV. TASK FORCE MEETING DEBRIEFING, Mike Mohajer

At the last Task Force meeting, the Task Force heard more about conversion technologies and AB 2118. The bill deals with the definition of “conversion technology” in State law.

There was a presentation by an operator of conversion technology in Tel Aviv, Israel that processes 400 tons of solid waste per day.

There was a California Energy Commission report supportive of conversion technology that was discussed. The report was used by the Governor in an April directive.

Cronin asked for elaboration.

Mohajer went on to say the Governor used the recommendation to support conversion technologies for alternative fuels like ethanol, and providing diversion credit. He did this in Executive Order S0606.

The Task Force was provided with an overview of the County annual reports to the California Integrated Waste Management Board on the Countywide Siting Element and Countywide Summary Plan. When the Puente Hills Landfill closes in 2013, we'll need to transport 17,000 tons of waste out of the County. The County is revising the Countywide Siting Element. Elsmere & Blind Canyon will be taken out and no longer identified as potential landfill locations. The County Department of Public Works under the auspices of the Task Force began preparation of the revisions to the Siting Element over a year ago. It's a long process that will take about another year. The draft revised Siting Element will also identify areas in the County and cities that may be potentially found suitable for location of conversion technology facilities. All cities will be involved in the process.

Staff from the State Department of Toxic Substances Control's Sacramento Office provided the Task Force with new changes to the State's universal waste regulations which took effect in February of this year.

There was a presentation of the Earth Day program by County Public Works as it relates to solid waste and stormwater.

As always, there were discussions of legislation. The Task Force website has information about legislation and letters regarding legislation.

In re to development of regulations for AB 1497 (2002) the Waste Board is required to define what changes in a solid waste facility design/operation would necessitate a change in the facility's Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP). Currently, when a SWFP is issued, its conditions are consistent with those of the Land Use Permit, eg, daily tonnages, operating hours, etc. The proposed draft regulations would switch this consistency requirement to be based solely on consistency with the CEQA Document. The Task Force has a major concern with the proposal in that it would preempt local jurisdictions land use decision. The Task Force has advised all cities and forward a letter to the Waste Board as to the concern.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

VI. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. or 10 a.m. in Conference Room B.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Attachments