

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 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, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County; Laura Cronin, City of Santa Monica; and Michael Burk, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ben Lucha, City of Santa Clarita and Cynthia Vant Hul, Waste Management.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Vanessa A. Olivas and Natalia Jimenez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works and Joshua Rosenbaum, City of Signal Hill.

I CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:15 a.m. by the Chair, Mike Mohajer.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of August 17, 2006 were approved.

III. NEWSLETTER ARTICLES, See Attachments

County of Los Angeles – The article, *Spring Smart Gardening Workshops*, on gardening workshops offered by L.A. County Department of Public Works was approved with minor edits. Mike Mohajer suggested that “offered by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works” be included in the heading.

County of Los Angeles – The article, *L.A. County Department of Public Works Environmental Defenders – Rock the Planet Tour*, on teaching elementary age children about recycling was reviewed and approved with edits. Specifically, Mike Mohajer suggested that “and electronic waste” be added to the last sentence of the second paragraph; the second sentence, “We recently added one-on-one technical assistance” be replaced by “The program also provides one-on-one technical assistance,” and lastly, that “242,950” in the last paragraph be rounded to “242,000.”

County of Los Angeles – The article, *First Franchise Waste Collection System is Implemented in Unincorporated Area of La Crescenta*, on the new franchise solid waste collection system was reviewed and discussed. It was suggested that the first paragraph explain what a franchise is for lay person. It was also suggested that the word, Montrose, be included in the heading and that a contact person be added in the article. Lastly, “our” in the last sentence should be deleted and the photograph provided of the trash bins should not be used in the newsletter.

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

- Sunshine Canyon Landfill
- Waste Board Permit Implementation Regulations
- ASCE Report Card
- Update on County Conversion Technologies
- An Overview of the Southern California Waste Management Forum Conference, which was held on November 9, 2006
- Article on Pat Wiggins’, the current Waste Board Member, which has been elected to the State Senate, position on conversion technologies (Mr. Acosta volunteered to prepare the article)

IV. TASK FORCE MEETING DEBRIEFING, Mike Mohajer

Conversion Technology has been discussed on a regular basis during the past three meetings. Specifically, updates on the County’s efforts to promote development of a conversion technology pilot facility in Southern California. The County as well as the Task Force is working on selecting a conversion technology vendor to develop a pilot facility at a Materials Recovery Facility (MERF). The sites being considered are in Oxnard, Riverside, Parris, and Sun Valley.

Solid waste facility permits were also discussed. Currently, a solid waste facility owner/operator is required to obtain a land use permit from the host jurisdiction prior to issuance of a solid Waste Facility Permit by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). However, the Waste Board is considering a new set of regulations that, among other things, would remove this requirement. The Task Force has opposed the proposal, nonetheless, the Waste Board is moving forward to adopt their proposal. Upon the Waste Board approval, the proposal will then be submitted to the State Office of Administrative Law (OAL). Once it receives approval by the OAL, it will become final and the new regulations will be enforced.

Discussion of legislation AB2449 and AB32.

- AB2449 would require grocery stores of more than 10,000 square feet in size to provide containers at their stores for constituents to return their plastic grocery bags. The Task Force supported this legislation, however, the bill was amended, which included a provision which tied local government hands from mandating anything more restrictive. As a result, the Task Force opposed the bill and consequently prepared and forwarded a letter to the Governor asking him to veto the bill. Regrettably, the Governor proceeded to sign the bill. The bill will go into effect January 1, 2007.
- AB32 requires the solid waste industry to comply with certain requirements to reduce greenhouse gas such as methane and CO2. Governor, Schwarzenegger has adopted the policy to reduce greenhouse gas by 20%.

Construction Demolition facilities in the City of Los Angeles were discussed. The Task Force concurred with modifications to the City of Los Angeles Non-Disposal Facility Element to allow permitting of two new construction demolition facilities.

Both the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works gave a presentation on their Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste programs.

Lastly, the Waste Board is considering new regulations for the monitoring of landfill gas migration for operating landfills. The Waste Board would like to make this requirement consistent with the current requirements for closed landfills. The proposed regulations would also require that the landfill operator inform the LEA as well as the local fire department when there is a landfill gas migration. The Task Force has forwarded a letter to the Waste Board suggesting that in such a situation, local building officials also be informed.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 15, 2007, at 9 a.m. in the 9th Floor Conference Room.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

Attachments