

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

Minutes of August 16, 2007

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles
Mark Waronek, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Ken Murray, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health
Stephen Maguin, rep. by Grace Chan, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County
Gerry Miller, represented by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
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
Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Rita Robinson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles Alternate
Vanessa Hevener, City of Lynwood
Tom Hoagland, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Carlyle A. Johnston, County of Santa Barbara Dept. of Public Works
Sevak Khatchadorian, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division Alternate
Debbie Morris, HF&H Consultants, LLC
Elias Saikaly, City of Lynwood
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Jason Varner, City of Monrovia
Miguel Zermeno, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Peter Zorba, City of Lancaster

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

Ms. Margaret Clark announced Mr. Mark Waronek's resignation from the Task Force as one of the representatives from the League of California Cities, due to other commitments. On behalf of the Task Force, Ms. Clark expressed gratitude for his service.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 19, 2007

A motion was made to approve the minutes of July 19, 2007. The motion was passed unanimously (Mr. Charles Modica and Mr. Greig Smith were absent at the time the vote was taken.)

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that the Subcommittee considered the following articles for the Fall edition of *Inside Solid Waste*:

- "Business Offers the Community Free Electronics Recycling" and "Trash for Reaching – The Art of Reuse" by the City of Torrance
- "The City of Diamond Bar and Ken's Ace Hardware Innovative Recycling Partnership" by the City of Diamond Bar
- "Summary of City of Calabasas Recycling Activities" by the City of Calabasas
- "Recycler of the Month Awards" by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes

Mr. Mohajer requested staff to prepare updates on Legislative Bills, Sunshine Canyon Landfill, the County's and Task Force's conversion technology efforts, financial assurance for landfill post closure and corrective action, Senate Bill 1305 for the management of sharps, and the proposed solid waste management fee increase.

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye reported that the Subcommittee discussed the efforts of the public outreach campaign. The Phase II Final Report was not ready for review by the Task Force and he anticipates bringing it to the September Task Force meeting.

V. CONSIDERATION OF PHASE II CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

This item will be rescheduled for a later date.

VI. CITY OF LOS ANGELES' CODE REVISIONS TO ESTABLISH ALTERNATIVE FACILITY STANDARDS

Mr. Miguel Zermeno, Project Manager for the City of Los Angeles' Alternative Technologies Program, provided an update on the City's efforts to develop standards for the program ([see attachment](#)).

As part of the City's efforts, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent on February 5, 2007, for two types of alternative technology facilities: a commercial facility capable of processing between 200 to 1,000 tons per day and an emerging technology facility capable of processing between 22 to 200 tons per day.

Mr. Zermeno provided a brief background on the RFP. Part of the City's RENEW LA plan is to eventually have one facility in each of the six watershed districts. Currently, the Los Angeles Municipal Code (Code) only permits alternative technology facilities to be sited in an M3 Zone, and not all watershed districts have an M3 Zone. The City is trying to amend the Code to allow alternative technology facilities to be built in M2 and Public Facility Zones. The City Planning Commission scheduled a public hearing on Thursday, August 23, 2007, for the public and other stakeholders to voice their concerns.

Questions ensued. Mr. Zermeno added that the RFP specifies for the potential contractor to purchase the land where the facilities will be built on. He mentioned other potential public sites including City yards, storage facilities, and Department of Water and Power yards that are not close to residential or school areas. The City has been conducting public outreach, by meeting with residents, homeowner associations, and neighborhood councils to educate and inform them about the process. Feedback was positive.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye noted that there was little to report due to the Legislature currently working on the budget. As a result, many Bills would probably become two-year Bills, including Senate Bill 826.

Mr. Skye discussed the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

- AB 118 - Introduced by Nunez

This Bill would create the Alternative and Renewable Fuel, Vehicle Technology, Carbon Reduction, and Clean Air Program (Program). The Program is to be funded by an increase in various motor vehicle related fees until January 1, 2016, for eligible air quality improvement projects and programs related to new fuel and vehicle technologies.

Mr. Skye stated this Bill would promote the use of bio-fuels and alternative fuels. It also opens the door to additional use of biomass resources to generate these fuels, which may be beneficial to conversion technologies.

- SB 1020-Introduced by Padilla

This Bill was amended on June 26, 2007, and would require the Waste Board to adopt policies, programs, and incentives to ensure that the State achieves a 60 percent solid waste diversion rate by 2012 and a 75 percent diversion rate by 2020.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Steve Uselton was unable to attend the meeting.

IX. UPDATE ON WASTE BOARD AB 2296 FINANCIAL ASSURANCE FOR SOLID WASTE LANDFILLS' POST-CLOSURE AND CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Waste Board sent another set of materials for the AB 2296 Consulting Group to review. The Waste Board is finalizing the Scope of Work and developing criteria to measure the values of the effectiveness of financial assurance given. Mr. Mohajer will have one week to review and submit comments to the Waste Board. Ms. Grace Chan mentioned that the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and the AB 2296 Consulting Group are reviewing and studying the documents as they become available. Their position is that the requirements being placed on the landfill operators for additional financial assurance should be based on sound technical principles and reasonable estimates of the likelihood of corrective action.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2007, at 1 p.m.

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Clark raised a question regarding what the City of Los Angeles would do if opposition arose from residents living near the proposed alternative technology facility sites.

Mr. Smith indicated that the City would establish a community efforts fund and use it to improve those neighborhoods and communities based on their need. The City also has a Recycling Ambassador Program, which provides door-to-door outreach and offers rewards of up to \$500 to those residents who are doing well at recycling. Mr. Smith mentioned the City has imposed a new monthly residential trash collection fee of \$28 per house. The City charges fees for additional black cans and green waste cans requested by households, but provides unlimited free bulky item pickup services. Importantly, the City provides free recycling services to multi-family residential buildings which represent 60 percent of the City's housing units.

Mr. Mohajer stated that he and several other members, including some County staff, would be attending the annual Southern California Waste Management Forum on November 15, 2007. A motion to cancel the November meeting was made. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.