

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

Minutes of December 15, 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
Betsy Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Michael Miller, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

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 Grace Chan, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Don Wolfe, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works
Ben Wong, rep. by John McTaggart, 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
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
James Armijo, City of Arcadia
Hossam Banna, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
George De La O, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Mary Ann Lutz, Task Force Alternate
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Ed Reidhead, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Joshua Rosenbaum, City of Signal Hill
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Sloan, JM Sloan Company
Philip Sloan
Heather Stotland, City of Calabasas
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Cynthia Vant Hul, Waste Management, Incorporated

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:14 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2005

A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 2005. Subject to changes to Item X to clarify permitting process and minor changes to Items VIII and XI. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated the Subcommittee discussed a request to amend the City of Los Angeles Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE) because the two facilities are now considered solid waste facilities. One facility is Bin Rental and Canyon Disposal, which has a capacity of 175 tons per day of construction and demolition materials and an estimated diversion rate of 40 percent. The other facility is North Hills Recycling, a chipping and grinding operation that is permitted to handle 499 tons per day and has an estimated diversion rate of 99 percent.

Mr. Mohajer stated the Subcommittee recommends the Task Force concur with the City of Los Angeles NDFE to include the two facilities and the following:

- Facilities must submit quarterly reports to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.
- The Task Force letter is to state that it is only in concurrence with chipping and grinding operations at the North Hills Recycling facility and not with composting operations.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO CITY OF LOS ANGELES NDFE

A motion was made to approve the Subcommittee recommendation and passed unanimously.

V. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye stated that the Subcommittee met and discussed the status of AB 1090. This is a two-year Bill that must be approved by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee (ANRC) and other applicable committees as well as the full Assembly by the end of January 2006, in order to come before the Governor before the end of next year.

The Subcommittee requested the Task Force call or visit ANRC members to make a final push for AB 1090. An e-mail listing the Committee members will be sent to the Task Force.

Mr. Skye also reported that the Subcommittee discussed the County Sanitation Districts' potential funding for the demonstration conversion technology facility. A discussion followed regarding the requirements of the Conditional Use Permit for the Puente Hills Landfill, which states that the County Sanitation Districts shall consider funding a pilot facility if a technology is identified as viable.

Mr. Skye conducted a PowerPoint presentation regarding his recent visit to two pilot conversion technology facilities, BioEnergy Resources, Inc. (BRI) and Changing World Technologies (CWT) (attached). Mr. Skye stated that both companies were among the six companies short-listed in the Conversion Technology Evaluation Report.

Mr. Skye described the BRI process as a combination of gasification and fermentation. The gasification produces a syngas which is then run through a fermentation process to create ethanol. This facility processes about 1.5 tons per day.

Mr. Skye then described the CWT facility, which uses pressure and heat to break down any organic materials and produce diesel fuel. This diesel fuel is currently sold to a refinery where further refining is done. CWT is a larger facility than BRI, processing approximately 275 tons per day. The feedstock used is turkey offal and discards from the Butterball Turkey plant adjacent to the facility.

Mr. Skye stated that both the BRI and CWT facilities have a greater than 90 percent diversion rate for the waste processed and seem to be financially viable. He stated CWT is operating at a near commercial scale and has been profitable with the sale of its diesel fuel and fees it receives for managing waste from the turkey plant. Mr. Skye also stated that BRI is in the process of designing a commercial scale facility in Tennessee and partnering with the Tennessee Valley Authority to get renewable energy credits and other incentives. That facility is expected to eventually process 2,500 tons per day.

Mr. Skye stated that the potential cost for tipping here in California is still an unknown, but should be clarified with the next phase of the development of the conversion technology facility.

VI. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

Mr. Steve Uselton was unable to attend today's Task Force meeting. In his place, Mr. Ed Reidhead provided a written update (attached).

VII. CIWMB'S PROPOSED PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS

Mr. Martins Ayetiwa stated the draft letter to the Waste Board regarding the proposed permit implementation regulations has been prepared and sent to Task Force members for review. After some discussion, the Task Force members identified changes to the draft letter. These changes included clarification of language referencing notification of residents and businesses and discussion on the inadvertent usurping of local land use authority.

Mr. Aiyetiwa also stated the Waste Board has primarily invited facility operators and local enforcement agencies to the workshops. Very few cities and local governments are taking part in this process. It should be opened up to all interested parties. Therefore, a comment in this regard was added to the draft letter.

A motion was made to approve the letter with the stated recommended changes. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL'S UNIVERSAL WASTE REGULATIONS

Mr. Hossam Banna provided an update on the Department of Toxic Substances Control's universal waste regulations and its proposal to allow the exemptions for universal waste to sunset on February 8, 2006. Mr. Banna stated the letter to the Department of Toxic Substances Control which the Task Force directed staff to prepare was ready for the Vice-Chair's signature today. Mr. Banna stated the Task Force would be updated in February or March of next year.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, January 19, 2006, at 1 p.m.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Attach.