

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

Minutes of May 17, 2007

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Stephen Maguin, rep. by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County
Gerry Miller, rep. by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Greig Smith, rep. by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Rita Robinson, rep. by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Don Wolfe, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Mark Waronek, rep. by Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach
Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Business/Commerce Representative
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kay Ayazi, City of Calabasas
Susan V. Collins, R3 Consulting Group, Inc.
Kreigh Hampel, City of Burbank
Carlyle A. Johnston, County of Santa Barbara
Kehau Kincaid, Prometheus Energy Company
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Debbie Morris, HF&H Consultants, LLC
Farouk Ossman, City of Los Angeles
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Rene Salas, City of Burbank
Ursula Schmidt, City of Pasadena
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Angie Tam, Charles Abbott Associates, Inc.
Steve Uselton, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Jason Varner, City of Monrovia

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2007

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 19, 2007. The motion was passed unanimously. (Ms. Nicole Bernson and Mr. Carlos Ruiz were absent at the time the vote was taken.)

Copies of an e-mail addressed to the Task Force from Mr. Joshua Rosenbaum, Public Works Management Analyst for the City of Signal Hill (City), were distributed at the meeting ([see attachment](#)). The e-mail was titled, "NPDES Trash TMDL and Impact on Diversion." The City is concerned with the impacts of trash total maximum daily load (TMDL) requirements on the ability of cities to meet their waste diversion mandate.

Cities and the County are required to collect debris from their storm drain system which may originate upstream from another jurisdiction. The City would like clarification as to which jurisdiction this waste should be attributed to and what can be done to ensure that cities downstream are not liable for debris collected in their trash capture devices. Discussion ensued. The matter was referred to Mr. Steve Uselton of the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board).

III. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee met earlier to review draft submittals for the Countywide Siting Element (CSE) Chapter 4 revisions. The Subcommittee provided comments and recommendations on the various scenarios regarding disposal rate and assessment of disposal capacity needs during the 15-year planning period for the revised CSE. Staff will incorporate comments and recommendations and submit the revised Chapter 4 for review.

IV. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated the Public Education and Information Subcommittee met earlier in the day and considered the following articles:

- “Inglewood’s Public Works/Environmental Services Department Teaches Young People the Importance of Recycling” by the City of Inglewood
- “2006 Environmental Excellence Award” by the City of Calabasas
- “L.A. County Adopts Groundbreaking Energy and Environmental Policy” by the County of Los Angeles
- Article on composting programs and e-waste collections by the City of Santa Monica
- “Norwalk’s Fall HHW and E-Waste Event a Success!” by the City of Norwalk

In addition, articles on County/City efforts on conversion technologies and a legislative update will be published on a regular basis.

V. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye indicated the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee had a productive two-hour meeting earlier in the day. Three presentations were given at the Subcommittee meeting by companies that are not on the short list of conversion technology suppliers from Phase II, but develop other conversion technologies.

Mr. Skye also mentioned the Subcommittee is completing the Phase II Final Report. A half-day working session is planned for the first week of June to work through the issues and come up with the final recommendations of the report. The Subcommittee will work closely with the Task Force once the report is complete. The report will then be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors and County Sanitation Districts.

Mr. Skye also mentioned the Subcommittee discussed the public outreach contract. The new websites, SoCalConversion.org and SoCalConversion.com, will launch in June, along with the revamped e-newsletter.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

- AB 484-Introduced by Nava

AB 484 requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to use recycled aggregate base for at least 50 percent of the total amount of aggregate base used on and after January 2008 and 75 percent by January 2009. A motion to send a letter of support was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 501-Introduced by Swanson

This Bill would require pharmaceutical companies to have a mechanism for patients to safely dispose of sharps by January 1, 2008. A motion to send a letter of support was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 679-Introduced by Benoit

This Bill would require the court system to impose a civil assessment on violators that is equal to the actual cost of cleanup incurred by the City or County that results from illegal dumping offenses. A motion to send a letter of support and amend was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 712-Introduced by De Leon

This Bill would impose a fee of 50 cents per ton of solid waste disposed. These funds would pay the owners of off-road diesel vehicles used at landfills and transfer stations for the costs for complying with State Air Resources Board regulation. A motion to send a letter of opposition was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 904-Introduced by Feuer

This Bill would require food packaging sold in California to be either compostable or recyclable. A motion to send a letter of support was made. The motion passed with Mr. Chris Salomon abstaining.

- AB 800-Introduced by Lieu and Krekorian

Ms. Mary Ann Lutz stated that AB 800, sponsored by Los Angeles County, was amended on May 3, 2007, and had gone through the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Ms. Lutz brought this Bill to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) for evaluation. The Water Board was concerned with the mention of "ten pounds of Perchlorate levels," and the use of the word "immediately" in the Bill, which was unclear. The Water Board's view is that the present language in the Bill does not address the situation. A motion was made to watch AB 800. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 1023-Introduced by Desaulnier

This Bill would exempt manufacturers of compostable and biodegradable trash bags from California's recycled-content requirements for plastic trash bags. A motion was made to send a letter of concern regarding AB 1023, as amended on April 16, 2007. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 1535-Introduced by Huffman

This Bill would expand the definition of Covered Electronic Devices (CEDs) to include personal computers and impose a \$6 recovery fee on the sale of each. A motion to send a letter of support was made. The motion passed with Mr. Salomon abstaining.

- AB 546-Introduced by Brownley

Mr. Mohajer stated that this Bill was amended on April 18, 2007. It would require the Waste Board to provide retailers with a list of authorized collectors of CEDs, who in turn would be required to make the information available to their customers. A motion was made to watch AB 546. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 697-Introduced by Wiggins

This Bill would require Caltrans to develop a 10-year plan to increase the use of mulch, compost, and mulch products in the State's highway landscape maintenance program while phasing out the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers. A motion to send a letter of support was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 966-Introduced by Simitian and Kuehl

This Bill was amended on April 30, 2007. It would require drugstores to provide an expired drug collection system for their customers at no cost by July 1, 2008. A motion to send a letter of support was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 1016-Introduced by Wiggins

This Bill, developed in concert with the Waste Board, and based on various stakeholder workshops, would transform the diversion compliance system from that of a generation-based system to a disposal based system.

The revised language has not yet been officially incorporated into the Bill yet. The Task Force requested staff to review SB 1016 and provide comments via e-mail to the Task Force members. A motion was made to watch SB 1016. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 656-Introduced by Plescia

This Bill would require the Waste Board and Water Resources Control Board to prepare and forward a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2008 on whether the incidental disposal of alkaline batteries at landfills cause any environmental impacts.

Mr. Mohajer stated the Bill has passed the deadline to get out of committee. From the author's perspective this Bill is dead. The Task Force voted to support this Bill in the past and Mr. Mohajer suggested changing previous position from support to watch.

A motion was made to watch AB 656. The motion passed unanimously.

In addition, Mr. Mohajer stated that SB 1020, SB 1021, and AB 1610 have been placed in the appropriate Suspense Files of the Senate and Assembly Committees.

VII. REPORT ON RECYCLING OF HHW BY THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Mr. Farouk Ossman provided a brief report on the City of Los Angeles' Safe Collection Centers (Centers) ([see attachment](#)).

The City of Los Angeles (City) has six Centers that collect solvents, automotives, flammables, and electronics. The City is working on opening a new Center in the San Fernando Valley. A map showing the locations of the Centers and a table showing the schedule of operations were provided.

In addition to the Centers, the City has scheduled eight mobile events for 2007 and provided curbside pickup service to the elderly and handicapped; e-waste collection at any of the City's seven Sanitation yards; and the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG) collection service for small businesses.

Mr. Ossman also provided data on the material collected, recycled, and disposed per fiscal year. The materials recycled include antifreeze, auto batteries, latex paint, motor oil, used oil filters, compressed gas cylinders, boiler fuel, and covered electronic devices.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Steve Uselton stated that the Waste Board is moving forward with its reorganization plan. The Executive Director has developed a plan to provide a more efficient delivery of services to local jurisdictions by creating a single point of contact for the Waste Board's various programs. Assignments for this new reorganization will begin on July 1, 2007.

Mr. Uselton also stated the Waste Board held an all-day workshop on climate change and proposed early action in Sacramento on May 8, 2007. The purpose of the workshop was to identify early action initiatives that would complement the California Air Resources Board's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, other actions that could help reduce greenhouse emissions include multi-family complex recycling, increased curbside recycling, targeted commercial recycling, and a grants incentive program. The full report as well as the workshop presentations can be viewed on the Waste Board website.

Mr. Uselton reported the Waste Board had reviewed all the 2005 Annual Reports from jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles and provided each jurisdiction with feedback. The Waste Board staff is setting up a one on one meeting with Cities that were unable to achieve the diversion requirements.

Mr. Uselton mentioned he appreciated the e-mail titled "NPDES Trash TMDL and Impact on Diversion" from the City of Signal Hill. He will contact Mr. Rosenbaum, who sent the e-mail, find out more about the specifics of the issue raised, and report back to the Task Force.

IX. PRESENTATION ON LANDFILL GAS TO LIQUID NATURAL GAS PROJECTS

Ms. Kehau Kincaid, of Prometheus Energy Company (Prometheus), conducted a presentation on landfill gas (LFG) to liquid natural gas (LNG) projects ([see attachment](#)).

Ms. Kincaid provided a brief background on Prometheus. Prometheus is an alternative and renewable fuels company that produces, sells, and distributes liquid natural gas directly to retail vehicle customers. She stated that LNG is a renewable fuel that is the cleanest burning fuel and the least expensive to produce compared to diesel, gasoline and propane. Prometheus' fuel sources are from landfills, coal mines, stranded wells, and waste water treatment plant anaerobic digesters. Of these sources, landfills produce significant amounts of methane.

Currently, there are five LNG import facilities which supply three percent of total U.S. natural gas. Additionally, seven LNG facilities supply the West Coast. The existing LNG vehicle fuel market consumes more than 180,000 gallons each day.

There are two LFG to LNG projects in California. One is at the Kiefer Road Landfill in Sacramento County, and the other is at Frank R. Bowerman Landfill in Orange County. Ms. Kincaid stated the Orange County Landfill's LFG to LNG plant was installed in October 2006. The project is divided into three phases. In Phase I, it is expected to produce 5,000 gallons of LNG per day and up to 36,000 gallons at full build out. The majority of the fuel produced will be used by the Orange County Transit Authority. Discussion ensued.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 2007, at 1 p.m.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that Mr. John McTaggart was unable to attend the Task Force meeting due to illness.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.