

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

Minutes of September 21, 2006

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Dr. Bruce Chernof, rep. by Ken Murray, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Health Services
Gerry Miller, rep. by Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Don Wolfe, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach
Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Rita Robinson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Jim Stahl, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Glenn Acosta, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Stephanie Barger, Earth Resource Foundation
Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles Alternate
Nichole Horton, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
John McTaggart, General Public Representative Alternate
Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division Alternate
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Carl Pederson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dassi Pintar, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
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 AUGUST 17, 2006

A motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2006, was made with the following correction: On page 6, Item XI, first paragraph, the second sentence needs to be changed to "Governor Schwarzenegger will have 30 days to veto or sign the Bills, or they become laws by default." The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Jay Chen and Mr. Rafael Prieto being absent at the time the vote was taken)

Mr. Mike Mohajer announced that the Board of Supervisors divided the Department of Health Services into Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Health and, as such, Mr. Ken Murray would be representing the Department of Public Health. Modification to the County Ordinance is required to reflect the division.

III. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Michael Miller commended Staff on their preparation of Chapter 8 of the Countywide Siting Element. He reported the Subcommittee had only the following major comments:

- Make sure that the language is readable to a lay person
- Renumber and distinguish between general plan and zone changes

The Subcommittee also discussed the proposed amendment to the City of Los Angeles' (City) Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE) ([see attachment](#)). The City is proposing to amend its NDFE to include Direct Disposal C & D Recycling, Inc., and Reduce Price Disposal. Both facilities transfer, process, and sort construction and demolition debris.

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

- Clarify the forms that are used for reporting or provide a comment/column for construction and demolition, and yard waste
- Advise the City of Los Angeles to look at compliance with reference to potential surface water contamination and stormwater requirements since Reduce Price Disposal shares the site property with an auto wrecking without a visible division.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO CITY OF LOS ANGELES' NONDISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT

A motion was made to concur with the City of Los Angeles' NDFE amendment as recommended by the Subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Chen and Mr. Prieto being absent at the time the vote was taken)

V. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye reported that the Subcommittee finalized a short list of nine conversion technology vendors for phase II (six were identified in phase I and three new companies were just added).

By November 2006, the Subcommittee will issue the Request for Information to narrow the short list even further. Responses will be due by the end of November. The Subcommittee will interview the companies in January 2007 and in February 2007, and tours will be arranged to thoroughly evaluate the facility operations. In March 2007, a final report will be compiled to aid in negotiations.

VI. UPDATE ON THE WASTE BOARD'S EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES STUDIES AND FUNDING

Mr. Mohajer stated that in August 2006 the Waste Board was to consider an Agenda item entitled, "Discussion of the 2006 Emerging Technologies Forum and Request for Direction on Next Steps Relative to Emerging Technologies." The agenda item included a recommendation to allocate \$200,000 towards an anaerobic digestion pilot project to produce gas (for electricity) and compost from the digestion process. BioEnergy Producers Association and Mr. Mohajer wrote to the Waste Board expressing various concerns ([see attachment](#)). In the end, the item was pulled from consideration.

In addition, despite the cancellation of the above agenda item, in September 2006 the Waste Board approved the allocation of \$200,000 towards the anaerobic digestion pilot project.

A motion to send a letter recommending the Waste Board move forward on regulations for conversion technologies and to reallocate the \$200,000 to develop a pilot conversion technology facility rather than study the anaerobic digestion process was made. The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Prieto being absent at the time the vote was taken)

VII. PRESENTATION ON THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE PLASTIC PLAGUE

Ms. Stephanie Barger, Executive Director of the Earth Resource Foundation, demonstrated, in a short video clip from "Synthetic Sea" and from pictures in her presentation, the effects of plastic in our oceans ([see attachment](#)). The focus of Earth Resources Foundation is to teach environmental responsibility.

Ms. Barger provided a brief overview of plastics, the Campaign Against the Plastic Plague, and the overpopulation of plastics. She stated that plastics do not biodegrade and not all plastics are being recycled. A "single-use" or "throw-away" culture or society has developed which has resulted in each person generating 1,132 pounds of plastic per year. Some of this plastic ends up in our ocean (86 percent of our ocean debris is plastic).

Earth Resource Foundation is implementing three solutions to preserve, conserve, and restore the Earth's sustainability. This includes precautionary principle, sustainability, and producer responsibility. The precautionary principle solution discourages the use of the environment and the general public as "test subjects." The sustainability solution encourages lesser dependency on oil and discourages a "disposable" society. The producer responsibility solution relies on the manufacturer producing its products in a closed loop system and taking responsibility for the life of its product.

Discussion ensued after the presentation. Task Force members complimented Ms. Barger for her presentation and offered some suggestions, such as verifying and updating her statistics, and including California as an example of product stewardship.

VIII. UPDATE ON THE WASTE BOARD'S PROPOSED PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS

Mr. Mohajer discussed two major issues regarding the proposed permit implementation regulations ([see attachment](#)):

The first issue is that the proposed regulation preempts local jurisdictions' land use decisions. Existing regulations require the project applicant to submit a copy of the land use permit when applying for a new or revised solid waste facility permit. The local enforcement agency (LEA) cannot process an application for a solid waste facility permit until they make a decision that the information is complete and correct. The proposed regulation deletes this requirement. Instead the proposed regulations only allow the LEA to be aware of and consider other permits, including the land use permit. This would result in a solid waste facility permit being issued even though it may be in conflict with the land use permit or in absence of an approved land use permit.

The second issue is changes in “design and operation,” which are considered significant and require an application for a revised permit. Under the proposed regulation, Waste Board staff have indicated that the issue of changing the expiration date of a landfill is beyond the scope of the “design and operation” of the landfill facility. The permit can be modified to change the expiration date without undergoing the extensive revision process. Discussion ensued.

A motion to send a letter to the Waste Board on the Proposed Permit Implementation Regulations was made. In addition, staff is to share the Task Force’s comments with the cities that have requested to receive them. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. PRESENTATION ON THREE D PLASTICS

Mr. Joe Dvoracek was not able to attend today’s meeting.

X. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Steve Uselton was not able to attend today’s meeting. An update from the Waste Board will be provided at the next meeting.

XI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye provided a status on the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

- AB 2449 – Introduced by Levine

This Bill would require grocery stores to have a collection mechanism for plastic bags. At the August 2006 Task Force meeting, the Task Force voted to support the Bill, however, the Bill was amended to prohibit local government’s ability to enact fees or other controls on plastic bags.

A motion to send a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger to veto AB 2449 as amended, was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 32 – Introduced by Nunez and Pavley

This greenhouse gas Bill was enrolled without incorporating Task Force’s comments.

- SB 1368 – Introduced by Perata

This Bill would prohibit electric utilities from entering into long-term contracts unless the electricity generator meets a greenhouse gas emissions performance standard. This Bill was enrolled to the Governor.

- AB 1980 – Introduced by Bass

This Bill, providing illegal dumping enforcement officers the power of arrest, was signed into Law.

- AB 1688 – Introduced by Niello

This Bill, providing illegal dumping enforcement officers the power of arrest, was signed into Law.

- AB 1992 – Introduced by Canciamilla

This Bill, which expanded the definition of “trash” to “solid waste,” was enrolled to the Governor.

- AB 1966 – Introduced by Garcia

This Bill did not get enrolled. It included language opposing conversion technology.

- AB 2296 – Introduced by Montanez

This Bill was enrolled without addressing the Task Force’s comments to reintroduce more stringent language.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2006, at 1 p.m.

XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.