

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

Minutes of February 22, 2007

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Gerry Miller, rep. by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles  
Rita Robinson, rep. by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Stephen Maguin, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County  
Don Wolfe, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach  
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Mark Waronek, 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  
Hossam Banna, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Anita Jimenez, City of Santa Fe Springs  
Natalie Jimenez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patty Kimball, Sharps Compliance, Inc.  
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
John McTaggart, General Public Representative Alternate  
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita  
Leonard Robinson, California Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Ursula Schmidt, City of Pasadena  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Steve Uselton, California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Cynthia Vant Hul, Waste Management Industries, Inc.  
Jason Varner, City of Monrovia

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2007**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of January 18, 2007. The motion was passed unanimously. (Ms. Karen Coca was absent at the time the vote was taken)

**III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that at the Subcommittee meeting on February 15, 2007, the following articles were considered for the Spring edition of *Inside Solid Waste*:

- The City of Calabasas submitted four articles
- The City of Burbank submitted an article, "ByoBag, Please!"
- The City of West Hollywood submitted an article on sharps disposal by mail program
- The City of Inglewood submitted an article, "E-Waste Collection Proves Successful in the City of Inglewood"
- The City of Norwalk submitted an article, "Norwalk's Fall HHW and E-Waste Event a Success!"

Mr. Mohajer requested staff prepare articles on the County and Task Force's conversion technology activities, the Waste Board's Strategic Directives, pending State legislation, the Waste Board's proposed regulations for active disposal site gas monitoring and control, and Mr. Albert Avoian's retirement.

Mr. Mohajer indicated that due to space limitations in the Winter 2007 edition of *Inside Solid Waste*, an article on various grants available from the Waste Board will be included in the next edition. He also informed the Task Force members about the Waste Board's Targeted Rubberized Asphalt Concrete Incentive Grant Program ([see attachment](#)). He requested Task Force members to encourage their cities to apply for the grants.

**IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

The Subcommittee met on February 15, 2007. Mr. Coby Skye indicated that several topics were discussed including the coordination of the reference facility tours in the United Kingdom, Poland, Israel, and Japan. The tours currently planned for March and April 2007, will include five Subcommittee members and one Alternative Resources, Inc. staff. After completing the tours, a report will be prepared identifying the optimum pairing of a conversion technology vendor and material recovery facility (MRF). In addition, the Rainbow Disposal MRF, located in Huntington Beach, has been added to the MRF short list.

An update on the facilitation and public outreach contracts was also provided.

**V. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Subcommittee and staff met with Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc. (BFI) on February 8, 2007 to discuss the Finding of Conformance (FOC) for Sunshine Canyon Landfill (County extension). Ms. Landis stated that the Subcommittee raised several concerns, and in response requested additional information from BFI. She also indicated that the Subcommittee requested staff to clarify specific legal definitions and terms. The Subcommittee expressed to BFI that the Subcommittee could not recommend issuance of the FOC to the full Task Force until BFI satisfied their concerns and accepts the replacement CUP approved by the County Board of Supervisors on February 6, 2007.

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa stated he received an email from BFI notifying him that they will deliver the requested information to the Subcommittee by the end of February 2007. BFI is planning to accept the replacement CUP by April 1, 2007.

**VI. CONSIDERATION OF SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL (COUNTY EXTENSION) FINDING OF CONFORMANCE**

This item will be rescheduled for a later date.

**VII. UPDATE ON PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR ACTIVE DISPOSAL SITE GAS MONITORING AND CONTROL**

Ms. Linda Lee stated that the Task Force sent a letter to the Waste Board on October 30, 2006, recommending that the local building official be added to the list of enforcement agencies in the proposed regulations. Waste Board staff adopted the recommendation ([see attachment](#)). She also stated that the latest draft includes clarification on the timeline for the Waste Board to concur with any gas monitoring and control plans. Discussion ensued.

A motion to send a letter to the Waste Board in support of the latest draft of the proposed regulations was made. The motion passed with Mr. Charles Boehmke abstaining.

**VIII. PRESENTATION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC.'S SHARPS PROGRAM**

Ms. Patricia Kimball, Vice President of Sharps Compliance, Inc., conducted a presentation on the Sharps Disposal-by-Mail Program (Program) ([see attachment](#)). Together with Waste Management, Inc., her company implemented the Program as a solution for residents to easily and properly dispose of their used needles and lancets.

Most needles and syringes are disposed of in the trash and pose a health risk to waste collectors/workers and the community. To address the problem, the Coalition for Safe Community Needle Disposal (Coalition), which includes the American Diabetes Association and Becton Dickinson (BD), was created. The Coalition raised the concern to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and in response, the EPA developed a brochure to educate residents on how to properly dispose of their used needles and lancets. In addition, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed SB 1305, which will ban the disposal of sharps in the trash beginning September 2008.

Ms. Kimball continued to discuss the Program and circulated a sample of the sharps container with its prepaid postage mailing box. The packages are available at Walgreens and selected Rite Aid pharmacies. Other pharmacies can order the product through BD. The process is simple, convenient, and confidential. Discussion ensued.

**IX. PRESENTATION ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNTYWIDE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

Mr. Coby Skye presented on the Countywide Energy and Environmental Policy (Policy) adopted by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on January 16, 2007 ([see attachment](#)).

He provided a brief background on the Policy and mentioned the Policy's four key components: energy and water efficiency, green building, public outreach and education, and sustainable building design. The purpose of the Policy is to provide guidelines to enhance energy conservation on County projects while reducing solid waste disposal.

The Policy includes "green building" standards for County projects and private developments. Mr. Skye provided a brief definition of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. There are four levels of certification for a building - platinum, gold, silver, and LEED. All future County projects of at least 10,000 square feet must meet the LEED silver standard. Discussion ensued.

**X. PRESENTATION ON THE DTSC'S CALIFORNIA TAKE-IT-BACK PARTNERSHIPS**

Mr. Leonard Robinson, Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, presented on the California Take-It-Back Partnerships Program (Program) ([see attachment](#)).

On February 8, 2002, the Universal Waste (u-waste) regulation was implemented, but households and certain small quantity generators received a four-year exemption. As of February 8, 2006, households could no longer dispose of u-waste in their trash.

The Program is comprised of the collaborative efforts of the State, city and county governments, businesses, non-profit agencies, and organizations. The objective is to provide free, local, and convenient means for California residents to recycle their household hazardous wastes including batteries, fluorescent bulbs, and electronic devices. The key to the Program's success is to have convenient recycling locations. Currently, 250 groups have joined the Program including IKEA and Goodwill Industries. Efforts to recruit other chain stores, such as Walmart and Lowe's, are underway. Mr. Robinson concluded with the benefits of the Program. Discussion ensued.

## **XI. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD**

Mr. Steve Uselton reported on local jurisdictions' efforts to meet the State diversion requirements. The Waste Board is tasked with reviewing each jurisdiction's progress in complying with the California Integrated Waste Management Act at least once every two years. At the Waste Board February 2007 meeting, staff presented 264 jurisdictions that met the 50 percent diversion requirement. An additional 40 jurisdictions obtained a good faith effort in implementing their diversion programs. A total of 118 biennial reviews are due for review. Mr. Uselton reported that jurisdictions' 2005 Annual Reports are due on March 15, 2007.

Mr. Uselton announced that at the January 2007 Waste Board meeting, the Cities of Compton, Gardena, and Baldwin Park were removed from a Compliance Order. However, the Cities of Paramount and Cerritos were issued a Compliance Order. Mr. Uselton mentioned the Unincorporated County of Los Angeles is up to date on its Source Reduction and Recycling Programs.

The Waste Board has adopted and delegated to its Executive Director the task of fulfilling its Strategic Directives. The Executive Director has the authority to approve biennial reviews with at least a 50 percent diversion rate, base year studies, and Household Hazardous Waste Element Annual Reports.

Mr. Mohajer requested the Waste Board to provide an update on its Strategic Directives and their plans to accomplish them at the next Task Force meeting.

## **XII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Skye provided status on the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

- AB 6—Introduced by Houston

This Bill relates to greenhouse gas emissions. It would require the State Air Resources Board to adopt market-based compliance mechanisms that may be used by regulated entities subject to greenhouse gas emission limits and mandatory emission reporting requirements.

- AB 35-Introduced by Ruskin

This Bill relates to the Sustainable Building Act of 2007. It would require the Waste Board by July 1, 2009, to adopt regulations for sustainable building standards related to the construction or renovation of buildings owned or leased by the State. Also, it would require on or after July 1, 2010 that State buildings be built, designed, and operated according to the regulations for sustainable building standards.

- AB 48-Introduced by Saldana

This Bill would amend the definition of Consumer Electronic Device to include most consumer electronics. Sales of electronics devices that do not meet the European Union's Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directives would be phased out beginning January 1, 2010.

- AB 258-Introduced by Krekorian

This Bill would create a multi-agency task force for the purpose of implementing a statewide marine debris reduction effort. The State Water Board and other regional boards are required to implement a program for the control of discharges of preproduction plastic pellets by January 1, 2009.

- AB 299-Introduced by Tran

This Bill relates to AB 939. It would make technical, nonsubstantive changes in various provisions of this law, including to solid waste related sections.

- SB 55-Introduced by Florez

This Bill would require a publicly owned treatment works to submit certification to the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding any sewage sludge that is transferred from a facility for disposal or further processing.

Mr. Skye recommended that the Task Force oppose this Bill. The City of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts, and the County of Los Angeles have taken an initial position opposing this Bill. A motion to vote on opposing the Bill was made. However, the vote could not be conducted as there was no longer a quorum. Ms. Landis suggested moving any action items to the beginning of future meetings.

**XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, 2007, at 1 p.m.

**XIV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Hossam Banna announced that the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste (HHW/E-waste) Collection Events accept sharps from residents.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.