

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

Minutes of July 19, 2007

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  
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Christine F. Andersen, represented by Charles Tripp, City of Long Beach  
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Pete Oda, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health  
Stephen Maguin, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County  
Gerry Miller, represented by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles  
Greig Smith, represented by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Don Wolfe, represented by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Rita Robinson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Siyavash Araumi, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Kelly Astor, Los Angeles County Waste Management Association  
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
George Caamano, California Waste Association  
Katherine Cole, Waste Management, Inc.  
Susan V. Collins, R3 Consulting Group, Inc.  
Janet Coke, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County  
Ron Fallejo, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Carlyle A. Johnston, County of Santa Barbara Dept. of Public Works  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita  
Heather Maloney, City of Monrovia  
Debbie Morris, HF&H Consultants, LLC  
David Pang, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Kevin Powers, Charles Abbott Associates, Inc.  
Steve L. Samaniego, City of West Covina  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Steve Uselton, California Integrated Waste Management Board

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Ms. Margaret Clark introduced Mr. Sam Perdomo, from Waste Management, Inc., who was appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors as the Business/Commerce Representative to the Task Force.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 21, 2007**

A motion to approve the minutes of June 21, 2007, was made with the following changes ([see attachment](#)):

- On page 6, Item X, third paragraph, the last sentence should read: "Due to inflation and the rising amount of waste generated in Los Angeles County, the proposal to adjust the SWMF from \$0.86 to \$1.50 per ton is critical in maintaining existing programs, meeting growing needs, and tackling new challenges."
- On page 6, Item X, the fourth paragraph should read: "Other changes to the SWMF Ordinance proposal include action to make definitions of "solid waste" and "disposal facility" consistent with State definitions; to create a definition for "conversion technology"; to clarify the exemption for materials exported out-of-County and subsequently recycled or diverted; and to include a CPI adjustment of the SWMF in future years."
- On page 5, Item IX, last paragraph, the second sentence should read: "Task Force members stated in agreement that, when possible, the County needs to manage its waste within its boundaries to avoid future political backlash from other counties and that the County should strive to maximize and/or conserve its own disposal capacity."

The motion passed unanimously. (Ms. Nicole Bernson was absent at the time the vote was taken.)

## **III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Coby Skye reported that three presentations were given at the Subcommittee meeting by companies that develop conversion technologies.

Mr. Skye stated that the final report on Phase II of the evaluation process will be presented for consideration to the Task Force at the August 2007 meeting. He also mentioned the Subcommittee is continuing their public outreach efforts by meeting

with local environmental groups and other stakeholders. In addition, the Subcommittee is working closely with the City of Los Angeles as the City is moving forward on its RENEW LA project, and the City and County will coordinate their public outreach efforts.

#### **IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Skye discussed the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

- AB 1473-Introduced by Feuer

This Bill would authorize the Local Enforcement Authority to stay their cease and desist order for up to three years, if certain conditions are met. The Bill sunsets on January 1, 2012, or on the date the Waste Board adopts the regulation, whichever comes first. The Task Force sent a letter of support in May 2007. This Bill has cleared a number of key policy committees.

- SB 660-Introduced by Perata

This Bill would establish the Strategic Clean Technology and Climate Change Research, Development, and Demonstration Program with the focus on reducing greenhouse gas production. Mr. Skye stated the current Bill neither includes nor excludes conversion technologies.

- SB 697-Introduced by Wiggins

Mr. Skye stated that the Task Force sent a letter of support in June. The Task Force supported the version which required 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. Since then, the language has been changed and would require CalTrans and all persons contracting with the agency to use compost produced within the state.

A motion to send a letter of concern was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- SB 735-Introduced by Wiggins

This Bill would require CalTrans to track the use of recycled and virgin materials for sub-base and concrete base. It would require CalTrans to report to the Legislature on January 1, 2010, and biennially thereafter on the use of recycled materials.

A motion to send a letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger supporting SB 735 was made. The motion passed with Mr. Jay Chen abstaining.

- SB 1020-Introduced by Padilla

This Bill was amended on June 26, 2007, and would require the Waste Board to adopt policies, programs, and incentives to ensure that the State achieves a 60 percent solid waste diversion rate by 2012 and a 75 percent diversion rate by 2020.

Mr. Skye stated that the Task Force sent a letter of opposition in April. Another letter was sent in June to all City Mayors in the County urging them to oppose this Bill. The subsequent letter generated additional letters of opposition to the Bill, which caught the attention of the Author and State Legislature. Mr. Skye attended the stakeholder meeting to convey the County's perspective regarding the lack of resources for meeting the 75 percent diversion requirement and to advocate for conversion technologies. As a result, he was assigned to assist in drafting language, to be incorporated into the Bill, regarding conversion technologies. This is a priority Bill and staff will continue to track this Bill.

- SB 826-Introduced by Padilla

This Bill would require the Waste Board to adopt State minimum standards to identify and mitigate environmental justice impacts in disproportionately affected communities in which solid waste facilities are located.

Mr. Kelly Astor of the Los Angeles County Waste Management Association commented that the Bill would place constraints on the development of recycling facilities and that the waste industry is opposing the Bill. Mr. Astor stated that this Bill would give more power to the Waste Board.

The Task Force sent a letter inviting the author to discuss the Bill at a Task Force meeting, and thus far the Task Force has not received any response. This Bill is moving forward rapidly and is on its way to Governor Schwarzenegger.

A motion was made to watch SB 826, and if the Bill reaches the Governor, to send a letter of opposition expressing the Task Force's concerns and asking the Governor to veto the Bill. The motion passed with Ms. Betsey Landis and Mr. Chen abstaining.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that SB 529 had been substantially rewritten and the current version is completely irrelevant to the Task Force. He suggested that this Bill be removed from the Legislative Table.

Mr. Mohajer also requested the following corrections to three Bills in the Legislative Table to reflect their latest amendments:

- AB 484

This Bill would prohibit CalTrans, or any contractee with the Department, from disposing of asphalt concrete or Portland cement concrete in a solid waste landfill, unless the contractor makes a specified determination that no other means of using or disposing the material is feasible. The beneficial use of asphalt concrete or Portland cement concrete in the construction or operation of a solid waste landfill would not be considered disposal.

- AB 501

This Bill would require pharmaceutical manufacturers whose products are used to prefill sharps to supply a container for the safe disposal of home used sharps with a toll free number supplying information on safe disposal methods.

- AB 546

Beginning July 1, 2008, this Bill would require a retailer of CEDs to provide their customers with a list of authorized collectors of CEDs.

## **V. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD**

Mr. Steve Uselton indicated that there was no report from the Waste Board.

## **VI. PRESENTATION ON HOW WASTE MANAGEMENT IS REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT AND HOW YOU CAN JOIN US**

Ms. Katherine Cole, Director of External Affairs and Sustainability Initiatives of Waste Management, Inc., provided a PowerPoint presentation on Waste Management's environmental sustainability efforts ([see attachment](#)).

Ms. Cole stated that Waste Management (WM) recognizes the importance of being environmentally sustainable at both the macro and micro levels. The company no longer sees themselves as just a waste hauler, and is working closely with private and public sector customers on solutions that go beyond just putting trash in containers and hauling it to landfills. Furthermore, the company is working with

selective customers on how to reduce their environmental footprint with projects to handle hazardous waste, introduce processes to reduce waste, and help companies be zero waste companies. An example is Waste Management's Sustainability Initiative Pilot project. WM has placed recycling containers throughout facilities in North America, procured office products with maximum recycled content, purchased windpower and greenpower in Seattle, provided sharps containers in all restrooms, implemented vanpool programs, and participated in green building projects. WM also uses alternative-fuel trucks, has cleaner facilities, uses office products with high-recycled content, implemented waste reduction methods, and has alternative energy usage at their facilities.

Being the largest recycler of municipal solid waste in North America, WM created innovative programs to assist companies in waste reduction and transform waste to energy. Moreover, WM is the leading company supporting AB 32, which is Greenhouse Gas Legislation, and the founding corporate sponsor of "Freecycle," the world's largest re-use network.

Ms. Cole suggested simple ways each citizen could start by helping reduce their environmental footprints and save the planet.

Questions and comments ensued regarding WM's position on conversion technology. Mr. Mohajer commented that WM could do more in promoting conversion technology and based on his personal assessment, he does not see that being done. Ms. Cole maintained that WM is deeply and strongly committed to alternative technology as well as waste to energy projects. Ms. Bernson commented that she would like to see WM work towards more universal acceptance of conversion technology in Sacramento.

## **VII. DISCUSSION OF PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL WASTE ORIGIN VERIFICATION PROGRAM**

Mr. Siyavash Araumi provided an update on the County's Waste Origin Verification Program (WOVP) at the Puente Hills Landfill ([see attachment](#)). Under WOVP, each refuse load is tracked to assist the County unincorporated areas comply with the waste diversion requirements of AB 939. Currently, WOVP is being implemented at the Puente Hills Landfill and Athens Services Material Recovery Facility. WOVP will be implemented at Sunshine Canyon Landfill in Fall 2007.

The State requires waste haulers to identify the jurisdiction of origin for waste disposed. Under WOVP, waste haulers must provide the exact address and proof of business relationship upon request for every service location for a qualifying solid waste load. WOVP is comprised of pre-registration of collection routes, data collection and reporting, verification process, and penalties. Mr. Araumi then discussed each part in detail.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated that because of the implementation of WOVP, tonnages previously misallocated or improperly attributed to the County unincorporated areas are now being correctly allocated back to the proper jurisdictions. This has resulted in a significantly reduced disposal rate for the County unincorporated areas.

#### **VIII. PRESENTATION ON THE PUENTE HILLS LANDFILL WASTE-BY-RAIL SYSTEM**

Ms. Janet Coke provided an update on the County Sanitation Districts' (CSD) Waste-by-Rail system, scheduled to be operational in the year 2009 ([see attachment](#)).

The three major components of the Waste-by-Rail system are the Materials Recovery and Rail Loading facility, located at the Puente Hills Landfill, an inter-modal facility, and a remote landfill. The Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) opened on July 11, 2005. It is a 215,000 square-foot facility that is now operating at approximately 350 tons per day capacity.

In 2004, CSD had the opportunity to purchase a 17-acre parcel across the street from its MRF for the inter-modal facility. This rail yard, expected to be in operation in the year 2011/2012, is designed to handle two trains or about 8,000 tons per day. All access to this facility would be through the existing Crossroad Parkway entrance the landfill currently uses.

Ms. Coke provided an update on two of CSD's remote landfills. The Eagle Mountain Landfill is in escrow, pending resolution of federal litigation over the land exchange that Kaiser Steel undertook to get the site permitted. CSD has moved forward with the development of the Mesquite Regional Landfill in Imperial County. The site is permitted to accept up to 20,000 tons per day, with a 100-year lifespan, and it is expected to be operational by 2009. CSD requested Imperial County to amend the existing Land Use Permit to allow Mesquite to receive about 4,000 tons per day by truck.

Ms. Coke mentioned the existing per-ton tipping fee at the Puente Hills Landfill is around the mid-twenties. With Waste-by-Rail, the cost would increase to around \$65 to \$75 per ton. Ms. Coke stated that in order to lessen the huge financial impact waste-by-rail would have on the residents of the affected communities, the Sanitation Districts have implemented a Cost Transition Program which sets aside \$150 million dollars plus collection of additional tipping fees of around \$18 per ton.

The Cost Transition Program, which is a three-year funding program for the Waste-by-Rail system, is approaching the end of its first three-year period. CSD will recommend to the CSD Board of Directors to begin the second phase of the Cost Transition Program at the end of 2007.

Discussion ensued.

**IX. UPDATE ON CIWMB AB 2296 FINANCIAL ASSURANCE FOR SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS' POST-CLOSURE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS**

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Waste Board received comments from the stakeholders of the AB 2296 Consulting Group. Mr. Mohajer, who represents the Task Force, provided a clarification regarding landfills that are owned by private entities versus those owned by public entities. He stated that when a landfill is owned by a city, that city remains liable for its landfill after its closure. However, it is different for a privately owned landfill. He gave an example of BKK Landfill in West Covina. The owners were a private company who filed for bankruptcy, and was able to walk away from the associated liabilities that arose after the landfill closed. Mr. Mohajer stated that the issue needs to be addressed as part of the contractor studies required by AB 2296.

**X. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, 2007, at 1 p.m.

**XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.