

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

Minutes of June 21, 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.  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
David Ross, Business/Commerce Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association  
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Gerry Miller, represented by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles  
Rita Robinson, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Don Wolfe, represented by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
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  
Stephen Maguin, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County  
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Glenn Acosta, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County  
Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Kelly Astor, Los Angeles County Waste Management Association  
Jane Awni, 1-800-Got-Junk?  
Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles  
Drew Boyles, 1-800-Got-Junk?  
Kimberly Guidizi, 1-800-Got-Junk?  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition  
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Debbie Morris, HF&H Consultants, LLC  
David Pang, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Steve Samaniego, City of West Covina  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Steve Uselton, California Integrated Waste Management Board  
David Werner, 1-800-Got-Junk?  
Angela Williams, City of Inglewood

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2007**

A motion to approve the minutes of May 17, 2007, was made with the following correction:

- On page five, item VI, the last sentence should read: "In addition, Mr. Mohajer stated that SB 1020, SB 1021, and AB 1610 have been placed in the appropriate Suspense Files of the Senate and Assembly Committees."

The motion passed unanimously. (Mr. Carl Clark was absent at the time the vote was taken.)

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee met to discuss Browning-Ferris Industries, Inc.'s application for a Finding of Conformance for Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The discussion focused on the maps submitted by BFI, specifically the re-vegetation program and lines of responsibility for various tasks. The Subcommittee requested a set of final requirements before the Finding of Conformance will be granted.

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

This item will be rescheduled for a later date.

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

Mr. Coby Skye indicated that the Subcommittee met at Utilitarian Enterprises, a company that has developed a conversion technology process. The status of the public outreach and the facilitation contracts was discussed. Mr. Skye also mentioned that the Phase II Final Report will be submitted to the Task Force for comments in July.

## **VI. REPORT ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY REFERENCE FACILITY TOURS**

Mr. Skye gave a presentation on the conversion technology facility tours for Phase II of the Southern California Conversion Technology Project ([see attachment](#)). Subcommittee members, one Alternative Resources, Inc. staff member, and Mr. Skye visited plants in California, England, Poland, Israel, Japan, and Missouri. Mr. Skye discussed the physical aspects, daily tonnage processed, type or mixture of feedstock, the waste streams, and the by-products produced at the plants. He stated that these tours proved to be insightful and beneficial and allowed a comparison of the waste streams processed overseas with the waste streams expected to be processed in the U.S. Talking to local regulators and other stakeholders provided a realistic perspective on the facilities' operations and the regulatory challenges they face.

## **VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

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

- AB 679-Introduced by Benoit

The Task Force previously sent a letter of support for AB 679. The Bill previously required the courts to impose a civil fine on violators based on the actual cost of cleaning up the illegal dumping act. Currently, the Bill would require the court to impose a civil assessment in addition to any other penalty or fine, in the amount of \$100 for an infraction or \$200 for a misdemeanor.

- AB 904-Introduced by Feuer

This Bill would require food packaging sold in California to be either compostable or recyclable. A letter of support was sent by the Task Force; however, the Bill was pulled by the author due to significant opposition from industry groups.

- AB 1473-Introduced by Feuer

This Bill would authorize the Local Enforcement Authority to stay their cease and desist order for up to three years if certain conditions are met. This Bill sunsets on January 1, 2012, or on the date the California Integrated Waste Management Board adopts the regulations, whichever comes first. The Task Force sent a letter of support in May 2007.

- SB 899-Introduced by Simitian

This Bill would ban a list of the most toxic materials related to manufacturing, processing, or distribution of plastic products. The Bill is in the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee.

- SB 1020-Introduced by Padilla

This Bill would increase the 50 percent waste diversion requirement to 75 percent, beginning 2012. At the March 15, 2007, Task Force meeting, the Task Force opposed this Bill.

Mr. Skye mentioned this Bill is moving forward rapidly. A motion to send a letter urging all City Mayors in the County to take a position opposing SB 1020 was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 118-Introduced by Nunez

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that this Bill would create the Air Quality Improvement Fund and require the State Air Resources Board to expend the moneys in that fund for eligible air quality improvement projects and programs ([see attachment](#)). This Bill would generate approximately \$116 million a year from increased driver's license, car registration, and smog control device registration fees. Although, the fees collected will be used to push the use of alternative fuels, the language in this Bill does not include provisions for conversion technology implementation.

A motion to watch AB 118 was made. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SB 1016**

Mr. Mohajer provided status on SB 1016, which would change the diversion compliance system from a generation-based system to a disposal-based system ([see attachment](#)). This Bill became a two-year bill since it did not pass through the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. Mohajer submitted his first set of personal comments on May 19, 2007, to Senator Patricia Wiggins' working group. At that time, the draft of the Bill had completely changed and the new draft addressed some of Mr. Mohajer's concerns. Mr. Mohajer then submitted a second set of comments on June 15, 2007, for the revised version dated June 5, 2007. Mr. Mohajer recommended that before the Task Force supports any increase in diversion rates, Senator Wiggins' working group needs to conduct a life cycle analysis and take a closer look at the hierarchy of solid waste management.

A motion to send a letter of opposition to the SB 1016, June 5, 2007 version, and to support Mr. Mohajer's June 15, 2007 comments was made. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IX. PRESENTATION ON THE 2005 COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa presented the 2005 Annual Report on the Countywide Summary Plan and Siting Element for the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Plan ([see attachment](#)). Public Works submitted the 2005 Annual Report to the Waste Board in May 2007.

The role of Public Works is to develop and administer the Countywide Siting Element (the County's disposal Plan). The Countywide Siting Element's goals and policies include: support development of in-County disposal capacity, out-of-County disposal capacity, and in-County infrastructure for exporting solid waste, as well as promote alternatives to landfilling and incineration.

The Annual Report is comprised of two sections: Section One discusses revisions to the Summary Plan and Section Two discusses the changes in the permitted capacity, and the strategy for maintaining adequate disposal capacity.

Mr. Aiyetiwa then discussed waste generation projections for a 15-year period which were developed using the State's adjustment methodology with consideration of demographic and economic factors. Mr. Aiyetiwa discussed several scenarios. Alternate Scenario 4 was considered the best-case scenario. It incorporates the development of conversion technologies handling up to 3,000 tons per day by 2018, development of all in-County landfill expansions, utilization of out-of-County facilities of up to 15,000 tons per day, and an increased diversion rate of up to 60 percent. In addition, Mr. Aiyetiwa presented information on out-of-County landfills, disposal quantities for 2006, remaining permitted capacity for in-County landfills, and disposal by jurisdiction.

The analysis demonstrates that the County would meet the disposal capacity requirements of AB 939 if the County maximizes waste reduction efforts and the use of in-County disposal capacity, utilizes out-of-County disposal capacity, develops in-county infrastructure to facilitate the export of waste to out-of-County facilities, and expands efforts to encourage development of conversion technologies.

A lengthy discussion ensued. Task Force members stated in agreement that, when possible, the County needs to manage its waste within its boundaries to avoid future political backlash from other counties and that the County should strive to maximize and/or conserve its own disposal capacity.

**X. PRESENTATION ON THE PROPOSED SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FEE INCREASE**

Mr. Skye provided an overview of the Countywide Solid Waste Management Fee (SWMF). He discussed what programs and activities are currently funded by the SWMF, and the County's proposal to increase the SWMF from \$0.86 to \$1.50 per ton disposed ([see attachment](#)).

The SWMF funds Countywide waste reduction and recycling programs, such as the Household Hazardous/Electronic Waste Program, Countywide Smart Gardening Program, conversion technology demonstration project, and the preparation and administration of the Countywide Siting Element and State Disposal Reporting System for Los Angeles County. In addition, it also funds Task Force activities and staffing. Currently, the SWMF generates approximately \$11 million a year.

Mr. Skye stated that the SWMF has not increased since its inception 16 years ago. Due to inflation and the rising amount of waste generated in Los Angeles County, the proposal to adjust the SWMF from \$0.86 to \$1.50 per ton is critical in maintaining existing programs, meeting growing needs, and tackling new challenges.

Other changes to the SWMF Ordinance proposal include action to make definitions of "solid waste" and "disposal facility" consistent with State definitions; to create a definition for "conversion technology"; to clarify the exemption for materials exported out-of-County and subsequently recycled or diverted; and to include a CPI adjustment of the SWMF in future years.

Discussion ensued.

**XI. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD**

Mr. Steve Uselton reported that he contacted the City of Signal Hill regarding their letter to the Task Force expressing concern that waste collected from catch basins might have a negative impact on their ability to meet the waste diversion mandate. Mr. Uselton clarified waste should be allocated to the jurisdiction in which it is collected. In this case, the catch basin in question is located in the City of Long Beach and therefore, even though debris collected from it originated in the City of Signal Hill, the waste should be allocated to the City of Long Beach.

Mr. Uselton stated that jurisdictions which do collect large tonnages of waste from these cleanouts should include a comment in their Annual Report for consideration. In addition, he indicated that there are provisions for large quantities of waste generated from natural disasters.

Mr. Uselton also mentioned that the Speaker of the Assembly had appointed Ms. Cheryl Peace as the Assembly Appointee for the Waste Board.

## **XII. PRESENTATION ON 1-800 GOT JUNK?**

Mr. Drew Boyles, a representative from 1-800-Got-Junk?, presented a brief background on the company. 1-800-Got-Junk? is a junk removal company that focuses on providing full service from loading to disposing of unwanted materials ([see attachment](#)). The company removes businesses' and residences' unwanted items with trucks that can navigate through narrow streets, and donates or recycles the items before sending the remainder of the waste to transfer stations. The company has established good recycling networks and alliances with waste haulers, transfer stations, and other businesses. Also, they conduct clean-up and E-waste collection events, and contribute monetary funds to the community.

## **XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2007, at 1 p.m.

## **XIV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mohajer distributed a copy of the Waste Board's response to him stating that the Waste Board would add the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force as a member of the AB 2296 Consulting Group ([see attachment](#)). Mr. Mohajer would represent the Task Force in the group. This group will review and comment on each draft delivered by the contractor who studies financial assurance mechanisms for long-term post-closure maintenance and corrective action at solid waste landfills, and identifies potential threats that would weaken those mechanisms.

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.