

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

Minutes of February 17, 2005

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Ben Wong, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

City of Los Angeles Appointee, represented by Rafael Prieto
Thomas Garthwaite, rep. by Pete Oda, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
General Public Representative, represented by Mike Mohajer
Jim Stahl, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Don Wolfe, rep. by Shari Afshari, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christopher J. Garner, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Rita Robinson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Travis Lange, City of Santa Clarita
John McTaggart, Task Force Alternate
Lara Orchanian, City of La Habra Heights
Joshua Rosenbaum, City of Signal Hill
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Damian Skinner, City of Culver City
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Alan Thompson, Southern California Association of Governments
Angela Williams, City of Inglewood

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2005

A motion was made to approve the minutes of January 20, 2005, subject to the following correction to Section X. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Mike Mohajer commented on the method used by the Waste Board to measure waste tonnages processed by biomass facilities and to calculate the diversion credit given to these facilities. He stated that although waste currently processed by biomass facilities is given ten percent diversion credit, the Waste Board had expressed its intention to calculate diversion credit according to the "dry bone" weight, which excludes the weight that moisture adds to waste tonnage amounts, and consequently decreases the diversion credit given. Mr. Mohajer requested that the Waste Board address this issue and provide written clarification on the policy used by the Waste Board to measure a biomass facility's diversion credit.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mohajer provided a summary of the Public Education and Information Subcommittee meeting. He stated an article submitted by the Los Angeles Regional Agency regarding the City of Hermosa Beach would be modified to discuss the agency's accomplishments during the past year and list its upcoming workshops. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that articles regarding the Los Angeles Environmental Education Fair and the City of Pasadena's Open House for Educators would also be placed in the April issue of Inside Solid Waste.

Mr. Mohajer stated the Subcommittee also had plans to include articles on Antelope Valley Pride Week, upcoming Earth Day activities, the County's construction and demolition debris ordinance, Waste Board's draft conversion technologies report, AB 939 compliance measurement, State Disposal Reporting System regulations, and a notice regarding the Waste Board's Bio-Recycle fair in the newsletter's next issue.

Due to space limitations, Mr. Mohajer stated that an article provided by Mr. Michael Huls regarding his trip to the World Recycling Congress in China would not be included. He added that if space allowed, Mr. Huls' article could be modified and included to address the impact China's Recycling Congress would have on local jurisdictions.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Albert Avoian provided a summary of the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Avoian stated that Culver City wants to amend its Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE) to include the City's proposed expansion of its existing transfer station, which would allow the transfer station to accept a capacity of up to 1,056 tons per day (tpd).

Mr. Avoian stated the Subcommittee, upon review of Culver City's proposed amendments to its NDFE, recommended concurrence with staff's recommendations for the City's NDFE, which include submittal of monthly reports on a quarterly basis, with the first report due 30 days after the end of the first quarter following the transfer station's start of expansion.

V. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO CULVER CITY'S NDFE

Mr. Avoian stated the Subcommittee recommends the Task Force approve the Amendment to Culver City's NDFE. A motion was made to approve the Amendment with the stated provisions. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote of those members present.

VI. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Alva provided a report from the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee which met January 21, 2005, to discuss the contract deliverables submitted by the County's contractor, URS Corporation, and tour the Del Norte Regional Recycling and Transfer Station in the City of Oxnard. Mr. Alva stated the facility was one of six materials recovery facilities (MRFs) being considered by the Subcommittee as a potential partners in developing a pilot demonstration conversion technology facility.

Mr. Alva also provided a summary of the Subcommittee's tour of the Robertson A. Nelson Transfer Station and MRF in Riverside. Mr. Alva stated that following the completion of all of the facility tours the Subcommittee would complete its final report and make its recommendation to the Task Force regarding which facility was most suitable.

Mr. Alva commented on the Waste Board's draft conversion technologies report to the Legislature. He stated the Task Force's comments on this report, among others received by the Waste Board, had been posted on the Waste Board's website.

In response to a request made by the Task Force at January's meeting, Mr. Charles Boehmke distributed emissions data from two waste-to-energy facilities, the Commerce Refuse to Energy Facility (CREF) and the Southeast

Resource Recovery Facility (attached). Task Force members agreed to review and discuss this information at the next meeting. Mr. Boehmke suggested the next Task Force meeting be held at CREF to enable the Task Force to also tour the facility.

VII. CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY LEGISLATION

Mr. Mohajer commented on Assembly Bill (AB) 177 (Bogh), which would revise the Waste Board's definitions of biomass conversion and transformation. AB 177 would also delete the ten percent limit for waste diversion through biomass conversion and the requirement that the Source Reduction and Recycling Element not include transformation.

Mr. Mohajer stated that although AB 177 would be amended at a later date, its current language has met opposition from individuals and environmental groups concerned it could jeopardize the ten percent diversion credit. A motion was made to send a letter to the Legislature asserting the Task Force's position to oppose any legislation that may jeopardize the existing diversion credit for waste sent to waste-to-energy facilities. The motion was adopted by a unanimous vote of those members present.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON E-WASTE

Mr. Matt McCarron of the Waste Board conducted a PowerPoint presentation on the State's Electronic Waste Recycling Program (attached). He stated that fee collection on covered electronic devices (e.g., computer monitors and televisions) began on January 1, 2005. The fee ranges from \$6 to \$10 depending on the device's viewable screen size.

Mr. McCarron stated that collectors and recyclers interested in applying for this Program must notify the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) of their intent to handle or treat hazardous waste and submit an application to the Waste Board. He added that a list of approved applicants is available on the Waste Board's website and will be updated on an ongoing basis as additional applicants are approved or their status changes.

Mr. McCarron stated that under the Program, approved collectors are entitled to receive \$0.20 per pound for covered electronic waste (CEW) that is collected in California and transferred to an approved recycler. Collectors must operate in conformance with DTSC regulations, track CEW sources, submit required documentation, and establish a cost-free opportunity for the collection of CEW.

Approved recyclers are entitled to receive \$0.48 per pound of CEW that is cancelled in a State-approved manner if the recycler meets certain criteria. This includes making recovery payments to approved collectors within

60 days, submitting recycling payment claims and documentation to the Waste Board, and is accessible during normal business hours for unannounced inspections/audits by State and local agencies.

Manufacturers must notify retailers annually about covered electronic devices, provide consumers with information of recycling locations, and report annually to the Waste Board the number of devices sold, amount of toxic and recyclable materials in the devices, and their design for recycling efforts. Mr. McCarron stated the Program would also require retailers to raise public awareness, collect fees at the time of retail sales, and remit fees quarterly to the Board of Equalization.

Mr. McCarron stated the Waste Board has plans to expand the collection and recycling infrastructure, build confidence in the payment infrastructure, gather data for future fee and payment adjustments, and prepare for permanent regulation development in fall 2005. He stated additional information could be found at the Waste Board's website.

At the end of Mr. McCarron's presentation, Mr. Mohajer requested that the Waste Board and DTSC inform cities and counties of the locations of authorized collection and recycling centers to insure consistency with the local jurisdictions' general plan and land use requirements.

IX. IMPROVEMENT TO AB 939 DIVERSION COMPLIANCE SYSTEM

Mr. Mohajer stated the Waste Board has conducted several workshops to discuss alternative compliance system concepts. Mr. Mohajer commented most workshop attendees seemed to prefer that more emphasis be placed on program implementation and less on mathematical compliance. He added that the Waste Board had prepared a questionnaire based on its workshop results and encouraged interested parties to submit comments on it.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Waste Board emphasizing the importance of program implementation as opposed to mathematical compliance. The motion was adopted unanimously.

X. SCAG REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Mike Miller stated SCAG, in its review of its Regional Comprehensive Plan, had determined that the draft chapter (attached) which discusses solid waste management should be rewritten using current data and not rely heavily on data obtained from the Waste Board. Mr. Miller stated that upon receiving these revisions, he would forward the draft chapter to the Task Force for comments.

XI. COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT (CSE) AND SUMMARY PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Coby Skye described the revisions made to the CSE Goals 1 through 6 (attached) made as a result of January's meeting. Task Force members discussed and provided staff with comments.

A motion was made to approve these Goals with the revisions the Task Force members provided. The motion was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Skye introduced CSE Goals 7 and 8 (attached) and provided the Task Force with an overview of their potential revisions. Task Force members discussed said goals and provided staff with feedback and comments.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Waste Board requesting written clarification on whether the location of any potential/proposed conversion technology facility needs to be identified in the Siting Element. The motion was carried unanimously.

XII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye provided a status on Legislative Bills and stated staff would continue to monitor AB 177.

- AB 338—Introduced by Levine

Mr. Skye stated the Governor had previously vetoed AB 338 (2004) because of his concerns that this Bill, which specified that CalTrans' use of rubberized asphalt originating from California, could violate the NAFTA agreement. Mr. Skye added that the Task Force had supported this Bill when it was first introduced since it would provide a market for waste tires.

A motion was made to send a letter of support. The motion was adopted unanimously.

- AB 399—Introduced by Montanez

This Bill would require local jurisdictions to provide recycling information to the owners of multi-family residences. Staff will continue to monitor this Bill.

- AB 575—Introduced by Lee

This Bill would allow retailers to pay their distributors the \$6 to \$10 fee on covered electronic waste in lieu of the consumer paying the fee at point of purchase. Staff will continue to monitor this Bill.

- SB 318—Introduced by Romero

This Bill would require the Waste Board and local jurisdictions to maximize their waste reduction public education programs. Staff will continue to monitor this Bill.

XIII. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Steve Uselton of the Waste Board stated there were no updates from the Waste Board to present. Mr. Mohajer thanked the Waste Board for its prompt response to his request to provide clarification on the policy used by the Waste Board to measure a biomass facility's diversion credit (attached).

XIV. TASK FORCE COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATING PROCEDURES

Postponed to the March 17, 2005, meeting.

XV. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for March 17, 2005, at 1 p.m.

XVI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alva stated there would be a conference in Downey on March 10, 2005, that discusses the California Performance Review.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Attach.