

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

Minutes of December 20, 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
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health
Stephen Maguin, represented by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of L.A. County
Mark Waronek, represented by Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Don Wolfe, represented by Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Enrique Zaldivar, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

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
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, 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.
George De La O, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chris Elliott, Trash For Teaching
Christine Frias, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Sevak Khatchadorian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bill Kroese, Rockview Farms
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Miriam Mendoza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Debbie Morris, HF&H Consultants, LLC
Ken Murray, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health
David Ross, Business/Commerce Representative Alternate
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Ms. Margaret Clark introduced new members to the Task Force: Mr. Gerardo Villalobos and Ms. Iris Aguirre from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health and Mr. Paul Alva from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 18, 2007

A motion was made to approve the minutes of October 18, 2007. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Mike Mohajer abstaining. (Ms. Karen Coca and Mr. Sam Perdomo were absent at the time the vote was taken)

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Subcommittee met on November 19, 2007, and reviewed a number of articles for the next issue of the *Inside Solid Waste* newsletter which will be published on January 2, 2008. The newsletter will include articles on home generated sharps, landfill financial assurance, the County's Generation Earth Program, the County Sponsored Plan-It Earth Program, the City of Inglewood's Environmental Leadership, the City of Calabasas' recycling of electronic waste and batteries, an update on legislation, and an update on the recently approved County Conversion Technology Report.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis stated that the Subcommittee met on December 10, 2007, to discuss Chapter 4 (Current Disposal Rate and Assessment of Disposal Capacity Needs) and Chapter 9 (Out-of-County Disposal) of the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element. Due to the significance of these two chapters, the Subcommittee will review the next draft as soon as they are completed.

V. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Coby Skye reported that the Subcommittee has reviewed and commented on the draft Request For Offers (RFO). The purpose for the RFO is for the County

to receive formal site specific offers from approved technology providers and site owners/operators in order to expedite the selection process. The RFO identifies potential incentives to technology providers and provide guidance for negotiation in the future. Mr. Skye anticipates the County will issue the RFO in January 2008.

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

Mr. Mohajer provided a history on the actions of the Task Force regarding AB 2296, financial assurance for solid waste landfills' post-closure and corrective actions. Mr. Mohajer stressed that it is very important that financial assurance be addressed because there will be no revenue source after a landfill closes except from landfill gases. He also discussed the County Sanitation Districts' letter dated December 17, 2007, ([see attachment](#)) to the Task Force. This letter referenced the November 13, 2007, Task Force letter to the California Integrated Waste Management Board ([see attachment](#)).

Mr. Charles Boehmke expressed the County Sanitations Districts' concern that the Task Force letter supported proposed regulations which include costs for all activities yet to be completed even if the activity is tentatively planned to occur or be completed prior to closure or completion of post-closure maintenance. This would require the County Sanitation Districts to set aside additional funds during the landfill's operation for financial assurance, placing a significant financial impact on the Sanitation Districts and its member cities.

Mr. Mohajer indicated that the language of concern to the Sanitation Districts has been deleted from the new version of the proposed regulations dated November 16, 2007. Mr. Mohajer also made a motion for the Task Force to clarify its position that operational cost should not be included in closure and post-closure cost estimates when the Waste Board releases its next draft regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion was further ensued and subsequently Mr. Charles Boehmke made a motion for Sanitation Districts' to also represent the Task Force, along with Mr. Mohajer, in regards to the financial assurance regulations. There was no second to the motion, and the motion failed.

VII. UPDATE ON SB 1016 SOLID WASTE REPORTING BY LOCAL JURISDICTIONS

Mr. Mohajer noted that although SB 1016 was initially introduced to reduce “bean counting,” it now increases the mandated diversion rate to 88 percent by the year 2020. Due to numerous objections from local jurisdictions, the Bill will be rewritten to remove any references to increasing the diversion rate. The draft language will be released at a meeting scheduled for January 17, 2008. Mr. Mohajer will provide a meeting summary at the next Task Force Meeting.

The diversion rate language will move to SB 1020 (Padilla’s Bill), which will be considered after the State addresses its budget shortfall in January 2008.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON SOLID WASTE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Ms. Linda Lee, of Public Works provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS) ([see attachment](#)).

Public Works is responsible for tracking solid waste disposal data and producing State-mandated reports for over 300 California jurisdictions. SWIMS is a web user interface system which improves the efficiency of collecting solid waste disposal data from different facilities and waste haulers.

This online reporting system provides 24-hour access to disposal data; significantly increases the efficiency of reporting and data management; dramatically decreases the probability of human error in manual data entry; and greatly reduces the amount of paper use in generating paper-based reports.

During the next implementation phase, more interactive features will be installed to monitor the effectiveness of diversion programs.

IX. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Steve Uselton was unable to attend the meeting.

X. PRESENTATION ON THE COUNTY'S ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES WEBSITE

Mr. George De La O, of Public Works, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the County's Environmental Resources website and its redesign in 2008. He stated the website's URL, www.888CleanLA.com, was established to coincide with the County's toll free hotline, (888) CLEANLA in order to make the web address more memorable.

Mr. De La O indicated the website originated as a library page for the Los Angeles County Materials Exchange (LACOMAX) website. It contained general information and links to the County's environmental programs. However, this library page quickly expanded necessitating the creation of the Environmental Resources website.

Mr. De La O navigated through the various web pages on the 888CleanLA.com website, including the Task Force and household hazardous waste program webpages. He requested recommendations for improvements be sent to taskforce@dpw.lacounty.gov.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1075

A motion was made to add AB 1075 to the Task Force agenda because the Assembly Natural Resources Committee would be considering the Bill on January 14, 2008, prior to the next Task Force meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer stated the Bill's language is defined in the Task Force's October 18, 2007, Legislative Table. Therefore, he made a motion to send a letter of support for AB 1075. The motion passed unanimously.

XII. PRESENTATION ON "RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH REUSE"

Ms. Christine Frias and Ms. Miriam Mendoza, of Public Works, provided a "Reuse Resolution" for the holiday season ([see attachment](#)). The helpful reuse tips included using rechargeable batteries, wrapping presents with newspaper, reusing gift bags, boxes, ribbon, and bows, turning wrapping paper to packaging material, and turning Christmas cards into gift tags. Samples of these tips, such

as gift boxes wrapped in comics, were shown to Task Force members and the audience.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

In regards to the January 2008 meeting date, it was requested that staff investigate an alternative date as many Task Force members would be unavailable to meet on January 17, 2008.

XIV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.