

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

Minutes of May 15, 2008

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Business/Commerce Representative
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:

Dean Efstathiou, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Gerry Villalobos, 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
Greig Smith, represented by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Enrique Zaldivar, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine Andersen, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
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
Kurt Flor, Svorinich and Associates
John Giddings, Operating Engineers
Steve Howe, Tree People
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2008

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 17, 2008. The motion passed. Ms. Mary Ann Lutz and Mr. Mike Mohajer abstained.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Subcommittee considered articles from the Cities of Calabasas, Inglewood, Hawthorne, and Rancho Palos Verdes, and an article from the Department of Public Works on the implementation of the recycling program at Public Works Headquarters.

He stated that the summer issue of *Inside Solid Waste* will feature an article from the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County on a study comparing emissions produced by green waste when used as alternative daily cover (ADC) and when used for composting. The next issue will also feature updates on relevant legislation, conversion technology, and financial assurance for landfills.

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed the ongoing Request for Offers process. Based on feedback from project participants, the deadline for offers was extended to August 15, 2008.

In addition, the Subcommittee approved the Scope of Work for the next phase of the conversion technology project, which will facilitate development of projects. Mr. Skye also noted that the subcommittee received a presentation from Agripost, who will provide a presentation to the Task Force later in the meeting.

V. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa reported that the County's local enforcement authority (LEA) sent a letter to notify the Los Angeles City Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that BFI's grading activity was not a violation of the Conditional Use Permit ([see attachment](#)). Subsequently, Public Works staff met with Mr. Wayde

Hunter of the CAC to present the LEA's findings. Mr. Aiyetiwa informed the Task Force that Mr. Hunter and Ms. Anne Ziliak of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council were added to the Task Force's e-Notify mailing list.

Mr. Aiyetiwa also reported that the Los Angeles City Council and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a joint powers authority (JPA) to be the LEA for Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

In addition, Mr. Aiyetiwa reported that on May 13, 2008, the Waste Board's Appeal Hearing Panel denied petitions from County, City, and the North Valley Coalition (NVC) to reconsider the processing of BFI's solid waste facility permit (SWFP) application for a combined landfill. He stated that the appeal will be heard again by the full Waste Board on May 19, 2008. Finally, he reported that the Waste Board's Permitting and Compliance Committee will conduct a public information meeting on June 12, 2008, at the San Fernando City Hall. The full Waste Board will consider BFI's application for a SWFP on June 17, 2008.

A discussion followed, and a motion was made to send a letter to the Waste Board requesting a response in writing to the comments made by the Task Force during the March 25, 2008, public informational meeting regarding Title 14, Section 18756, Subdivisions (a), (b), and (d), and the processing by the Waste Board of a SWFP application for BFI. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Mohajer reported that the AB 2296 Working Group (Group) met on April 28, 2008, and May 12, 2008, to discuss financial assurances for closure, post-closure, and corrective action on landfills.

The Group attempted to define what activities constitute closure, post-closure, and corrective action. Also discussed at this meeting was the creation of a "pool fund" to pay for such activities in the event that the landfill operator is unable to meet its financial obligations. The Group is yet to determine how the "pool fund" would be financed. Mr. Mohajer informed that the next meeting on the subject will take place on May 27, 2008.

VII. UPDATE ON AB 2866 (SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FEE INCREASE), AB 2640 (GREENWASTE ADC), SB 1016 (DIVERSION MEASURES), AND SB 1020 (75 PERCENT DIVERSION RATE)

Mr. Mohajer reported that AB 2866 would allow the Waste Board to increase tipping fees from \$1.40 to \$2.00. The Bill would allocate \$0.15 for hybrid collection trucks, \$0.15 for a “pool fund” to finance closure, post-closure, and corrective actions for landfills, and \$0.30 to promote compostable organics activities. He stated the Task Force had voted to oppose the Bill, which is set to expire if it remains in the Assembly Appropriations Committee past May 23, 2008.

Mr. Mohajer reported that AB 2640 has been amended to allow diversion credit for the use of green waste as alternative daily cover (ADC). The Bill, however, would still impose a fee of \$1.40 per ton for beneficial uses of green waste such as ADC. The Task Force has voted to oppose this Bill as well. The Bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Waste Board released, on May 14, 2008, an analysis of the formula they have developed to determine diversion rates for cities and counties. He explained that SB 1016 changes the emphasis of diversion measures from mathematical compliance to program implementation ([see attachments](#)). He said the Waste Board will use 2002 through 2006 as the new base years for measuring diversion rates. The Bill is currently in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Mohajer reported that SB 1020 would mandate the State to increase its diversion rates to 60 percent by 2012, and 75 percent by 2020. The Bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

1. AB 2058—introduced by Levine

This Bill would require stores that distribute free plastic bags to meet a 70 percent plastic bags diversion and reduction benchmark by July 2012. 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 for not less than \$0.25 per bag.

A discussion followed and a motion was made to support the Bill if amended to include provisions similar to those in AB 2829. The motion passed with one abstention.

2. AB 2730—introduced by Leno

This Bill would require a nonprofit convenience zone recycler to be located within one mile of a supermarket that is in a convenience zone not served by a recycling center. This provides an exemption from the current requirement to have a certified recycling center or location within every convenience zone.

Mr. Skye stated that staff conducted a survey among cities in Los Angeles County to learn their positions on the Bill. The City of Agoura Hills would oppose the Bill because of the exemption it grants. Other cities, however, had no concerns. Staff will continue to monitor this Bill.

3. SB 1357—introduced by Padilla

This Bill would allow up to \$20 million to be expended between January 1, 2009, and January 1, 2010, on either grants for beverage container recycling and litter reduction programs, or regional community beverage container recycling and litter reduction programs that meet specified requirements.

A motion to support the Bill was made. The motion passed with one abstention.

4. SB 1625—introduced by Corbett

This Bill would significantly expand California's Bottle and Can Recycling Law to include all plastic bottles, end certain exemptions from the State's CRV fees, and make other technical changes to this Law. Staff will continue to monitor this Bill.

IX. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

No action. Item postponed until next meeting

X. PRESENTATION FROM TRI-POST SYSTEMS, LLC

Mr. Gary Toll, of Tri-Post Systems, LLC, conducted a presentation on his company's composting operations ([see attachment](#)). Tri-Post Systems, LLC is a partnership of American Bio Tech, Agripost, and Currens. Mr. Toll stated that Agripost, Inc., was involved in the development and operation of a composting facility in Miami-Dade County, Florida. He said the facility processed about

1,000 tons per day of municipal solid waste (MSW) and operated for approximately three years before closing in 1993 due to odor emission concerns. He said, however, that such concerns have been addressed and resolved.

Mr. Toll stated that Tri-post's technology uses a combination of thermal gasification and composting processes. He said the company envisions a 300,000-square foot facility, capable of utilizing between 2,000 and 5,000 tons per day of MSW, located in the Los Angeles area and preferably adjacent to a landfill. Local independent waste haulers would supply the necessary wastestream for the plant to operate.

Mr. Toll concluded, however, that the company is still in development and testing is occurring at partner facilities in other states.

XI. PRESENTATION ON COUNTY LEA IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 1473

Mr. Gerry Villalobos, of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, conducted a presentation on Los Angeles County LEA implementation of AB 1473 ([see attachment](#)). Mr. Villalobos explained that AB 1473 requires the Waste Board to adopt emergency regulations authorizing an enforcement agency to issue a temporary solid waste facility permit (SWFP) to facility operators which as of January 1, 2008, are required under the act to have an SWFP but have not yet obtained one.

He explained that as a result of AB 1473, Section 44002.1 was added to the California Public Resource Code (PRC) to allow a temporary permitting scheme that would grant temporary permits more quickly than is possible under the existing law. This would protect public health, safety, and the environment.

Mr. Villalobos stated that operators that receive a temporary SWFP must obtain a permanent SWFP by June 30, 2010, or cease activities for which an SWFP is required. He added that Los Angeles County LEA identified 30 facilities within its jurisdiction that might require temporary SWFPs. Information on the new regulations was provided to these operators. He stated that the LEA anticipates at least five or six facilities will be submitting applications for temporary permits.

XII. PRESENTATION ON SOLID WASTE CHAPTER OF THE 2008 REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

No action. Item postponed until next meeting.

**XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE—TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY,
JUNE 19, 2008**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2008, at 1 p.m.

XIV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.