

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Revised Minutes of January 15, 2004

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Fernando Berton, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
John McTaggart, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Michael Theroux, Theroux Environmental Consulting
Christine Urbach, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Ed Wheless, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kay Martin, County of Ventura Environmental & Energy Resources Department
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Anoush Hovsepian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Ben Lucha, City of Santa Clarita
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jessica Vallerand, City of Santa Clarita

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:37 a.m.

II. WELCOME

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee members introduced themselves. Mr. Carlos Ruiz thanked all members for their willingness to participate in the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee and Mr. Mike Mohajer for his efforts in forming the subcommittee and for his past role in developing the Task Force's and County of Los Angeles' policies with regard to alternative technologies. He indicated that the Task Force AB 939 recommendations adopted in May 1999 included promoting and providing incentives for the development of alternative technologies. In July 1999 the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted these recommendations.

Mr. Ruiz expressed his sincere hope that the Subcommittee's work will serve as a catalyst for the development of conversion technologies through the identification of viable technologies, promotion of these technologies, potential development of a pilot facility, and through efforts to bring about changes in State law. Mr. Ruiz also added that the creation of the Subcommittee is based upon condition 24.c of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the Puente Hills landfill (see attached document), which requires the County Sanitation Districts to provide up to \$100,000 per year over the next 10 years towards the cost of conducting studies of alternative technologies as well as promoting and implementing these technologies. Mr. Ruiz announced that Mr. Paul Alva has been designated by the Director of Public Works to represent Public Works and Chair the Subcommittee.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Alva provided the Subcommittee members with informational packets which provide a history of the Task Force's involvement with conversion technologies. The packet included Task Force letters, reports from the Waste Board and other jurisdictions, and other materials related to the promotion and development of conversion technologies.

Mr. Alva provided an overall summary of the subcommittee's roles and responsibilities. Mr. Alva stated the overall role of this subcommittee is to advise the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force on how to promote the development of conversion technology as well as to advise the County of Los Angeles in the preparation of studies regarding conversion

technologies as specified in the Puente Hills CUP. He also noted that members can discuss and expand that role with approval of the Task Force.

Mr. Alva stated a specific task for the Subcommittee is to develop a scope of work for a consultant to evaluate conversion technologies best suited for the Southern California area, as required in the Puente Hills CUP. He added that the CUP requires the County Sanitation Districts to give the County of Los Angeles up to \$100,000 per year for 10 years for studying, promoting and implementing conversion technologies. Mr. Mohajer pointed out that, according to the CUP, the study must be completed by November 2004. He also asked Public Works to verify with the County Counsel if the work of the subcommittee is subject to the Brown Act. This Subcommittee will be involved in selection of the contractor and will review and implement the recommendations of the study. The Subcommittee is also responsible for developing strategies to promote conversion technologies outside of the scope of work/study.

IV. SCOPE OF WORK

Mr. Paul Alva began a discussion regarding the scope of work for the proposed study. The discussion involved the following issues:

- Identifying the best suited technologies for development in Southern California
- Surveying other agencies that have conducted similar studies to examine their findings
- Evaluating promising technologies
- Investigating the regulatory landscape
- Identifying potential obstacles

Mr. Michael Theroux suggested that the Subcommittee consider developing a complex of specific technologies suited for different feedstock in one location, rather than limiting consideration to just one specific technology. He also added that he has potential access to external funds that would allow the Subcommittee to further promote conversion technology projects.

Mr. Fernando Berton stressed the importance of finding technologies with co-products, and also suggested considering co-location, using existing solid waste facilities and the existing transportation infrastructure. He also suggested there is a natural synergy between biofuels and conversion technology when considering co-location.

Several studies regarding alternative technologies have been conducted recently, including studies by Santa Barbara County, the City of Los Angeles,

and the California Integrated Waste Management Board. Rather than repeat work that has already been done, the Task Force's study should review existing studies and identify technology for implementation of a pilot facility. After an extensive discussion, the Subcommittee reached consensus to survey existing studies before developing the scope of work, and to have the contractor also review available reports and literature. The subcommittee determined that its first task is to identify a single alternative technology best suited for Southern California by November 1, 2004. Copies of sample scopes of work from Santa Barbara County and the City of Los Angeles will be obtained as samples to help the Subcommittee develop its own scope of work to be given to the consultant.

Mr. Jeff Yann also stressed the importance of understanding the context of the Puente Hills CUP in the fact that it incentivizes developing remote landfills. He added that we will losing capacity in 2008 if the remote landfills are not developed, so it does set a timeline for the work we are doing.

Mr. Alva also requested samples of scopes of work from the Subcommittee members in order to have material ready for the next meeting date. The members will share this information and continue to communicate via e-mail. It was requested that the e-mail communications have the same heading and all Subcommittee members be copied.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

The Subcommittee discussed future meeting dates/times. It was agreed that meetings will be scheduled for every third Thursday of the month in addition possibly discussing items via e-mail in order to accommodate busy schedules. A concern about Brown Act compliance was raised, and a suggestion was made to use an online forum/webpage so that discussion between meetings is available to the public. The time for future meetings will be determined according to the schedules of other Subcommittee meetings and conference room availability. Members will be notified as soon as they are scheduled.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

**Puente Hills Landfill
Conditional Use Permit
Case No. 02-027-(4)**

Conditions

*Approved by the Regional Planning Commission on 12/18/02
Received on 12/19/02*

hours when the number is staffed.

23. The County reserves the right to exercise its police powers to protect the public health, safety and general welfare by managing the County-wide waste stream, including such activities as the appropriate regulation of tipping fees and similar Facility rates, fees or charges.
24. As agreed, the permittee shall make the following payments during the term of this grant:
- a. The permittee shall make a monthly payment of \$1.00 per ton of solid waste placed in the landfill for disposal, which shall be deposited into an interest-bearing Community Benefit and Environmental Education Trust Fund, established for the purpose of providing resources for environmental, educational, and quality of life programs, regional public facilities that serve the surrounding communities, and other benefits within the surrounding communities. Monies in the Fund shall primarily be used to benefit the Hacienda Heights and Avocado Heights communities as shown on the attached map. No monies from the Fund shall be spent on projects or programs in areas outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the permittee. The members of the Board of Supervisors whose supervisorial districts include or are adjacent to the subject property (currently Supervisorial Districts 1 and 4) will recommend expenditures from the Fund to the Director of Planning, who shall administer the Fund. Funding shall be apportioned between such supervisorial districts based on the districts' population in the area within an approximately three (3) mile radius extending from the center of the landfill, with an initial apportionment of 40% for Supervisorial District 1 and 60% for Supervisorial District 4. After the first year, the Director of Planning may periodically adjust this apportionment to reflect population changes in the area as determined from a review of census data. All interest earned on the monies in the Fund shall remain in the Fund.
- b. The permittee shall annually fund twelve (12) household hazardous waste and electronic waste (including discarded computers) collection events conducted within the County of Los Angeles. The cost of each event shall be calculated based on the average cost of the events conducted in the preceding 12 months, if data available, and/or as determined by the Director of Public Works. The permittee shall pay the funds to the Director of Public Works on a semi-annual basis. The first payment shall be due within 90 days from the effective date of this grant.
- c. Pursuant to Goal 2.4.2 of the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element and the Board of Supervisors' action of July 27, 1999, with regard to promoting the

development of alternatives to landfilling and incineration, the permittee shall contribute up to \$100,000 per year, to a maximum of \$1,000,000, during the term of this grant toward the cost of studies to be conducted by the County of such alternative technologies that may be most appropriate for Southern California from an environmental and economic perspective, as determined by the permittee and the Director of Public Works, as well as toward promoting and implementing such alternative technologies. The initial study shall be completed within 12 months of the effective date of this grant. A summary of the initial study and any subsequent studies shall be submitted to the Regional Planning Commission for its review and comment to the Director of Public Works. The study shall evaluate potential activities to be conducted by the permittee during the term of this grant, including, but not limited to, ongoing monitoring and evaluation of emerging technologies and consideration of possible pilot scale demonstrations. If the study identifies one or more technologies that are determined by the permittee and the Director of Public Works to be viable and appropriate to pursue on a pilot scale, the permittee shall provide additional funding, subject to approval by its Board of Directors, for the development of such technologies on a pilot scale and to develop a pilot facility, if feasible and as approved by the Director of Public Works.

Within 90 days of the effective date of this grant, the Director of Public Works, in consultation with the permittee, shall initiate the formation of an Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee within the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force to assist in the preparation of the study's scope of work and to review and implement the recommendations of the study. This advisory subcommittee shall consist of a representative of the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association, a staff member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board, an elected official who serves on the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force whose jurisdiction is served by the Puente Hills Landfill, one staff member each of the DPW and the DHS, and a representative of the permittee. Additional members may be added with the consent of the Director of Public Works. In no case shall the number of members exceed eleven (11).

In addition, the permittee with the approval of its Board of Directors shall:

- support and promote legislation and regulations which would promote development of conversion technologies by providing economic incentives; and
- support and promote legislation and regulations which would promote development of conversion technologies by removing them from the definition of transformation

and providing full diversion credit towards the State's waste reduction mandates.

d. The permittee shall remit to the Department of Public Works on a monthly basis a fee of \$0.25 per ton of solid waste disposed of at the landfill for use in implementation and enhancement of waste diversion programs in the County unincorporated areas.

e. The permittee shall make an annual payment of \$1.00 per ton of refuse disposed of at Puente Hills Landfill into a fund established for the purpose of acquiring, restoring, and/or maintaining additional open space lands in the La Puente Hills/Whittier Hills areas in the vicinity of the permittee's property pursuant to the joint powers authority established to control the operation of said fund, which consists of the permittee, the County of Los Angeles, the City of Whittier and a representative of the Hacienda Heights Improvement Association selected by the member of the Board of Supervisors whose supervisorial district includes the subject property. The permittee's annual payment shall continue for as long as disposal operations continue under this permit. In authorizing expenditures from the fund, the joint powers authority shall give special consideration to land acquisitions, habitat restoration, trailhead construction, and recreational and/or educational amenities on open space lands within and for the benefit of the community of Hacienda Heights.

f. Nothing in these conditions shall relieve the permittee from its obligation to pay any otherwise required fees or taxes pursuant to applicable laws and ordinances.

25. Except as otherwise provided in this condition, areas outside of and above the cut and fill shown on Exhibit "A" shall not be graded or similarly disturbed to create the landfill, except that the Director of Public Works may approve additional grading if the Director determines, based upon engineering studies provided by the permittee and independently evaluated by the Director, that such additional grading or disturbance is necessary for slope stability or drainage purposes. Such a determination shall be documented as provided in the attached IMP and the permittee shall submit a revised site plan for review and approval by the Director of Public Works. A copy of the approved site plan shall be filed with the Director of Planning and the LEA. No revisions shall be made to Exhibit "A", and no revised site plan shall be approved that would change the limits of fill.

No approval shall be granted under this condition that will result in expanding the area or height of fill (i.e. changing the authorized limits of fill) or in lowering or significantly modifying any of the ridgelines surrounding the landfill.