

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

DRAFT

Minutes of November 15, 2012

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)
Eugene Sun, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mitchell Englander, rep by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Gail Farber, rep by Pat Proano, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep by Cindy Chen, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
George Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Corey Mayne, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles
Peggy Polinsky
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Martin Ruiz, City of Los Angeles
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2012, MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes with corrections. Mr. Pat Proano suggested that the minutes should be more of a summary of the discussions and actions taken than a word by word translation. Ms. Betsey Landis commented that there are times when it is necessary to capture exact or close to exact statements especially when changes are being suggested or motions are being made, and if it's not a word by word translation, the intent of the statement must be captured. The committee agreed that the level of detail of the minutes would be dependent on the topic discussed, the level of controversy, and the historical reference need. The motion passed with abstentions from Ms. Nicole Bernson and Ms. Cindy Chen.

III. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported the subcommittee reviewed a few articles submitted by Public Works such as BMPs for stormwater control for gas station and used oil collection centers. Additional articles were expected by staff but should be submitted in time for the January edition. Mr. Pat Proano suggested an online newsletter may be a tool to have articles submitted more timely. Articles could be posted online as they are written and an ongoing feed of information and subscribers would be notified as articles are uploaded. Mr. Mohajer stated the current newsletter is online.

IV. FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the subcommittee reviewed graphs illustrating the number of odor complaints received by the South Coast Air Quality Management District on Sunshine Canyon Landfill for the month of October 2012. There have been a record number of odor complaints, and the subcommittee expressed concerns on the time it has taken for Republic Services, Inc., to fix problems with the landfill gas collection system. It appears the overall engineering system isn't designed well enough to properly handle the amount of gas generated at the landfill. The subcommittee inquired about any other potential enforcement actions that can be taken. The subcommittee expressed enforcement should be taken by the planning agencies of the County and/or of the City of Los Angeles since they have the enforcement authority through their land use permits. The subcommittee questioned if it was time to set a deadline for actions if the number of odor complaints do not significantly decrease. Ms. Landis suggested the City

of Los Angeles' Council Member Mitch Englander look into the problem as well. Ms. Nicole Bernson stated that the Councilman is well aware of the problem and is participating in an interagency working group to eliminate the odors, but the issue of the odors is under the jurisdiction of the AQMD. Mr. Mike Mohajer stated odor nuisance is under the jurisdiction of the Local Health Officer, which is the County Health Department.

Ms. Cindy Chen of the County Health Department, stated the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) is aware of the odor issue and the increase of the odor complaints. She further stated the LEA is looking into density calculations to determine the adequacy of the vertical gas extraction wells. The LEA has requested more information from Republic, however not all of the data has come in yet. She also indicated they are not the only agency reviewing the data. It is a joint effort with AQMD, and it is not a quick fix. Ms. Landis acknowledged that Republic has attempted to take actions, but since 2008 there has been a continual increase of complaints. The subcommittee is extremely concerned, and would like to seek the Task Force's direction on enforcement and possibly coming up with a plan of action in regards to the deficiencies at the landfill.

Mr. Ron Saldana stated that these issues shouldn't be a Task Force discussion since it is coming in the form of a subcommittee report, and there isn't enough information before the members to discuss the issues. Ms. Landis stated she wanted to put the Task Force on alert so they can keep abreast of how bad the situation continues to be, and eventually actions will need to be taken.

Mr. Pat Proano emphasized that all the agencies, including Council Member Englander, are working together to resolve the odor issue. Mr. Proano added that Republic is required to use a nine-inch soil cover at the end of each day, however, Republic has been challenging it. Mr. Mohajer stated that the approved environmental (CEQA) documents states that soil must be used if there is an odor problem. A Supplemental EIR would have to be prepared to change this mitigation measure.

Ms. Landis also reported that the subcommittee reviewed the County Sanitation Districts' Waste-by-Rail Status Report, and stated the project is progressing well. The City of Whittier has submitted more documents regarding the Savage Canyon Landfill to the LEA. The documents will be reviewed over the next few weeks and staff will determine if they have enough information to make a recommendation on whether a Finding of Conformance is needed. Finally, during the public comment item, a question was asked regarding whether the quarterly Finding of Conformance reports were received from all landfills. They were once provided to the members on a regular basis, but they haven't been received in a while. Mr. Mohajer would like these documents to be shared with the Task Force upon receipt.

V. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (ATAS)

Mr. George Gomez reported that Mr. Mike Hart, from Sierra Energy Corp, made a PowerPoint presentation via telephone. He introduced the Sierra Energy Gasification Pilot Project in Sacramento and elaborated on the type of system and feedstock this project uses. Mr. Gomez also gave an update on the County's Conversion Technology Project Development. The past month's focus has been on funding opportunities and compiling outreach materials for upcoming conferences. Mr. Pat Proano added the County will be participating in the following events:

- CalRecycle Workshop on MRF Performance Standards, November 26, 2012, in Alhambra, CA (hosted by County of Los Angeles Public Works)
- Annual California State Association of Counties Conference (CSAC), November 27-30, 2012, in Long Beach, CA
- Waste Conversion Congress West Coast, November 28-29, 2012, in Long Beach, CA

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated elected officials will be in Sacramento the week of November 19 and strongly suggested getting Senator Rubio to attend because he most likely will be elected as chairman of the Senate EQ Committee as well as Assemblymember Wesley Chesbro. Mr. Proano indicated they are planning a half-day workshop for the LA Delegation in March to discuss conversion technologies. In addition to Senator Rubio, they are looking to get others to help sponsor the bill. They will continue with outreach.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

The City of Los Angeles submitted a comment letter on the Draft Siting Element dated November 14, 2012, that Ms. Karen Coca asked to be withdrawn due to their desire to resubmit comments that were more general in nature. Ms. Coca stated they can work directly with the County to address their comments, and thanked County staff for their patience and being able to meet to accomplish most of the things that needed to be done.

Ms. Emiko Thompson then presented the [attached presentation](#) on the Draft Countywide Siting Element (Siting Element). She stated the existing Siting Element was published in 1997 and approved by the majority of the cities in the County containing a majority of the population, as well as the Board of

Supervisors, and CalRecycle in 1998. The revised draft Siting Element is an update to the existing version and will replace it when approved by CalRecycle.

The purpose of the Siting Element is to describe how the County and the Cities within the County plan to manage the disposal of solid waste over a 15-year planning period after recycling, composting, and other waste recovery activities have taken place. It also establishes goals, policies, guidelines, and strategies for the proper planning and siting of landfills and alternative technology facilities on a countywide basis.

The roles of the Task Force with respect to the Siting Element are to (1) assist and advise the County in the preparation of the Siting Element and review the document prior to circulation; (2) develop goals, policies, and procedures to guide the development of the Siting Element, and (3) identify solid waste management issues of countywide or regional concern.

Chapter 2 of the Siting Element outlines the following goals of the Siting Element:

- Goal 1 - promote extended producer responsibility, and the development of adequate markets.
- Goal 2 - increase the amount of solid waste put to beneficial use through source reduction, recycling, reuse, composting, public education, and alternative technologies.
- Goal 3 - encourage waste diversion activities by solid waste facility operators.
- Goal 4 - recycle and reuse inert waste; dispose of inert waste at inert waste landfills; and use green waste and other appropriate materials for landfill daily cover.
- Goal 5 - ensure that the cities and the County unincorporated communities are served by an efficient and economical public/private solid waste management system.
- Goal 6 - foster the development of alternative technologies as alternatives to landfill disposal.
- Goal 7 - provide siting criteria for the development of solid waste management facilities (including conversion technology and transformation facilities, and landfills).
- Goal 8 - address the solid waste disposal needs during the 15-year planning period for solid waste which cannot be reduced, recycled, composted, or otherwise put to beneficial use.

Mr. Pat Proano mentioned he spoke to Carroll Mortensen and expressed that the current laws, which only relate to landfilling or burning without identifying other methods, need to favor more modern ways to handle waste. After substantial

discussion, Mr. Proano made a motion for the Task Force to approve the preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element. Mr. Mohajer seconded. Another discussion ensued with suggested revisions to the document given to staff. Following a suggestion by Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Proano revised the motion for the Task Force to approve Public Works to move forward with submitting the Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element with the suggested corrections to the Board of Supervisors. The revised motion passed unanimously.

VII. UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA PAINTCARE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Ms. Armine Kesablyan reported negotiations for the paint stewardship program are continuing. PaintCare implemented their program starting October 19, 2012, with a chain of about 300 local paint retail stores. Currently, there are 60 retail locations spread out throughout Los Angeles County. The Department of Public Works is currently working with their County Counsel and about 30 other local agencies, including the City of Los Angeles and County Sanitation Districts, to collectively negotiate a fair contract to address liability and insurance issues. The County's biggest concern is liability at the point of pick up. Under PaintCare's current terms, the County would still be liable, hold title, and risk of loss after transferring paint to PaintCare or its contractors.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz noted that PaintCare has established sites throughout the County, and Public Works will begin referring the public to those sites to take back their paint. Ms. Karen Coca stated the City of Los Angeles is unable to sign their contract because PaintCare won't accept generator status, liability, or even allow facility inspection. Mr. Mike Mohajer requested keeping the item on the agenda until the issue is addressed and resolved. PaintCare has since filed a lawsuit against CalRecycle indicting they went beyond their authority.

VIII. REPORT FROM CALRECYCLE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin reported on the following:

- MRF Standards workshops will be held November 26, 2012, at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works from noon to 4 p.m. A webinar will also be available for online participation.
- The Four Year review is coming up in April 2013. They are still discussing whether or not they need to hold public meetings for local jurisdictions.
- Tire-related grants – check online for application and deadlines.

Ms. Wallin also announced she would be going on maternity leave beginning early December 2012. Primitivo Nunez will be filling in during her absence.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Task Force members present agreed to cancel the December meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 18, in Conference Room B.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the Public.

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

ts

P:\epub\ENGLAN\ENVIRO. AFFAIRS\TASK FORCE\Task Force\Minutes\2012 Minutes\TF Minutes October-Draft-1.doc-Draft