

Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**Minutes of August 18, 2005**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Michael Miller, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Margaret Clark, rep. by John McTaggart, League of CA Cities—Los Angeles Division  
Thomas Garthwaite, rep. by Ken Murray, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services  
Rita Robinson, rep. by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Jim Stahl, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Don Wolfe, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Ben Wong, rep. by Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee  
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles  
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Priscilla Barbero, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Grace Chan, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
George De La O, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Alex Farassati, City of Calabasas  
Daniel Hackney, City of Los Angeles  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition  
Virginia Jauregui, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Ben Lucha, City of Santa Clarita  
Kay Martin, Bio Energy Producers Association  
Carolyn Meredith, City of Pasadena  
Rasy Moqheet, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Phil Morales, California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Steven L. Samaniego, City of West Covina  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kim Thompson, North Valley Coalition

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 21, 2005**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of July 21, 2005. The motion passed, with one abstention.

**III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that a number of articles were discussed for the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. Among these were articles for the County of Los Angeles Used Oil Collection Center in Marina Del Rey, the City of Los Angeles Food Waste Recycling Program, Los Angeles Regional Agency's Award Program, and the County Sanitation Districts' Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility. The Subcommittee is planning to have some future articles on the Conversion Technology Report (described below), legislative updates as well as the Waste Board's efforts to improve Assembly Bill 939's diversion compliance system.

**IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Paul Alva stated the Subcommittee discussed the addition of an acknowledgements page to the Draft Conversion Technology Evaluation Report, and a few minor sentence modifications. He stated the Subcommittee continued its discussion on how to proceed with phase two, the development of a demonstration conversion technology facility. The Subcommittee is considering two initial draft scopes of work for two contracts. One contract would assist in public education outreach efforts and the other would further develop a demonstration conversion technology facility (further discussion on this issue in Item V). The Subcommittee hopes to have the contracts out for bid in early 2006.

A brief discussion ensued regarding interest expressed by Waste Board members in attending a Task Force meeting, or a special briefing for Waste Board members in September. A workshop for stakeholders is being planned by the Subcommittee.

Mr. Mohajer added that the Subcommittee made a motion regarding a Los Angeles Times article. The article was on the City of Los Angeles' Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's plan to use renewable resources for 20 percent of the City's energy. He stated the article did not mention whether bioenergy was included as one of the renewable resources to be considered. Mr. Mohajer

stated that the motion called for a letter to be drafted and sent to the Mayor to ask for clarification of which renewable resources he planned to use to ensure biomass was included.

Mr. Daniel Hackney, Mayor Villaraigosa's Senior Environmental Policy Analyst, commented that the Mayor plans to develop a conversion technology facility by the year 2010. Mr. Hackney also stated that he would bring Ms. Keisha Washington, the Mayor's main Energy representative working with the Department of Water and Power to next month's Task Force meeting to address questions from the Task Force regarding the Mayor's plan.

The Task Force then passed a motion to postpone the letter the Subcommittee had previously voted to send to the Mayor.

#### **V. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT FINAL CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION REPORT**

Mr. Coby Skye presented the Draft Final Conversion Technology Evaluation Report and thanked the Mayor's Office for sending a representative to the meeting. Mr. Skye began with an overview of conversion technologies. He stated that conversion technologies include an array of technologies capable of converting post-recycling residual waste into useful products, chemicals, renewable fuels, and clean energy. Conversion technologies include thermal, biological, and chemical processes. Studies show that conversion technologies can recover materials that are not feasibly recycled.

Mr. Skye stated the County of Los Angeles and Task Force have been long time supporters of innovative alternatives to disposal. They have adopted comprehensive recommendations to reduce disposal, supported legislation required funding for conversion technologies from Conditional Use Permits for landfills, and formed the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (whose purpose is to evaluate and promote the development of conversion technologies).

One of the first tasks of the Subcommittee was to create a plan for the development of a demonstration conversion technology facility in Southern California. Mr. Skye added development of a facility would benefit from co-location with an existing materials recovery facility (MRF). The benefits include direct access to feedstock, pre-processing capacity, transportation, zoning, and land availability.

The Evaluation Report identified six area MRFs interested and capable of partnering in the development of a conversion technology facility. The Report also identified four thermal conversion technologies, and two emerging technology suppliers suitable for further consideration.

Mr. Skye also discussed five conclusions which support the development of a demonstration conversion technology facility in Southern California:

1. Utilizing conversion technologies will increase diversion and enhance solid waste management and recycling programs.
2. Each evaluated technology appears feasible for processing MRF solid waste residue.
3. Available data suggests that conversion facilities can operate within the regulatory framework of Southern California.
4. Conversion technologies have been successfully operated around the world and the technical challenges are manageable.
5. On a commercial scale, these technologies can compete economically with other solid waste management options.

If the Task Force adopts the Report, the next phase of the process will be to implement the public outreach plan and to facilitate the development of a demonstration conversion technology facility. Evaluation of new technologies will also continue.

Mr. Skye reiterated there were minor changes to the Report and asked for adoption of the Report. A discussion ensued on several issues such as cost, financing options, proposals, mandates, feasibility, commercial viability, and diversion rates.

To clarify some comments, Mr. John McTaggart asked that a passage from a County Sanitation Districts letter dated August 15, 2005, be read into the record. The excerpt stated, "With those criteria in mind, we look forward to working with the Subcommittee on the second phase of the study which is proposed to consist of a detailed technical and financial assessment of the recommended conversion technologies, including as noted in the Report, independent confirmation of data supplied by the technology vendors. This will ensure that consideration of conversion technologies, as part of the Los Angeles County's integrated waste management system, is based upon sound science and economics."

After some discussion, the Task Force voted to adopt the Report, along with the changes previously voted on by the Subcommittee.

## **VI. CIWMB'S CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY REGULATION UPDATE**

Mr. Skye provided an update on conversion technology regulations. He stated that current State regulations are problematic as far as conversion

technology is concerned and as a result, the Waste Board has decided to put the regulatory process on hold. This is viewed as a positive result, since it would prompt State legislators to adopt changes to existing statutes.

#### **VII. CIWMB's ALTERNATIVE AB 939 DIVERSION COMPLIANCE SYSTEM**

Mr. Alva stated the Waste Board's Southern California meeting regarding the Diversion Compliance System would be held on August 31, 2005, at the Long Beach Energy Building. He also stated the Waste Board would be accepting comments. Staff will attend the meeting and provide an update and recommendations at the next Task Force meeting.

#### **VIII. DISCUSSION / ACTION ON AB 1666 AND S 1607**

Mr. Mohajer discussed Assembly Bill 1666 (attached). He stated that AB 1666 provides Army National Guard personnel on active duty, with a deferment of quarterly garbage disposal fees, until they return from active duty. It also requires universities to re-enroll returning active duty soldiers in college courses upon their return. After a brief discussion, AB 1666 was deemed to be beyond the purview of the Task Force.

Mr. Mohajer also discussed U.S. Senate Bill 1607 (attached), a newly introduced Bill which will change existing Federal law that allows railroad companies to operate a solid waste facility within their property without regulation by State or local agencies. S 1607 would require these companies to comply with State and local regulations. There was a companion Bill introduced in the House of Representatives, HR 3577 (attached). These Bills will be brought before the Task Force for consideration at the next Task Force meeting.

#### **IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Skye stated there was no activity to report that required consideration by the Task Force. He asked for clarification on legislative updates, and wanted to know if staff would be required to provide Federal legislative updates. Mr. Michael Miller stated that on this occasion staff is being requested to provide an update only on Bills S 1607 and HR 3577.

Mr. Mohajer commented on Assembly Bill 1351 (attached). This Bill introduces language that specifies under what conditions bills may be adopted. Specifically, it addresses the issue of underground regulations. It includes requirements for a response from the Office of Administrative Law within 30 days. The Bill also specifies the conditions under which a State agency may adopt emergency regulations and defines the procedure the agency must go through.

A motion was made to place Assembly Bill 1351 on this agenda to allow the Task Force to take action on the Bill. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made to send a letter of support for Assembly Bill 1351. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB**

Mr. Phil Moralez urged Task Force members to attend the August 31, 2005, CIWMB's Alternative AB 939 Diversion Compliance System meeting to be held in Long Beach. Mr. Mohajer inquired about a letter regarding conversion technology and the Siting Element sent to the Waste Board several months ago. Mr. Moralez stated he would obtain a response.

**XI. TASK FORCE COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES**

Mr. George De La O presented the Communication and Operating Procedures for Task Force review. The Task Force made comments and requested additional changes. The Communication and Operating Procedures, will be revised accordingly and presented to the Task Force at next month's meeting.

**XII. COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT REVISION UPDATE**

Update on the Countywide Siting Element revision was postponed. Ms. Betsy Landis requested she receive any drafts ahead of the meeting date in order to have sufficient time for review.

**XIII. NEXT TASK FORCE MEETING DATE**

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2005.

**XIV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.