

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

Minutes of February 28, 2008

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
Betsy 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:

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, represented by Iris Aguirre, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health
Stephen Maguin, represented by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County
Gerry Miller, represented by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Donald Wolfe, represented by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine Andersen, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Vivian Castro, City of Covina
Denise Lellan, City of Santa Clarita
Fred Rubin, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Toni Young, Southern California Association of Governments
Peter Zorba, City of Lancaster

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2008

A motion was made to approve the minutes of January 24, 2008. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Mary Ann Lutz abstaining.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that the Subcommittee considered the following articles for the next edition of *Inside Solid Waste*:

1. Two City of Calabasas articles: the first regarding their recycling programs and the second on the adoption of their ordinance to increase their diversion rate to 75 percent
2. Rockview Farms article on milk crate theft
3. County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works article on used oil recycling
4. An article from the Contra Costa Waste Management Authority on extended producer responsibility
5. Articles to be included are: an update on conversion technology, a legislative update, an article on California Product Stewardship Council, and on the permit process for Sunshine Canyon Landfill

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye reported that on February 13, 2008, the Subcommittee met and held a pre-offer meeting with the short-listed conversion technology suppliers and materials recovery facility representatives.

Mr. Skye stated that seven out of the eight participants, identified in the Phase II Conversion Technology Report, took part in the pre-offer process. He said that the process is moving forward and on schedule and that the Subcommittee expects two or three proposals by the due date of May 15, 2008.

V. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsy Landis reported the Subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed the revised Chapter 10 of the Countywide Siting Element.

Ms. Landis said that there was an extensive discussion on the Finding of Conformance (FOC) process, regulations, and laws. Ms. Landis said staff was instructed to report back to the Subcommittee identifying options to modify the FOC process, if necessary, for discussion at the March 2008 meeting.

VI. UPDATE ON CIWMB AB 2296 FINANCIAL ASSURANCE FOR SOLID WASTE LANDFILL'S POST-CLOSURE AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Waste Board conducted meetings with stakeholders to discuss comments provided in response to the *IFC Financial Assurances Study*. Mr. Mohajer expressed satisfaction with the majority of responses to the comments from the Task Force. He stated that his only objection was in reference to the Waste Board's comment casting doubt on the adequacy of local controls to maintain the integrity of closed disposal sites.

Mr. Mohajer clarified that controls in Los Angeles County are stricter than those established by the State and that the Waste Board will revise their response to reflect the adequacy of controls in Los Angeles County. He indicated the Waste Board will conduct more meetings with stakeholders and that he would keep the Task Force updated on the matter. ([see attachment](#))

VII. UPDATE ON SB 1016

Mr. Mohajer reported the Waste Board will meet on March 14, 2008, to discuss how to measure diversion credits for the three existing waste-to-energy facilities, should the per capita measurement system that the Bill proposes be adopted.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Charles Boehmke stated the County Sanitation Districts will follow any development on the issue to be discussed at the March 14 meeting.

VIII. THE CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S ECONOMICS AND TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON GHG REDUCTION

Mr. Mohajer reported that the California Air Resource Board (CARB) released the *Technologies and Policies to Consider for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions in California Report* (Report) on February 18, 2008. He said he had reviewed the document and submitted a list of concerns ([see attachment](#)) to the CARB.

Mr. Mohajer stated his comments are in line with the established policies of the Task Force. His concerns were in reference to the following items:

1. Recycling: The report makes recommendations for mandatory commercial, industrial, and multi-residential recycling and for an increase in the recycling rate to 75 percent by 2012. Mr. Mohajer explained that the Task Force does not agree to such an increase unless a life-cycle analysis is conducted to justify the increase.
2. Producer responsibility: The report acknowledges the importance of producer responsibility, but makes no concrete recommendations on the subject.
3. Composting: While the Task Force supports composting, the development of composting facilities in urban areas (as the report recommends) is problematic because of health and safety concerns by neighboring residents. Mr. Mohajer also expressed concerns over the claim in the report that composting does not generate methane gas.
4. Alternative Daily Cover (ADC): The report suggests that use of greenwaste as ADC competes with composting and thus, the diversion credit for use of greenwaste as ADC should be phased out. The Task Force disagrees with this position and opposes the recommendation.
5. Conversion technology: The report recognizes existing barriers to development of conversion technology, but makes no recommendation with regards to legislative and regulatory changes to overcome such barriers. Furthermore, the report emphasizes the use of conversion technology for agricultural waste while ignoring municipal solid waste.

Mr. Mohajer then reported that there are two bills moving through the legislative process that are already implementing the Report's recommendations: AB 2640 ([see attachment](#)) and AB 2866 ([see attachment](#)). AB 2640 recommends phasing out diversion credit for the use of greenwaste as ADC and imposes a fee of \$1.40 on greenwaste disposed at landfills. The fee would be used for developing composting facilities. Mr. Mohajer cautioned that the Bill makes these recommendations without any scientific justification.

He explained AB 2866 would allow the Waste Board to increase the solid waste disposal fee to \$2 per ton effective July 1, 2008. The position of the Task Force is that any fees imposed on landfills should extend to other solid waste industries. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Boehmke abstaining.

A motion was made to send a letter to the CARB expressing the Task Force's concerns regarding the Report's recommendations in response to the imposition of fees recommended in the Report. In addition, a clear definition of what the revenues will be used for should be provided.

A motion was made to send a letter of opposition to AB 2640. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was also made to send a letter of opposition to AB 2866. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

- AB 1972—introduced by DeSaulnier

This Bill would expand this exemption to include containers that meet ASTM Standard Specification for biodegradable plastics used as coatings on paper and other compostable substrates.

- AB 2058—introduced by Levine

This Bill is a follow up to AB 2449 enacted in 2006. This Bill would require stores that distribute free plastic bags to meet phased plastic bag diversion and reduction benchmarks, demonstrating a 35 percent diversion by July 2011 and 70 percent diversion by July 2013. If either goal is not met, retailers will be prohibited from distributing bags free of charge. The Bill would authorize a store to sell a plastic carryout bag to a

customer at a cost greater than or equal to \$0.15 per bag as an alternative to demonstrating the increased diversion rates.

- AB 2347—introduced by Ruskin

This Bill would require a collection and recycling program for mercury-added thermostats by January 31, 2010.

- AB 2415—introduced by Fuentes

This Bill relates to Sunshine Canyon Landfill. This Bill would require the Waste Board to get approval by Local Enforcement Agencies prior to issuing a solid waste facility permit. A motion was made to send a letter of support for this Bill. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 2505—introduced by Brownley

This Bill would prohibit the use of polyvinyl chloride in any packaging or packaging components. Staff will watch the Bill.

- AB 2625—introduced by Strickland

This Bill would redefine the specifications for “renewable diesel” to include municipal solid waste as a potential feedstock. A motion to support the Bill in concept was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 2640—introduced by Huffman

This Bill would eliminate diversion credit on or after January 1, 2015, for the use of greenwaste for beneficial reuse in the construction and operation of a solid waste landfill or as ADC, and would make greenwaste used as ADC subject to the State’s \$1.40/ton fee, to be deposited by the Waste Board in an account to fund grants and loans for compostable organics management projects.

- AB 2829—introduced by Davis

This Bill, sponsored by the County of Los Angeles, would incorporate an environmental message on plastic bags and would repeal a prohibition on local governments to impose a per-bag fee. It also includes intent

language to assess a Statewide fee on plastic carryout bags, with revenues going to local governments for litter prevention and source reduction programs. A motion to support the Bill was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 3025—introduced by Lieber

This Bill would prohibit the selling of expanded polystyrene loosefill packaging material. A discussion followed and the Task Force instructed staff to watch the Bill.

- SB 1321—introduced by Correa

This Bill would require school districts to operate their own beverage container recycling program or to work with the Civilian Conservation Corps or other recycler to do so. Staff was instructed to watch the Bill.

- SB 1473—introduced by Calderon

This Bill would create a fund based on building permit fees. It would require a city or county to collect \$4 per \$100,000 in valuation from permit applicants. The fees would be deposited in a State fund and made available to promote green building efforts and support additional recycling markets. Discussion ensued. A motion was made to oppose the Bill unless amended so the fees collected remain with the local jurisdictions. The motion passed unanimously.

X. PRESENTATION ON SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS' REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Ms. Toni Young, of the Southern California Association of Governments, conducted a PowerPoint presentation on the Solid Waste Chapter of the *Draft 2008 Regional Comprehensive Plan*. (see attachment) She explained that the plan covers more than solid waste and it's going to be complimentary to the regional transportation plan, and possibly a guide for cities to adopt specific policies.

Ms. Young stated that the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) is a way to address regional challenges identified in the State of the Region Report Card. She explained that RCP promotes a new waste management hierarchy where waste reduction is at the top and landfill disposal at the bottom.

Ms. Young stated that one of the expected outcomes of the RCP would be that all Southern California Association of Governments jurisdictions reach a 40 percent disposal rate (to landfills) by 2035 through the use of recycling, composting, conversion technologies, and extended producer responsibility. Another outcome would be to keep conversion technologies working and available.

Ms. Young said the action plan calls for all levels of government to advocate for source reduction and waste prevention as well as the creation of synergistic linkages with community businesses for the development of eco-industrial parks and material exchange centers, for example.

A motion was made to have staff review the Solid Waste Chapter and present the findings to the Task Force members for their consideration of support. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. PRESENTATION ON ZERO WASTE PACKAGING RESOLUTION

Mr. Spencer Brown, of Earth Friendly Moving, conducted a presentation on zero waste packaging ([see attachment](#)). He stated the basic concept behind his business is to take trash and convert it into a zero waste packaging solution. Earth Friendly Moving rents moving boxes, called RecoPacks, made of recycled plastic bottles.

Mr. Brown explained that RecoPacks are durable, reusable, and save trees as they replace disposable cardboard boxes for moving. He stated that his company is based in California but, he hopes to grow nationally. Mr. Brown stated the purpose of his presentation was to inform the public of a better way to pack and move, and to inspire other entrepreneurs to think green.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE—TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2008, at 1 p.m.

XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.