



LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meeting Action Report

Committee: Environmental Services

Members of the Environmental Services LRC:

City Representative Susie Byrd, Chair
City Representative Emma Acosta
City Representative Dr. Michiel Noe
City Representative Cortney Carlisle Niland

Staff Assignee: Ellen A. Smyth, Director, Environmental Services

Date of Meeting: October 20, 2011

#1. Discussion and action on a proposal for an Incentive Based Recycling Program - RecycleBank. [Environmental Services, Ellen A Smyth, (915) 621-6700]

Summary:

The LRC reviewed the proposal for an Incentive Based Recycling Program – RecycleBank as it related to get more households to recycle by using a reward points program.

Action Taken:

The LRC voted to support the program and prepare a budget analysis.

Disposition:

City staff will present the program to the Council along with all the necessary analysis.

#2. Discussion and action on the privatization of the City's landfill. (Representative Courtney Carlisle Niland, (915) 541-4000).

Summary:

The LRC reviewed the Council's previous direction in December 2009 and the policy issues surrounding privatization.

Action Taken:

The LRC expressed non- support to privatization of the Landfill

Disposition:

No action was taken.

#3. Discussion and action on renaming the Clint Landfill. (Environmental Services, Ellen A. Smyth (915-621-6700))

Summary:

The LRC considered changing the name of the Clint Landfill as requested by the Mayor of Clint.

Action Taken:

The LRC supported the concept.

Disposition:

City staff should proceed to rename the Landfill.

#4. Discussion and update on the City's recycling DVD and outreach campaign (Environmental Services, Ellen A. Smyth & Katherine Palafox (915) 621-6700)

Summary:

The LRC viewed the recycling DVD produced by Keep El Paso Beautiful and received an update on current ESD outreach activities on recycling.

Action Taken:

The LRC supported the efforts by ESD and Keep El Paso Beautiful and asked that recycling contamination be monitored to see the impact of the new outreach efforts.

Disposition

No action was taken.

#5. Discussion and action on collaborating with the City's Housing Authority on energy savings and other sustainable projects. (Environmental Services, Ellen A. Smyth & Marty Howell (915) 621-6700)

Summary:

The LRC did not receive a report as the item was deleted.

Action Taken:

The LRC took no action. The item will be introduced at the next ESD LRC meeting.

Disposition

No action required.

#6. Discussion and action of a proposal for El Paso Waste to Energy Plant. (Environmental Services, Marty Howell, Sustainability Manager, (915) 541-4925)

Summary:

The LRC was provided an overview of the progress made to date on a potential Waste to Energy project with Ft. Bliss, as well as a proposal by GCI Energy for a smaller waste to energy facility.

Action Taken:

The LRC supported the GCI Energy project and requested cost analysis, air quality impact study, waste characterization study, impact on the colonia agreement and a project timeline.

Disposition

City staff will present the project to Council with all the items as recommended by the Committee.

Submitted by:

City Representative Susie Byrd, District 2
Chair, Environmental Services LRC

Ellen A. Smyth, P.E.
Director, Environmental Services

Legislative Review Committee
Environmental Services
October 20, 2011

Attendees:

Representative Susie Byrd
Representative Emma Acosta
Representative Dr. Michiel Noe
Ellen A. Smyth, ESD
John Garza, ESD
Miguel Parra, ESD
Debbie Strom, ESD
Valerie Joosten, ESD
Marty Hohnfeld, Recyclebank
G Taddune, Recyclebank
Paul Perez, Western
Katherine Palafox, KEPB
A. Kastrin, KASCO

Tammy Fonce, ESD
Eloisa Portillo-Morales, ESD
Trenda Rocha, ESD
Marty Howell, ESD
Gloria Duran, ESD
Richard Adams, ESD

Members Absent:

Representative Courtney Carlisle Niland

#1 Call to order and establish quorum.

The meeting of the Environmental Services Legislative Review Committee was called to order by the Chair Representative Byrd at 9:30 a.m., and a quorum was established.

#2. Discussion and action on approval of Minutes for the Environmental Services Legislative Review Committee meeting of August 25, 2011.

Motion was made by Representative Acosta and seconded by Representative Dr. Noe to approve LRC minutes as presented. Motion passes unanimously.

#3. Discussion and action on a proposal for an Incentive Based Recycling Program - RecycleBank. [Environmental Services, Ellen A Smyth, (915) 621-6700]

Mr. Hohnfeld from RecycleBank gave a presentation on an incentive based recycling program that tries to get more households to recycle by using reward points that can be spent at department stores, restaurants, grocery stores, etc. The annual cost per household would be \$4.20 or .35 cents per household per month. Ms. Smyth stated that the cost could be absorbed by the Department as it would only impact the last six months of the fiscal year if the City implements the program in March 2012.

Representative Acosta asked how the recycling participation would be quantified. Mr. Hohnfeld stated that GPS technology can be used to determine recycling participation per route, and that RecycleBank would work with the City to extract participation rates from the City's data. Ms. Smyth remarked that most of the automated trucks have a GPS system that would register those households that placed their cart out for collection. Representative Acosta inquired about the internet system and the Call Center operations. Representative Noe asked whether this program could be expanded to include off-site recycling locations (Citizen Collection Stations), County locations, and commercial entities. Mr. Hohnfeld clarified that the program is specifically for the City's

residential curbside recycling program and not for commercial collection, and that future phases of the program could be expanded to include commercial recycling, CCS, and multi-family apartments. Additionally, RecycleBank is looking at expanding into other sustainability areas such as water conservation, energy conservation, and transit. Representative Noe asked that the costs of the program be evaluated to include the savings from the extended landfill life due to increased waste diversion.

Motion was made by Representative Acosta and Representative Dr. Noe to recommend to Council to proceed with this program and to provide Council with a budget analysis.

#4 Discussion and action on the privatization of the City's landfill. (Representative Courtney Carlisle Niland, (915) 541-4000).

Ms. Smyth reviewed the Council's previous direction in December 2009 and summarized the four policy issues surrounding privatization: landfill liability, collection liability, franchise agreement and flow control. Ms. Smyth remarked that past studies and information on this topic were provided to Representative Niland. Ms. Smyth also discussed the option to have a management contract. Representative Acosta commented that one of the main drawbacks of a management contract is that the City would be issued a violation and could potentially be fined if the Contractor fails to operate by the standards of the permit. There was a brief discussion on flow control and the waste needed by Fort Bliss for the Waste to Energy Plant.

Motion was made by Representative Acosta and seconded by Representative Dr. Noe not to proceed with the privatization of the Landfill at this time.

#5. Discussion and action on renaming the Clint Landfill. (Environmental Services, Ellen A. Smyth (915-621-6700))

Ms. Smyth reported that the Mayor of Clint does not like the Landfill being named after Clint. After further staff review, TCEQ has clarified that the task of changing the landfill name is a less complex task than previously believed. Ms. Smyth asked the LRC if they had suggestions for a new Landfill name.

Motion was made by Representative Acosta and seconded by Representative Dr. Noe to proceed in renaming the Clint Landfill.

#6. Discussion and update on the City's recycling DVD and outreach campaign (Environmental Services, Ellen A. Smyth & Katherine Palafox (915) 621-6700)

Ms. Palafox presented the recycling DVD and expressed appreciation for the funds received from the Rio Grande Council of Governments. The grant funding allowed Keep El Paso Beautiful to develop two DVDs on behalf of the City: 1) Recycle Symphony (life cycle of an aluminum can) and 2) Recycling ABCs. The DVDs will be given to schools and will be available for download at the KEPB website and City's website.

Ms. Tammy Fonce provided an updated on the City's outreach campaign (Recycle Right). A new web site (RecycleElpaso.org) has been created and uploaded with literature from the Recycle Right campaign. The City is sponsoring a contest for high school students to develop a recycling video public service announcement. The City is

also coordinating with local schools to provide guest speakers on good recycling practices. Lastly, preparation is underway for next year's Earth Day event on April 21, 2012. Representative Byrd inquired if we have seen any changes in the contamination rate as the result of the outreach program. The new outreach program is in its infancy, and we will be monitoring the program's effectiveness in the coming months.

#7. Discussion and action on collaborating with the City's Housing Authority on energy savings and other sustainable projects. (Environmental Services, Ellen A. Smyth & Marty Howell (915) 621-6700)

Ms. Smyth asked that the item be deleted.

#8. Discussion and action of a proposal for El Paso Waste to Energy Plant. (Environmental Services, Marty Howell, Sustainability Manager, (915) 541-4925)

Mr. Howell provided an overview of the progress made to date on a potential Waste to Energy project with Fort Bliss. The City and Fort Bliss have had many discussions over the last several years. The project will be costly to implement on a large scale, and the details of a power purchase agreement add to the project complexity. As an alternate to a large scale project, the City received a proposal from GGI Energy for a small scale waste to energy facility.

Mr. Howell gave information on the proposed project which would convert 200 ton/day of waste to diesel at the Clint Landfill. The Contractor would offer a 20% discount to purchase the diesel. The Contractor would require 4 acres of land, and a 20 year lease. Questions were raised on a number of issues including the project costs, relevant projects and successful implementation, air quality impacts, permitting, community impacts, and the effect of the project on a Fort Bliss WTE project. Ms. Smyth stated that there are many issues to be worked out and that she needed to know if the LRC would support such a concept before investing significant staff time. Ms. Smyth stated that ESD may need to perform a waste characterization study and Legal would need to review the proposal and develop an agreement.

Representative Byrd reiterated that the impact on the Fort Bliss WTE project needed to be clarified. Additionally, Representative Byrd asked that staff evaluate whether diesel fuel is the type of fuel that the City wishes to encourage using in the future, since other clean fuels such as CNG are available.

Ms. Acosta requested that before the project is presented to Council there needs to be further analysis and evaluation on costs, permit modification, air quality impacts, waste characterization study, timeframe to implement, and the Colonia agreement.

Motion was made by Representative Acosta and seconded by Representative Dr. Noe supporting the project and to bring forward to Council with all the items recommended by the Committee.

#9. Public comment.
No public comment was provided.

#10. Set next meeting.

Representative Byrd requested that for the next LRC meeting an updated be provided on parking enforcement and citation capabilities for Code Compliance Inspectors.

#11. Adjournment