

February 18, 2010 MINUTES  
**PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste  
Management Task Force

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
9 a.m. Conference Room C  
Alambra, California

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mike Mohajer (Chair), Integrated Waste Management Task Force; Nicholas Morell, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County; Ray Hamada, City of Irwindale; Angela Williams, City of Inglewood; Jose Reynoso, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services (Solid Waste Management Program); Laura Cronin, City of Santa Monica; and Cynthia Van Hul, GHG Climate Team.

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Mario Rivas, City of Huntington Park.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Vanessa A. Lopez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 9:06 a.m. by the Chair.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 19, 2009, were approved.

III. NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

**City of Calabasas** – The article, *Benefits of Food Waste Recycling*, was approved with changes.

**City of Santa Monica** – The article, *Christmas Tree Collection Deemed a Success*, was reviewed and approved with edits.

**County of Los Angeles** – The article, *County Agencies Collaborate to Enhance NAT Program*, was approved with edits.

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

- Update on Station Fire, if any.

- Brief Summary of Presentation given by UC Riverside on Thermo Conversion Technology.
- Update on Conversion Technology, if any.
- Draft EIR re: adopting ordinance to ban carryout bags.
- County efforts on expanding the Sharp Management Program to include pharmaceuticals.
- Draft Countywide Siting Element.
- Christmas trees received, processed, and recycled by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts for 2009 Holiday Season.
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Conference summary.

#### IV. TASK FORCE MEETING DEBRIEFING, Mike Mohajer

The Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) met on November 19, 2009, December 17, 2009, and January 21, 2010. The following is a brief summary of some of the issues discussed/addressed by the Task Force:

- City of Signal Hill Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) – The Task Force reviewed an amendment from the City of Signal Hill for construction of a new MRF. Comments to the City as well as the Waste Board were submitted. One of the comments submitted by the Task Force had to do with protection of the structures from existent gas/oil wells on the property. Although not in the Waste Board's jurisdiction, it should be addressed as a safety hazard.
- San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) – The Task Force evaluated policy proposed by SGVCOG addressing green waste management in anticipation of the 2013 Puente Hills Landfill closure as well as policies that the former Waste Board adopted in reference to organic waste management. Comments about the draft were submitted to SGVCOG.
- Mr. John McTaggart - The meeting on November 19, 2009 was closed in honor of Mr. John McTaggart, who passed away earlier that month. Mr. McTaggart served as a member of the Task Force, as well as its Alternative Technology, and was a former member of the County Sanitation Districts Board of Directors. He also served as Mayor and Councilmember for the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.
- Conversion Technology – The University of California at Riverside provided the Task Force with a presentation about thermal conversion technology worldwide. Their findings substantiate that in general these technologies would be capable of developing successfully in Southern California.

- **Waste-By-Rail System** – An update was provided on the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County's (Sanitation Districts) waste-by-rail system. The Puente Hills landfill Conditional use permit (CUP) requires that the Sanitation Districts achieve certain goals, such as, developing Mesquite Regional Landfill and have an intermodal rail facility operational by December 31, 2009. The CUP states that if that deadline is not met then the allowable daily tonnages will drop and will continue to drop through the year 2013 or until the requirements are met. The Sanitation Districts submitted a report addressing their progress and problems with Union Pacific thus far. The Task Force's recommendation to the County was to delay implementation of the reduction of disposal rate at Puente Hills which was due to start on January 1, 2010 due to lack of intermodal facility operation on that date for one year and review the progress on an annual basis. It was also recommended that the Sanitation Districts, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, and Task Force work with impacted Cities in reference to alternative daily cover using green waste.
- **Mandatory Commercial Recycling Program** – The Task Force continues to oppose the implementation of a mandatory commercial recycling program due to lack of a life cycle analysis by the Air Resources Board and CalRecycle substantiating that it results in a positive impact on green house gas emissions. In addition, the program also includes multi-residential recycling program. A legislative proposal mandating multi-residential programs was vetoed by the Governor again last October. Another issue was whether or not CalRecycle has the authority to enforce the requirement of AB 32.
- **Sunshine Canyon Landfill** – Subsequent to a complaint received regarding Sunshine Canyon Landfill's (SCL) revegetation and landscaping, a presentation was provided on the landfill operator's (BFI) performance in landscaping activities. The presentation did not clearly substantiate that BFI, the landfill operator, is doing an adequate job. The issue will be further addressed by the Task Force.
- **Countywide Summary Plan** – Distinct from the Countywide Siting Element, the Summary Plan looks at all Los Angeles County 89 jurisdictions' source reduction recycling elements, household hazardous waste elements, and non-disposal facility elements, and summarizes and identifies issues of importance to this region. The Task reviewed submitted documents but they will not be finalized until April's Task Force meeting.
- **Tipping Fee Increase** – The tipping fee, a portion of which goes to fund the Household Hazardous Waste Program, increased to \$1.50 effective January 2009.

- Update on Pharmaceutical and Sharps Management – Public Works provided a presentation on the Los Angeles County Sharps Management Program. The Task Force voted to send a letter to the County Board of Supervisors expressing the Task Force's recommendation that the Departments of Health Services and Public Health study the possibility of using the County's purchasing power to have pharmaceutical industry/suppliers doing business with the County assist with the Program.
- California's Bottle Bill –The Governor's 2010-2011 proposed budget gives CalRecycle the authority to cut grant money that Cities and Counties receive from the California Redemption Value (CRV) based on per capita basis. Under the existing system, the City of Los Angeles receives about 1.5 Million and the County of Los Angeles was receiving \$300,000. As proposed, jurisdictions may not receive any money since the State does not have the financial resources to repay the money they borrowed from the CRV in 2010. that should have been reimbursed this year. However, the proposal postpones repayment for another three years to 2014. The Task Force is opposed to the Governor's proposal as submitted in his budget to the Legislature. A letter of opposition to the Governor regarding the proposed changes was sent.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled on May 27, 2010, at Public Works Headquarters.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.