

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

Minutes of April 18, 2013

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
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Michael Conway, rep by Jim Kuhl, City of Long Beach Public Works Department
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 Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Eugene Sun, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Aranda, Jr., Veterans Green Jobs
Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Becky Bendikson, SCL-CAC
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
George Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Walter McKinney, Clean Waste Tech.
Nik Reppuhn, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chris Sheppard, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Curtis William, City of Santa Clarita

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:13 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 21, 2013, MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. George Gomez provided the following update from the meeting of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee.

The County continues to work with IRS to develop a CT Demo facility in the City of South Gate. A draft document that will define the project and County's support activities is currently being reviewed by IRS.

Public Works has prepared their October 2012-April 2013 status report regarding the conversion technology program and will be submitting it to the Board of Supervisors. The report will be made available to Task Force members. The County's technical consultant has completed an updated status listing of site owners and projects. As part of ongoing activities to monitor technologies and provide technical information to stakeholders, the consultant also compiled a listing of companies, including those that are currently in our database and others that are not yet listed. The table includes a brief company and technology description, contact information and website links. This information will be evaluated by Public Works and then made available to the public.

Staff provided an update on the County's legislative activities related to SB 804. Senator Lara is authoring SB 804 as well as SB 715, which would provide Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) credit to waste-to-energy facilities in Long Beach and Commerce. Mr. Gomez noted further discussion regarding SB 804 would take place under the legislative update item later in the meeting. Following Mr. Gomez's update, additional discussion took place regarding SB 804.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY PLAN & REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE (FPRS)

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the subcommittee discussed the problems at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and reviewed the odor complaints historical charts. As Republic's efforts are not proving to be fruitful, the subcommittee may recommend to the regulatory agencies that the only way to improve the odor situation at the Landfill is to reduce the tonnage accepted until the odor control systems are adequate enough to handle the intake. Since the Interagency Task Force is in the process of discussing odor mitigation measures, the

subcommittee had decided to wait one more month before requesting this Task Force take some type of action. The subcommittee also discussed the Finding of Conformance (FOC) for the Savage Canyon Landfill in the City of Whittier. Staff anticipates making recommendations in the next couple of months once the document is made available by the LEA for public viewing.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Coby Skye distributed and presented the [attached Legislative Summary Table](#) and recommended action on the legislative bills listed below.

AB 8/SB 11 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to support. Mr. Pat Proano made the motion to send the letter seconded by Mr. Ron Saldana. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 153 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to support. Mr. Proano made the motion to send the letter seconded by Mr. Saldana. The motion passed with abstentions from Ms. Cindy Chen, Ms. Nicole Bernson, Ms. Reina Pereira, and Mr. Chris Salomon.

AB 416 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to support. Mr. Proano made the motion to send the letter seconded by Mr. Jim Kuhl. The motion passed with abstentions from Ms. Chen and Mr. Salomon.

AB 521 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to support. The Task Force requested additional information and to bring the bill back for discussion at next month's Task Force meeting.

AB 794 – Ms. Landis brought this bill forward and expressed concerns that it provides too broad an exemption from CEQA. She made a motion to send a letter to oppose, seconded by Mr. Proano. The motion passed with abstentions from Ms. Bernson, Ms. Chen, Ms. Pereira, Mr. Saldana, and Mr. Salomon.

AB 997 – Ms. Landis brought this bill forward and expressed concerns that it changes the definition of composting in a way that is unscientific. Ms. Landis suggested opposing the bill based on experiments at the Lancaster Landfill, which combine anaerobic and aerobic digestion. Mr. Salomon stated typically composting is an aerobic process and not anaerobic. They are trying to combine two different things on a technical level, and the bill could potentially create additional confusion. Ms. Bernson stated she believes we would like to see anaerobic digestion have the same benefit in the law as aerobic digestion or composting. She stated she isn't opposed to the bill as it stands, but could support under different circumstances. Mr. Salomon noted that conceptually in combination with AB 794 would create a situation

where potentially anaerobic digestion goes CEQA free. Ms. Bernson disagreed and stated anaerobic digestion should be on par with composting in the way it is treated in the hierarchy by CalRecycle. Mr. Skye suggested an “oppose unless amended” position may be appropriate to capture the Task Force’s concerns. Ms. Landis stated there needs to be two definitions because composting is being enlarged to include anaerobic digestion when it is not anaerobic. She also had concerns that with this broad definition, composting could be an extension of a landfill since anaerobic digestion occurs at a landfill. After additional brief discussion, Ms. Landis made a motion to send a letter to oppose seconded by Mr. Proano. The motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Salomon.

AB 1001 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to support if amended. Ms. Bernson made the motion to send the letter seconded by Ms. Landis, with a request to send the draft letter to Ms. Bernson and Mr. Ron Saldana. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 1021 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to support if amended. Mr. Salomon made the motion to send the letter seconded by Mr. Sam Perdomo. The motion passed with one abstention from Ms. Bernson.

AB 1337 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to oppose. Ms. Landis made the motion to send the letter seconded by Ms. Margaret Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 715 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to support. Ms. Landis made the motion to send the letter to support and amend the bill, seconded by Mr. Proano. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 727 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to support. Ms. Bernson made a motion to send the letter seconded by Mr. Proano. The motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Salomon.

SB 804 – Staff recommended the Task Force send a letter to support if amended. Mr. Proano made a motion to support the bill as is and added that in Sacramento you need to be consistent with what you’re proposing. He requested the Task Force to support the efforts made so far by the County, which will strengthen and add more credibility to the efforts of the bill. Ms. Landis added that it would be a support position as of this date with the hope as it changes it will be for the better. Ms. Clark asked if the bill included the definitions, and Mr. Skye responded that in print now is the 15-part bill that includes broadening the definition of biomass to include the biogenic fraction of solid waste, establishing a definition of CTs consistent with the definition adopted by the Task Force, and the slight correction to “gasification” and

“solid waste conversion” to delete the restriction on the use of air or oxygen. He also stated the amended version will probably be in print sometime next week, certainly before the April 30 hearing. Mr. Proano added the letters that come from the Task Force lists all the comprising agencies represented, which shows support for what you do, but a support unless amended position for this bill may state you really don’t support it. Ms. Clark stated the letter sent should reiterate the Task Force’s stand on the importance of conversion technology and Mr. Proano agreed. After this discussion Ms. Landis seconded the motion, and the motion passed with abstentions from Ms. Chen, Ms. Pereira, and Mr. Salomon.

VI. UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA PAINTCARE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Ms. Armine Kesablyan reported that at the March 26, 2013, Household Hazardous Waste Information Exchange meeting hosted in the City of Pasadena, Paul Fresina, PaintCare Senior Director of Operations and Communications, gave a brief update on PaintCare’s current status. Mr. Fresina stated that a total of 383 paint retail stores in California were collecting paint as part of the Paint Stewardship Program. He also confirmed that ten jurisdictions or governing bodies had signed contracts with PaintCare. In Southern California the signed contracts included the Counties of Kern and San Bernardino; and San Diego’s Regional Solid Waste Association. Additionally, Riverside County’s contract is pending.

At this time, the County of Los Angeles is working to resolve issues with the newly drafted PaintCare contract to feasibly establish an agreement for the paint collected through the County’s mobile collection events and permanent collection centers. Public Works is working with County Counsel, in conjunction with the City of Los Angeles and the Sanitation Districts, to craft language for an agreement with PaintCare that addresses liability issues.

Currently, Public Works has not seen a drop in paint collection at its mobile and permanent centers and anticipates more analysis will be conducted in the future.

Public Works also operates the CLEANLA hotline that serves Los Angeles County residents. Through the hotline, staff has received several complaints from residents about the inability to dispose of paint properly at the designated paint retail stores.

Public Works is also closely monitoring the rulemaking process for the Form 303 State mandated annual reporting system to make sure that reporting of paint will be properly handled if a paint stewardship program is implemented with local jurisdictions.

VII. GREEN WASTE MANAGEMENT RESOURCE GUIDE

Mr. Russell Bukoff presented the Department of Public Works' [Green Waste Management Resource Guide](#) which provides residents and businesses in Los Angeles County with a list of facilities where green waste may be taken in preparation for the closure of the Puente Hills Landfill on October 31, 2013. The target audience for the guide is Puente Hills Landfill customers, self-haulers, gardeners, landscapers, the general public, and cities; however, Puente Hills Landfill customers will be the primary target of this outreach. Once this Guide is released to the public, it will be posted on the SWIMS and CleanLA web sites. Staff will be working with CSD to distribute an informational flyer to Puente Hills Landfill's customers notifying them where they can get an e-copy of the document. E-mail, social media such as twitter, and other media outlets will also be considered to provide outreach on the topic. This Resource Guide is a living document and may be updated on a semi- or annual basis.

VIII. UPDATE ON WATER BOARDS' PROPOSED STATEWIDE ORDER, AND CALRECYCLE'S DRAFT REGULATORY REVISIONS TO TITLES 14 AND 27, REGARDING COMPOSTING FACILITIES

Mr. Nik Reppuhn reported, CalRecycle released draft language in 2012 regarding the revision of Title 14 and 27 regulations as it applies to permitting composting facilities. CalRecycle released their most recent revisions on February 28, 2013, regarding the initial discussion draft text based on comments received. In response to the most recent revisions, the Task Force sent a letter on March 28, 2013, with comments consistent with those previously sent to CalRecycle. The last two workshops were held on April 11, and 16, 2013. The discussions focused on the key revisions from the previous draft text which included: (1) adding, removing, and editing specific definitions with regards to different types of composting activities; (2) in-vessel digestion being defined as a combination of transfer processing and compostable material handling activities; and (3) the newly revised Odor Concept.

There is no new draft language since the last revision on February 28, 2013. Staff will continue to monitor CalRecycle's progress with regards to the revisions to Title 14 and 27.

Mr. Reppuhn recalled that the State Water Board's draft Order was released on Aug 7, 2012. The SWRCB also released an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration detailing the environmental impacts related to the discharge of waste at compost facilities. Public Works prepared and sent a comment letter dated October 10, 2012, regarding the initial study/mitigated negative declaration.

The SWRCB cancelled their public meeting that was scheduled for November 6, 2012, to discuss and potentially approve the Draft Order, Initial Study, and

Mitigated Negative Declaration. The meeting has been rescheduled for May 21, 2013, in Riverside. Staff will be in attendance to monitor the Water Board's progress and will continue to monitor both CalRecycle's draft regulatory revisions as well as the Water Board's draft order and provide the Task Force with any updates.

IX. DTSC SAFER CONSUMER PRODUCTS (GREEN CHEMISTRY) REGULATIONS

Mr. Gabriel Areas updated the TF on the Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC) ongoing development of regulations for Safer Consumer Products which are part of the Green Chemistry Initiative proposed by Governor Schwarzenegger in 2008. The regulations would establish a process for the identification and prioritization of chemicals of concern (COC) in consumer products and establish a process for analyzing safer alternatives to COC in consumer products. Mr. Arenas summarized the Task Force about their previous comments for earlier versions of the regulations and informed them that the most recent regulations were not too different from the last version. However, the most recent set of regulations did incorporate a TF comment with regards to a requirement that manufacturers provide written substantiation of their agreement to participate in alternative end of life programs. He also informed the TF members that DTSC would accept comments only on the most recent revisions to the document and thus staff would not be recommending new comments. Staff, however, did recommend sending a letter of appreciation for including the comment as well to express their gratitude for the overall transparency of the regulatory development process. Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to send a letter thanking them for their transparency seconded by Ms. Cindy Chen. The motion passed unanimously.

X. CALRECYCLE

There was no report from CalRecycle.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the Public.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2013, in Conference Room C.

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

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