

Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Minutes of November 20, 2008

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
John McTaggart, General Public Representative
Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Carol Ly, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Carl Pederson III, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2008 MEETING MINUTES

The Subcommittee instructed Staff to change the word “require” to “request” in bullets (2) and (3) starting in the last paragraph on page 3 of the Minutes. A motion to approve the Minutes with the above changes was approved with two abstentions.

III. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE CITY OF SANTA CLARITA’S NONDISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT

Mr. Wu Tan gave a Power Point presentation on the Staff Report regarding the City of Santa Clarita’s request for the Task Force to review and approve the proposed Amendment No. 2 to the City of Santa Clarita’s Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE) in accordance with the requirements of Sections 41730, 41732, 41733, and 41734 of the California Public Resources Code (PRC), and Sections 18761(b) and 18770 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

The City of Santa Clarita’s NDFE was approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) on September 23, 1994. On October 18, 2008, the Task Force also approved the City’s request to amend their NDFE to include the Rent-A-Bin facility. The City is proposing to further amend its NDFE to include the following six facilities which are located outside the City’s jurisdiction: Agromin Green Materials Composting (located in the Los Angeles County Unincorporated Area); Community Recycling/Resource Recovery, Inc., Downtown Diversion, Inc., East Valley Diversion, and Sun Valley Paper Stock Materials Recovery Facility and Transfer Station (all located in the City of Los Angeles); and Santa Clara Organics (located in the City of Fillmore, and Ventura County).

Mr. Tan stated that Staff found the City of Santa Clarita’s NDFE Amendment No. 2, to be in conformance with the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, environmental regulations, and with State laws and regulations.

Mr. Tan also stated that based on its Findings, Staff recommends Subcommittee's concurrence with Amendment No. 2 to the City's NDFE; and for the owner/operator of each facility to submit Form 7 (Monthly Disposal Quantity Reporting For Use by Solid Waste Station and Nondisposal Facility Operators Origin Survey) on a quarterly basis (within 30 days of the end of the quarter) to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division. The Monthly Report shall contain the type and quantity of waste (by weight) received at the facility for processing, recycling, and disposal at off-site facilities. The facilities' owners/operators may submit the quarterly reports in an alternative reporting format as required by their respective Local Enforcement Agency.

The Subcommittee discussed the NDFE amendment, including, but is not limited to, the following:

- **Amount of Materials Accepted by Sun Valley Paper Stock Materials Recovery Facility and Transfer Station:** The Subcommittee inquired as to the total amount of materials that could be accepted by the facility. Mr. Tan stated that the facility has a maximum permitted throughput of 750 tons per day [tpd], and a permitted capacity of 1,250 tpd.
- **Physical Location of Agromin Green Materials Composting:** In response to Subcommittee's inquiry, Mr. Tan indicated that the Agromin Green Materials Composting facility had no physical address. The Subcommittee asked Staff to list the address of the property site or the exact latitude and longitude of the facility's location in the Staff Report.
- **Zoning for Downtown Diversion:** The Subcommittee asked if Downtown Diversion was properly zoned C-2. Mr. Charles Modica of City of Los Angeles noted that zoning of the facility should be proper since the facility must have obtained a Land Use Permit from the City of Los Angeles in order to become operational.

- **Units of Waste Intake Capacity for Santa Clara Organics:** The Subcommittee requested Staff to convert units for the intake capacity of this facility as indicated in the Staff Report from cubic yards per day to tpd in order to be consistent with the other facilities proposed to be included in the City's NDFE.
- **Task Force Jurisdiction over Non-permitted Facilities:** Two of the facilities, Agromin Green Materials Composting, and Santa Clara Organics, listed in Amendment No. 2 do not have a Full or Registration tier Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP). As a result, the Subcommittee discussed whether the Task Force has jurisdiction over such facilities.

The Subcommittee indicated that State laws and regulations do not fully address whether nondisposal solid waste facilities that do not have Full or Registration tier SWFP are required to be listed in a jurisdiction's NDFE.

The Subcommittee was also concerned whether the Task Force would be legally liable for any problems associated with those facilities that are not permitted if the Subcommittee concurs with the findings. Pending clarification of its authority, the Subcommittee declined to take action on the above-mentioned facilities

In conclusion, the Subcommittee made a motion to recommend to the Task Force to (1) include only the four facilities with a SWFP (i.e., Community Recycling/Resource Recovery, Inc., Downtown Diversion, East Valley Diversion, and Sun Valley Paper Stock) in the City's NDFE, and (2) seek guidance from the CIWMB on the inclusion of the other two nonpermitted nondisposal solid waste facilities that do not have a SWFP. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

The Subcommittee discussed a news release ([See Attachment](#)) issued by the CIWMB outlining that the recent drastic decline in the market value of recycled materials, especially paper and cardboard, has renewed the need to develop local markets for these materials and to lessen the County's dependence on shipping recycled materials to overseas recycling markets which purchased these materials in the past.

Mr. Mohajer stated that it has long been the policy of the Task Force to support the development of local recycling markets, and that in a previous letter sent to the CIWMB, the Task Force recommended that local markets needed greater support from the State. Since then, the amount of materials being generated has increased along with the amount being recycled, while the development of local markets for recycled materials is still lagging behind.

After additional discussion, a motion was made for the Subcommittee to recommend to the Task Force to send letters to:

- 1) The CIWMB requesting that it (a) conduct a lifecycle and market analysis of the recycling process in comparison with other solid waste management options (e.g., conversion technology), (b) support the development of local markets for recyclables, (c) consider the effects of recession on recycling activities, and (d) support the development of conversion technologies.
- 2) The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (BOS) requesting the BOS to send a letter to the CIWMB (a) re-iterating the BOS policy supporting development of local recycling markets, and (b) supporting the above Task Force letter and position.
- 3) All the cities in Los Angeles County requesting that they also send a letter to the CIWMB in support of the Task Force's letter and position.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

To be announced at a later date.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.