

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

Minutes of November 16, 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.
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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Ken Murray, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health
Jim Stahl, rep. by John Kilgore, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Margaret Clark, rep. by Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
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
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Rita Robinson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles Alternate
Peigi Chiao, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
George De La O, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nichole Horton, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Brandy Jakobsen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mandana Khatibshahidi, City of Los Angeles
Joyce Lee, City of Diamond Bar
Vahe Manoukian, American Plastics Council
John McTaggart, General Public Representative Alternate
Carl Pederson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Ursula Schmidt, City of Pasadena
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Steve Uselton, California Integrated Waste Management Board

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2006

A motion to approve the minutes of October 19, 2006, was made with the following corrections:

- For each "being absent at the time the vote was taken," reference, replace "being" with "was/were"
- On page three, item V, bullet item AB 2206, the paragraph should read: "In 2005, Assembly Member Montanez introduced AB 399, which the Task Force opposed and the Governor eventually vetoed"
- On page four, item VII, line four, change "require" to "allow"
- On page six, item IX, the second complete paragraph, the first sentence should read: "There are six permanent centers operated by the City of Los Angeles"

The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Greig Smith was absent at the time the vote was taken)

III. ELECTION OF TASK FORCE VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Michael Miller stated that the Vice Chair is elected annually and the elected Vice Chair can serve a maximum of two consecutive one-year terms. He then opened the floor for nominations for the position.

A motion was made to re-elect Ms. Margaret Clark for her second consecutive term as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Greig Smith was absent at the time the vote was taken)

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye reported the Subcommittee's efforts in evaluating the nine screened conversion technology vendors. The request for information (RFI) was issued to the technology vendors on October 27, 2006, and responses are due by December 15, 2006. The Subcommittee is continuing to evaluate the four identified material recovery facilities. Beginning in January, the Subcommittee will interview the vendors and assess which technology will work best with each material recovery facility.

The next meeting to evaluate the public outreach contract proposals will be on November 17, 2006. The County is expected to award the contract by the end of the year or early next year. The Subcommittee will continue to discuss the potential incentives available to the vendors and the facilities.

Mr. Skye also mentioned the Waste Board responded positively to the Task Force's letter on conversion technology ([see attachment](#)).

V. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Miller stated that the Subcommittee reviewed the draft outline of Chapter 5 (Alternative Technologies) of the Countywide Siting Element (CSE) and provided staff with comments and suggestions, including to:

- Clarify what types of alternative technologies are being considered in Chapter 5
- Describe the potential of alternative technologies and how they will affect the environment and economic considerations and benefits
- Create a glossary of terms used in Chapter 5
- Include the current status of conversion technology and what the County is doing in relation to existing State law

VI. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer announced that Vanessa Olivas will assume Ken Pellman's position as staff to the Public Education and Information Subcommittee. He reported that the Subcommittee reviewed the following articles submitted by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works:

- Public Relations Group submitted an article on the Environmental Defenders Program
- Environmental Programs Division submitted articles on the Smart Gardening Program, and the La Crescenta/Montrose Franchise System

Mr. Mohajer mentioned articles requested for inclusion in the Winter 2007 edition, including Waste Board Permit Implementation Regulations, the ASCE Report Card, update on the Sunshine Canyon City/County landfill, (if approved by the Board of Supervisors), the Waste Management Forum and Conversion Technologies, an article on Pat Wiggins, and the availability of Waste Board grants to cities and counties.

VII. PRESENTATION ON THE AMERICAN PLASTICS COUNCIL

Mr. Vahe Manoukian, a consultant from Moore Recycling Associates, discussed the plastics markets and American Plastics Councils' (APC) projects ([see attachment](#)).

Mr. Manoukian described the plastics market, including historical pricing, recycling rates, and materials that are being recycled in California. California has a very strong market for plastics, and a higher recycling rate compared to the rest of the country.

APC has funded many projects including studies on recycling rates conducted by the National Association for Plastics Container Resources (NAPCORE) and the Association of Plastic Recyclers (APR). In 2004, the national average for PET recycling was 21 percent while California's recycling rate was over 40 percent.

He stated that California has placed a major emphasis on recycling, especially through legislation, such as Assembly Bill 3506 that allotted money to cities and curbside operators. Other factors that influenced the recycling rate in California included an increase in the California redemption/refund value (CRV) and funding to new businesses to capture more of the recycled material using money received from unredeemed bottles.

APC supports recycling in California by providing technical assistance and funding to assist communities in rural areas, schools, and jurisdictions with low recycling rates. They implemented "recycling best practices" for highways, convenience/gas stations, and in commercial collection of all types of scrap plastics. APC donated hundreds of bins to increase collection of single serve plastic containers to schools, fairs, and large venues. They also developed best practices to capture more bottles at material recovery facilities. APC has funded valuable educational resources including www.CAplasticsmarkets.com, a website that connects suppliers with end-use markets to use more post consumer recycled products. He concluded by stating that California needs to create more recycling businesses since 60 to 65 percent of recycled plastics are being exported. Additional discussion ensued.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

Mr. Steve Uselton provided a brief update to the Waste Board's 2003-2004 Biennial Review. To date, the Waste Board has approved 368 jurisdictions, of which 244 had a rate of 50 percent or more and 24 jurisdictions that have a diversion rate below 50 percent, but have made a good faith effort. Forty-one jurisdictions still need to be presented to the Waste Board. The Biennial Reviews

of 115 jurisdictions are on hold. These jurisdictions are on second time extensions or existing compliance orders.

Mr. Uselton presented the Waste Board's plastic recycling issues and programs in California ([see attachment](#)). In California, generation of plastic is increasing, but the recycling rate is low according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Residential disposal of plastics also increased to 9.5 percent by weight.

The Waste Board developed three programs to improve the plastics recycling rate:

- Rigid Plastic Packaging Containers (RPPC) Program

This Program requests companies for an annual certification of an increase in use of recycling content.
- Plastic Trash Bag (PTB) Program

This Program focuses on increasing recycled content in trash bags by increasing the supply of recycled film plastic.
- Plastic Recycling Initiatives

This Program supports new and emerging technologies by inviting manufacturers and businesses to participate in expanding plastic film recovery/recycling.

Other Waste Board efforts include expanding residential curbside programs, increasing collection through material recovery facilities, educating retailers and consumers, expanding collection at businesses with high generation, and promoting potential economic benefits.

Mr. Uselton also mentioned California's Action Plan for Litter, the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board Discharge Limits, the California Pollution Control Financing Authority (CPCFA), CIWMB/RMDZ Loans, and the Plastic Clearinghouse.

IX. PRESENTATION ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECYCLING MARKET DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Mr. George De La O, of the Department of Public Works, stated that to successfully divert materials from disposal, it is necessary to help companies that use recycled materials to make new products and to use those products. The purpose of the Los Angeles County Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) Program is to promote recycling businesses that transform waste materials into usable products. It offers business incentives and assistance to recycling manufacturers. Its goal is to retain and expand existing businesses and to attract new businesses.

The Los Angeles County RMDZ consists of all the County unincorporated areas and the cities of Carson, El Monte, South Gate, Burbank, Commerce, Glendale, and Vernon. Other RMDZ Zones in the County include the City of Los Angeles, Santa Clarita, and Long Beach.

The Program helps businesses to find source materials and helps with siting a facility. It also connects businesses with other agencies, which can help them with other incentive zones, like an Enterprise Zone or Redevelopment Zone.

The Program also helps businesses with low interest financing through the State's RMDZ Loan Program. It offers a five percent rate for a fixed term to help expand their business. Companies that have used this loan include Princess Paper, Crown Poly, and Three-D Plastics.

X. PRESENTATION ON "HELPFUL HOLIDAY HINTS FOR WASTE REDUCTION"

Ms. Brandy Jakobsen and Ms. Peigi Chiao, of the Department of Public Works, provided helpful holiday hints for waste reduction ([see attachment](#)).

Ms. Jakobsen and Ms. Chiao mentioned valuable tips for dinner preparations, shopping for the holidays, gift-wrapping, decorations, and recycling Christmas trees.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2007, at 1 p.m.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Armine Kesablyan provided an update on correspondence with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), in Northern California. Staff contacted PG&E to obtain information regarding their universal waste program and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Mr. Mohajer stated that he wrote a letter to Southern California Edison and the letter has been forwarded to the appropriate staff.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.