

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

Minutes of April 15, 2004

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Thomas L. Garthwaite, rep. by Stan Uyehara, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
Michael Miller, rep. by John McTaggart, League of California Cities-L.A. Division
James A. Noyes, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
David Roberti, represented by Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rita Robinson, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Jim Stahl, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ron Deaton, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Christopher J. Garner, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Ben Wong, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Melinda Barrett, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bob Barker, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Toyasha Black, City of Arcadia
Tammy Evans, City of Monrovia
Leonard Grossberg, City of Vernon
Heather Merenda, City of Santa Clarita
Marsha McLean, Task Force Alternate
Josh Svensson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Steve Uselton, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Angela Williams, City of Inglewood

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 29, 2004

A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 29, 2004. The minutes were approved with one member abstaining.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Alva provided a summary of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Alva stated the Waste Board conducted a two-day workshop addressing the impending release of reports on conversion technology. Subcommittee members attending the event met later to discuss the conversion technology analysis report covered in the first half of the workshop. Mr. Alva stated the meeting also addressed the pilot conversion technology facility study which included the finalization of the scope of work and the commencement of the contracting process for the project. The Subcommittee has set a contract award date for July 2004 and will provide the Task Force with an update at the next meeting.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Albert Avoian chaired the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee meeting. He indicated that the Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE) for the City of Vernon was reviewed in the meeting. The Subcommittee voted to recommend the Task Force support the NDFE since the proposed changes work in conjunction with the facility's existing permit and current operational practices.

V. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF VERNON'S NONDISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT

Mr. Albert Avoian stated the Subcommittee recommended the Task Force approve the City of Vernon's NDFE. Motion was made to approve the amended NDFE. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CoIWMP) FIVE-YEAR REVIEW

Mr. Mike Mohajer provided an update regarding recent changes in State law revising the existing regulations governing the CoIWMP. The regulations require the County to submit a report to the Waste Board by the fifth anniversary of their original approval to determine whether there is a need to update their existing document and identify what issues would need to be updated. Mr. Mohajer pointed out this report is due to the Waste Board by June 23, 2004. It was further noted that the Task Force would also need to submit a report to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, as the lead County agency advising the County Board of Supervisors, as to the items that need to be updated. Mr. Mohajer stated staff indicated they are currently preparing a draft document for the Task Force to review regarding this issue.

Mr. Mohajer stated the Countywide Siting Element (CSE) would have to be amended based on legislative changes at the State level. Revisions to the CSE would include the recommended deletion of Blind Canyon and Elsmere Canyon by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, and the new formation of the Los Angeles Regional Agency. The document would also have to be modified to address the impact of the Construction and Demolition Waste and Inert Debris Phase II regulations as they apply to unclassified landfills and conversion technology regulations since these impact the CSE.

A discussion ensued regarding this item. A motion was made to permanently add the CoIWMP Five-Year Review Report to the agenda until all issues are resolved. The motion was subsequently amended to also include the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee update permanently on the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. STATUS OF TASK FORCE REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON BRADLEY LANDFILL

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa stated staff was directed to send letters to the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety Department, the City of Los Angeles Planning Department, and Waste Management, Inc. (attached), to provide clarification on items previously discussed. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated a deadline of May 13, 2004, was included in the letters. A motion was made to receive and file the three letters. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. REPORT FROM CIWMB

Mr. Uselton from the Waste Board addressed the items and updates from the Waste Board's March 2004 meeting. Mr. Uselton commented on the Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris model ordinance for which information was distributed at the March 29, 2004, Task Force meeting. Although jurisdictions are not required to adopt the C&D model ordinance, it does provide a guide to assist jurisdictions in their diversion efforts. A copy of the model ordinance and related information is available at www.ciwmb.ca.gov/lglibrary/LocalDocs/CandDModel/.

Mr. Uselton also stated that at the April 13 Waste Board meeting, the Board gave consideration to the 2001/2002 Biennial Review Process. This process lays out a strategy to deal with timely and delinquent Annual Report submissions. This item was continued because the Waste Board felt it would be a good idea to encourage jurisdictions to include a C&D component and procurement policies in their Time Extension document. The continuance would also allow for the Waste Board's legal staff to determine the Waste Board's limitations regarding this issue.

Mr. Mohajer provided a comment on the Biennial Review Outline and the suggestion made by Board Member Cheryl Peace to require cities and counties to include adopting the C&D model ordinance, procurement policies, and environment justice components in their Time Extension document. The Waste Board delayed taking action until it can determine if they have legal authority to require this action. Mr. Mohajer stated this issue should be closely monitored since it may be a potentially critical issue for the Task Force.

Mr. Uselton stated they are expediting the review of Annual Reports for jurisdictions that previously met and continue to meet or exceed the diversion goal in the reporting years of 2001 and 2002. Thirty-three jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles were identified as streamline items.

After some discussion, Ms. Karen Cocoa asked if SB 1066 applications that expired in December 2003 would automatically be placed on the agenda by the Waste Board if the jurisdiction did not request a second Time Extension. Mr. Uselton stated jurisdictions would have to request a second Time Extension in order to be added to the agenda and would be subject to standard procedures as outlined in the Public Resource Code Sections 41820 and 41785.

Mr. Mohajer commented on the sunseting of AB 2308 and the negative impact it could have on each jurisdiction's ability to meet the AB 939 mandate.

Questions were also raised on how the three existing inert facilities will be viewed by the Waste Board and the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). Would the proposed facilities be considered as engineered fills and if so what will be done to move them from a solid waste facility permit to an engineered fill permit? Mr. Uselton stated that he would research the questions posed by the Task Force and provide a response at a later time.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Waste Board requesting clarification on how the Waste Board and the LEA will view the three existing inert facilities. The motion passed unanimously.

In closing, Mr. Uselton stated the 2004 Waste Reduction Awards Program (WRAP) is accepting applications until June 30, 2004. This program acknowledges local business participation in recycling and waste reduction activities. Information can be obtained from the Waste Board's website.

IX. STATUS REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S PROPOSED SOLID WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLE RULE

Mr. Mohajer stated the California Air Resources Board is still considering the public comments received during the 15-day comment period. Mr. Mohajer further stated that a tentative deadline of June 4, 2004, has been set for adopting the Rule.

X. STATUS ON SB 20 IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Mohajer stated the Waste Board approved the SB 20 Emergency Regulations which will now be forwarded to the State's Office of Administrative Law for final adoption. However, it was noted that the SB 20 Emergency Regulations did not include a provision which would allow local governments to receive reimbursement payments directly from the Waste Board if they so choose. This Task Force had recommended the inclusion of this provision.

XI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Alva stated due to the short interval between the March 29, 2004, Task Force meeting and today's meeting there would be no legislative update. This was attributed to the lack of legislative activity during this time period.

However, Mr. Alva stated staff would continue to monitor legislative changes and will provide an update at the next Task Force meeting.

Mr. John McTaggart posed a question regarding Senate Bill 537. Mr. Alva stated SB 537 (which the Task Force opposes) was originally aimed at shutting down Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility and initially required city councils within a one-mile radius of the facility to have the ability to veto the project. The original Bill was amended in early 2004 to now require a report from the County Sanitation Districts regarding the Facility as well as the waste-by-rail system.

Ms. Marsha McLean asked if the Task Force was on record as opposing SB 1387. Ms. McLean was informed that the Task Force had previously sent an opposition letter regarding this matter.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 20, 2004, at 1 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.