

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

Minutes for November 17, 2022

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

WEB CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Public Health
Barbara Romero, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Stephanie Mejia, City of Palmdale
Joseph Rasmussen, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita
Diana Suarez-Arguelles, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dustin Dvorak, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass.

II. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 MINUTES

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Ms. Betsey Landis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE (PEIS)

Mr. Mohajer reported the following at the PEIS meeting:

The Subcommittee reviewed eight articles to be published in the next issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. Articles included County's New Exclusive Commercial Franchise System, Beverage Container Recycling with the Dodgers Foundation, New Organic Waste Management Website: Fight Food Waste LA, Free Disposal Days at Landfills Limited to the LAC Unincorporated Communities, Reuse Centers Offer Free Useful Material to the Community and Keeps Out of Landfills, Countywide Tire Collection Events Roll Forward, Clothing Donation is Back at Los Angeles County Public Works, and Task Force Submits Comments on the Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California.

Following the Subcommittee update, concerns over lithium batteries ensued. Ms. Landis requested clarification on how lithium batteries are handled when they are part of the waste stream. Mr. Jeff Farano with SA Recycling stated that they handle batteries and that the batteries are considered universal waste, both under federal and state regulations. Batteries may not be transported to their recycling locations unless U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) rules and regulations are being followed. Discussion ensued.

Staff was asked to give a presentation on recycling and transportation of lithium batteries at the next Task Force meeting, as well as writing a summary to be published in the Inside Solid Waste Winter Edition regarding Assembly Bill (AB) 2440 and Senate Bill (SB) 1215, that goes into effect on January 1, 2023, regarding batteries and embedded batteries.

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (ATAS)

Mr. Fahim Rahimi reported the following at the ATAS meeting:

- The ATAS received a [presentation](#) from staff on the Impacts of New Legislation on Conversion Technologies.
- On Tuesday, November 15, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion authorizing Public Works to enter exclusive negotiations with Anaergia for the development of a proposed anaerobic digestion facility at the Calabasas Landfill.
- Tetra Tech continued to expand their evaluation of potential sites for organic waste processing or thermal conversion facilities at old landfill sites and other potential sites in the County.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).
- Motion passed for the Subcommittee to cancel their December meeting if the Task Force cancels their December meeting.

Following the Subcommittee update, Mr. Mohajer requested a presentation be made at the next Task Force meeting regarding SB 54 and AB 1857 on conversion technology development in California, and only limited to those respective bills.

V. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE (FPRS)

Ms. Landis reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill update: No NOVs were reported for November 2022. The landfill submitted the Nineteenth Monthly Update.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill Update: In October 2022, there were 64 odor complaints and one NOV issued. There was a total of 596 odor complaints and 12 NOVs received for the year 2022. There was discussion on the Third Quarter Vegetation Report. The Subcommittee requested an item on Odor Mitigation Measures to be presented at the next Subcommittee meeting.
- Motion passed for the Subcommittee to cancel their December meeting if the Task Force cancels their December meeting.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Rahimi reported on the following legislative dates:

- In December, the Legislature will have a special legislative session to begin introducing bills and swearing in new members.
- Legislature is tentatively scheduled to reconvene on January 4, 2023.

- The Governor has until January 10, 2023, to submit the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24.
- The last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Council is January 20, 2023.
- The last day to introduce bills to both Houses is February 17, 2023.

Mr. Rahimi asked that Task Force members notify staff of any priority bills that are in development so staff may track them during the next legislative session.

Mr. Mohajer commended staff on an excellent presentation given at this morning's ATAS meeting regarding AB 1857 and SB 54.

Mr. Jim Smith noted he was not aware of any ongoing legislation, but in light of the California Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down waste franchise fees that will have a huge financial impact on cities up and down the state, he believed the Task Force should be looking out for legislation addressing the issue.

VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Mr. Joseph Rasmussen provided an [update](#) from CalRecycle.

Ms. Landis suggested that perhaps CalRecycle could look into the transport of lithium batteries since the issue will expand rapidly because of the State going to electric vehicles and she did not know of any organized way of handling waste continuing lithium. Mr. Rasmussen responded that he would take her suggestion to his management team.

VIII. DECEMBER TASK FORCE MEETING

Ms. Landis made a motion to cancel the December Task Force meeting, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 1 p.m.