

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

Minutes of June 19, 2008

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
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
Stephen Maguin, represented by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County
Enrique Zaldivar, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine Andersen, City of Long Beach
Carl Clark, Business/Commerce Representative
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Gerry Miller, 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
James Carson, City of Sierra Madre
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Cary Kalscheuer, City of Azusa
Travis Lange, City of Santa Clarita
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Tobie Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Fred Rubin, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rene Salas, City of La Puente
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Glenda Vaquerano, MWW Group

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 15, 2008

Due to a lack of quorum no action regarding the minutes was taken. Item postponed until the next meeting.

III. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed Chapter 10 of the Countywide Siting Element. The Subcommittee requested staff to make revisions to the chapter based on specific directions and guidelines from the Subcommittee. Staff will report back at the following meeting.

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Tobie Mitchell reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day to discuss the interim reports from the four participating conversion technology suppliers. Project offers are due to the County on August 15, 2008. The Subcommittee also requested staff to work with staff of the California Energy Commission to ensure that the projects discussed qualified as renewable energy generation facilities.

Ms. Mitchell also reported that the Subcommittee continued with its public outreach efforts. For example, staff recently gave presentations at the California Contract Cities Conference, the Solid Waste Association of North America conference, and the Green Pasadena Leadership Summit.

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that the AB 2296 Working Group (Group) met on May 27, 2008 and on June 18, 2008. The Group discussed the types of activities that should be categorized as either closure and maintenance, or corrective action since no clear definition exists to distinguish the two categories.

Mr. Mohajer stated that Waste Board staff is currently working to formulate the definitions.

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Group reached a consensus regarding the number of items to include in the regulations to be presented to the Waste Board for adoption. The next meeting of the Group will be on July 17, 2008, during which unresolved items will be discussed, including the creation of a "pool fund" to pay for closure, post-closure, and corrective action activities.

VI. 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 2640 was amended on June 17, 2008. As amended, the Bill would make greenwaste used as ADC subject to the State's solid waste fee, with revenues used to provide grants for new or existing composting facilities. This Bill's intent is to support the Waste Board's Strategic Directive to achieve a 50 percent reduction of organic materials in the waste stream by 2020. Mr. Mohajer reiterated the position of the Task Force to oppose the Bill.

AB 2866 would allow the Waste Board to increase solid waste disposal fees from \$1.40 to \$2.00 per ton. The Bill would allocate \$0.15 for hybrid collection trucks, from 2009 to 2012; \$0.15 for a "pool fund" to finance closure, post-closure, and corrective actions for landfills; \$0.18 to promote compostable organics activities, from 2009 to 2020; and \$0.12 for discretionary spending.

In addition, the Bill would allow waste haulers to pass along the cost of increasing solid waste disposal fees to customers without regard to any existing contractual agreements between jurisdictions and waste haulers. He stated the Task Force continues to oppose the Bill.

Mr. Mohajer reported that while SB 1016 authors have addressed a number of major issues raised by the Task Force, the following concerns remain unresolved in the Bill: a) consideration of economic growth in calculating per capita disposal rates, b) a clear definition of what constitutes "diversion facilities," and c) a clear definition of the terms "update, amend, and revise" as they relate to annual reporting and other related requirements.

He stated that SB 1016 is scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on June 23, 2008. A motion was made to "Support and Amend" the bill. Due to a lack of quorum, voting on the motion was held until the next meeting.

Mr. Mohajer reported that SB 1020 remains in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Virginia Jauregui provided updates on the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

1. AB 501—introduced by Swanson and Hancock

This Bill requires manufacturers to provide a sharps container to customers upon request. New language added on June 11, 2008, would allow the following as an alternative to manufacturers 1) supply a coupon for a mail-back sharps container or container for safe storage, or 2) provide a toll-free number or website to be displayed on the package that directs the patient to a supplier of sharps containers or mail-back containers.

2. AB 1075—introduced by Cook

This Bill would revise the definition of “transformation” to exclude anaerobic digestion. It would define composting operation, composting facility, and anaerobic digestion. Previously, this Bill would have also defined the term gasification as “solid waste conversion.”

3. SB 1016—introduced by Wiggins

This Bill would revise the current diversion rate measurement system to a per-capita disposal based system, using 2003-2006 as a base year. This Bill was amended on June 10, 2008.

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

Mr. Benjamin Cortez conducted a presentation on the Solid Waste Chapter ([see attachment](#)) of the Draft 2008 Regional Comprehensive Plan of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

Mr. Cortez explained that SCAG is the largest regional council in the nation and stressed the potential impact regional solid waste policies have on the State as a

whole. He stated that the Chapter, in essence, promotes a paradigm shift to reduce waste generation and reliance on landfills.

Mr. Cortez stated that SCAG's goal is to achieve 60 percent waste diversion by 2035. SCAG plans to achieve its goal through promotion and implementation of constrained policies at the local and State levels and strategic initiatives at the Federal level.

Mr. Cortez stated that the period to submit comments on the Chapter will end on August 11, 2008. On September 11, 2008, SCAG's Executive Board will consider the Chapter for adoption.

A motion was made to support the Chapter and direct staff who previously reviewed the Chapter, submit comments to SCAG before the end of the public comment period. Due to a lack of quorum, voting on the motion was held until the next meeting.

IX. UPDATE ON THE CIWMB'S POTENTIAL OPTIONS FOR THE ORGANIC DIVERSION FACILITIES SITING PROJECT

Ms. Linda Lee conducted a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on the Waste Board's options for the siting of organic diversion facilities. She stated that in 2007, the Waste Board called for a reduction in organics disposed in landfills by 2020. This would require between 50 and 100 new or expanding facilities that produce compost, biofuels or bioenergy.

Ms. Lee stated that the Waste Board conducted two workshops, 50 interviews and surveyed 250 stakeholders in order to identify barriers to siting organics diversion facilities. These efforts resulted in the following eight outcomes for the Waste Board to pursue:

- Coordination of governmental agencies to identify goals and methodologies, and establish subgroups to work on specific tasks. Agencies involved include California Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- Coordination of facility regulatory process to streamline permitting of facilities among pertinent agencies
- Facilitation of pertinent research and studies through the Waste Board. This would require the categorization of studies and results including life cycle analyses

- Integration of information through a computer information system that would include model software to provide full cost of accounting and net environmental benefits as well as access to research and technical experts.
- Adequate planning to provide jurisdictions with information on potential siting areas and allow zoning of agricultural land for organic based processes. In addition, jurisdictions would develop and implement plans to account for organics diversion capacity
- Education of the public on the benefits of organics diversion including examples of well run facilities safely operating under local oversight
- Compliance with minimum state and federal standards, and permitting terms and conditions including best management practices (BMP) and best available control technologies (BACT)
- Identifying funding sources for facilities development and providing low interest loans or debt financing to existing facilities for upgrading and conducting of pilot projects

A discussion followed and the Task Force instructed staff to prepare a letter to the Waste Board, based on the existing Task Force position, addressing the need to further define, "organics" and the difficulty of siting composting facilities in the Los Angeles region.

X. UPDATE ON THE CIWMB'S OPTIONS TO REDUCE GREEN MATERIAL ALTERNATIVE DAILY COVER (ADC)

Ms. Emiko Thompson presented an update on the options proposed by Waste Board staff and the ADC Workgroup (Workgroup) to reduce the amount of green waste used as ADC in landfills. The five options proposed are as follows:

1. Option one requires local jurisdictions to develop and implement marketing plans for composting which would include reuse and purchasing policies and local market developing efforts.
2. Option two applies a \$1.40 disposal fee on green waste, or an increase on disposal fees for all solid waste to \$2.00 with revenues going towards market development. Any fee increase, however, would require statutory amendments since ADC is considered as "beneficial use" rather than

disposal. The Workgroup reached a consensus that additional funding is needed to support organics market development.

3. Option three requires local jurisdictions to develop a “diversion processing capacity provision” to address jurisdictions’ overall diversion capacity through its programs and facilities.
4. Option four promotes contracting mechanisms that ensure non-landfill uses of green waste, such as composting.
5. Option five develops a time frame and mechanism for phasing out green waste ADC diversion credit over a seven year period. Mrs. Thompson stated that redefining green material ADC as disposal rather than beneficial reuse would have a significant impact on diversion rates in Southern California.

At the Waste Board meeting of June 17, 2008, the Board directed staff to continue to monitor and provide technical assistance to associated legislation such as AB 2866 and AB 2640, and to participate in the planning of measures to mitigate the closure of Puente Hills landfill.

The Task Force instructed staff to prepare a letter to the Waste Board, based on the existing Task Force position, addressing the Board’s need to consider Los Angeles’ regional green waste management issues with respect to the options presented.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB

No action. Item postponed until the next meeting.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE—TENTATIVELY SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY, JULY 17, 2008

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2008, at 1 p.m.

XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

A letter from a County unincorporated area resident was discussed. The resident had concerns regarding waste collection services in his area. EPD staff stated that they were aware of the letter and were working with the resident to address the issues.

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.