

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

Minutes of October 18, 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
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Stephen Maguin, represented by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County
Gerry Miller, represented by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Waronek, represented by Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
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.
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Alva, 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
Susan V. Collins, R3 Consulting Group, Inc.
Kurt Flor, Svorinich & Associates
Grant Gauthier, Idaho Waste Systems Inc.
Tom Hoagland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Coby King, Coby King Communications
Sevak Khatchadorian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Paul Langner, Teevin Bros. Land & Timber Co.
Denise Lellan, City of Santa Clarita
Melissa Murphy, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carl Pederson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jason Varner, City of Monrovia
Vickie Wippel, Waste Management, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2007

A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 20, 2007. The motion was passed unanimously with Ms. Mary Ann Lutz abstaining.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye reported that the Subcommittee discussed the status of the public outreach efforts. He mentioned that the new websites, SoCalConversion.org and SoCalConversion.com, along with a new format for the e-newsletter, would be launched next week. The Subcommittee also discussed ongoing efforts to facilitate the development of a demonstration project and the Phase II Conversion Technology Report.

Based on the Subcommittee's request, a motion was made to send a letter to the County Sanitation Districts' Chief Engineer and General Manager to receive the report and evaluate it with respect to the requirements the Districts must fulfill under the Puente Hills Landfill Conditional Use Permit for possible funding of the demonstration project. Based on the Chief Engineer and General Manager evaluation, he will forward recommendations to his Board of Directors. A copy of the letter will also be sent to the Districts' Board of Directors. The motion was passed unanimously.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF PHASE II CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY REPORT

Mr. Skye stated staff was appreciative for all the Task Force members' comments and input on the Phase II Conversion Technology Report (Report). He distributed a summary of the Report revisions and a copy of the fact sheets, which are based on a presentation he gave at the September 20, 2007, Task Force meeting ([see attachment](#)). Mr. Skye reviewed the changes made to the Report based on comments submitted.

Mr. Skye stated the final version of the Report will be mailed to all Task Force and Subcommittee members upon its approval. A motion was made to approve the Report and it passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa distributed a copy of the master schedule and timeline on the California Integrated Waste Management Board's (Waste Board) development of the AB 2296 financial assurance regulations for solid waste landfills' post-closure and corrective actions ([see attachment](#)). He stated the Waste Board has scheduled approximately fifteen public workshops to discuss three key items: the closure cost estimating dialogue, cost estimating rulemaking, and the long-term financial assurance study. Both staff and Mr. Mike Mohajer, who represents the Task Force as the member of the AB 2296 Consulting Group, are reviewing the Phase I Regulations.

A motion was made to continue supporting Mr. Mohajer as a member of this Consulting Group, draft comments for the Phase I Regulations for the Task Force members' review, and send final comments to the Waste Board by the November 13, 2007, deadline. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye provided an update on the following Legislative Bills which have recently either been signed or vetoed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Bills vetoed by the Governor are AB 35, AB 48, AB 484, AB 546, AB 548, AB 1058, SB 470, SB 660, SB 735, and SB 826. Bills signed by the Governor are AB 118, AB 258, AB 679, AB 800, AB 1023, AB 1109, AB 1447, AB 1473, SB 898, SB 966, SB 1021, and SB 1036.

Mr. Skye stated that an updated Legislative table ([see attachment](#)) to reflect all recent Legislative action by the Governor would be e-mailed to the Task Force. He also stated that October 14, 2007, was the deadline for the Governor to sign Bills. Those which are not signed become law.

VII. PRESENTATION ON SOLID WASTE LOGISTICS AND DISPOSAL ALTERNATIVES

Mr. Grant Gauthier, Idaho Waste Systems, Inc. and Mr. Paul Langner, Teevin Bros. Land & Timber Company, gave a joint presentation on solid waste logistics and disposal alternatives ([see attachment](#)).

The Simco Road Regional Landfill (Landfill) is located outside of Boise, Idaho. It has a capacity of 210 million tons, making it one of the largest permitted landfills in the country. At the site, the groundwater table is 500 feet below the surface and there is a 67-foot thick clay layer between the surface and groundwater table. A double-layered protection system is also in place to protect groundwater. The presenters also indicated, the Landfill is in a high desert location, has no nearby residences, and has low annual precipitation.

Mr. Gauthier indicated that the landfill has no wasteshed or daily intake restrictions. The Landfill is capable of accepting waste by truck, a barge network on the Columbia River, or by rail. Mr. Langner elaborated on the method of transporting waste-by-rail and coastal barging in addition to the shrink-wrap process used to compact waste prior to transport.

VIII. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Steve Uselton was unable to attend the meeting.

IX. PRESENTATION ON THE IMPACT OF PLASTIC CARRYOUT BAGS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Mr. Paul Alva explained that following the ban on petroleum-based plastic bags in San Francisco, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors instructed the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to work with various agencies to investigate if a similar ban is applicable for Los Angeles County. Public Works has prepared a staff report on plastic carryout bags as a result of the investigation. Staff requested this item be placed on this agenda for an opportunity for the Task Force to take an action. The report is scheduled to go to the Board. Because it was anticipated that the report would be considered by the Board of Supervisors before the next Task Force meeting, the Task Force voted unanimously to add this presentation ([see attachment](#)) to the meeting agenda.

Mr. Carl Pederson reported that plastic carryout bags were introduced in 1975. Each year, approximately six billion plastic carryout bags are consumed in the County accounting for an estimated 150,000 tons disposed of in landfills Statewide. Plastic carryout bag litter impacts the environment and has an economic impact on the solid waste infrastructure. Reducing bag consumption and litter may result in significant cost savings to taxpayers for cleanup, enforcement, and prevention efforts. Mr. Pederson stated that reusable bags are an environmentally and economically preferred alternative to plastic carryout bags. The study concludes that other single use bags, including biodegradable bags, would not be a practical alternative, since there are no commercial composting facilities in Los Angeles County.

AB 2449 (2006 Statutes), which will sunset in 2013, requires large supermarkets and retail stores to provide collection points for at-store recycling of plastic carryout bags and to make reusable bags available to consumers. However, AB 2449 prohibits local governments from imposing additional requirements. For example, they cannot impose a plastic bag fee on affected stores. Additionally, AB 2449 has no mandates or benchmarks to measure its success. The County, in partnership with various stakeholders from industry and environmental organizations, is developing a Bag Reduction Program to promote reusable bags and increase at-store recycling. The goals are to reduce the amount of plastic carryout bags being littered. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made to send a letter to the County Board of Supervisors to support the County's efforts to work with industry and environmental groups to reduce plastic bags consumption and increase at-store recycling of plastic bags. The motion passed unanimously.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

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

XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Miller, a Southern California Association of Government's Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force member, announced that the draft Regional Comprehensive Plan was undergoing the last stage of revision and would be sent to policy committee members by next week. One chapter describes the current waste hierarchy which looks like an inverted pyramid ([see attachment](#)). Mr. Miller stated the inverted pyramid is effective at communicating waste management hierarchy. The Regional Comprehensive Plan Task Force reconsidered the hierarchy, and re-created and re-named the hierarchy as a waste management paradigm. Visually, it adds producer responsibility at the top, while also putting an emphasis on conversion technology. The new waste management paradigm will be available for public comment. Mr. Miller wanted to bring this issue to the Task Force's attention. He welcomes ideas and suggestions.

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.