

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

Minutes for January 19, 2023

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
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 by 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:

Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Edgar De LaTorre, County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Joseph Rasmussen, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, 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
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass.

II. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2022 MINUTES

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Rafael Prieto seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

- Kore Technologies provided a [presentation](#) on their pyrolysis technology which converts waste into biogas, hydrogen, and biocarbon.
- CalRecycle is considering an application by H-Cycle to add their non-combustion thermal conversion technology that produces hydrogen from organic waste to the approved Senate Bill (SB) 1383 (2016) organic waste disposal reduction technologies. Tetra Tech continues to evaluate potential sites for organic waste processing or thermal conversion facilities. They are also supporting Public Works with preparation of an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement for development of an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility at the Calabasas Landfill per the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) Motion on November 15, 2022.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology (CT) events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).
- Public Works is applying for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funding for the proposed Calabasas AD facility. At the ATAS meeting, members approved a motion recommending that the Task Force submit a letter of support as part of the grant application.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter to the EPA in support of the application for grant proposal for development of a proposed AD facility at Calabasas Landfill. Ms. Margaret Clark seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.

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

Mr. Mohajer reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill Update: No odor complaints were reported for December 2022. A settlement agreement was established between

Waste Connections (WC) and the County regarding the lawsuits filed by WC. WC submitted a request to Regional Planning to make modifications to the Landfill's Conditional Use Permit based on the agreement. If modifications are adopted by Regional Planning, then the Task Force will be involved in modifications to the Finding of Conformance.

- Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) Update: There were 32 odor complaints for the month of December 2022.
- Discussion regarding the importation of soil and Landfill Toe Berm at SCL took place. Public Works has been working with Regional Planning, the City of Los Angeles, and County Counsel regarding the tonnages reported by the operator.
- There was an inquiry from the SCL-Community Advisory Committee requesting Republic Services respond to Public Works' notice of tonnage exceedance.

Mr. Jordan Sisson asked if Mr. Mohajer had the name of the requestor and the information sought from the Paperwork Reduction Act. Mr. Mohajer responded that staff had the letter from a facility in Perris in Riverside County and asked staff to assist Mr. Sisson in obtaining the letter.

V. UPDATE ON THE LOS ANGLEES COUNTY REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Aric Rodriquez informed the Task Force that the State-mandated 90-day approval period for the Revised Countywide Siting Element (Revised CSE) has ended on December 12, 2022. State law requires that the Revised CSE shall be approved by the County and by a majority of the cities within the County, which contain a majority of the population of the incorporated areas of the County. Of the 88 cities in the County, 86 cities have tacitly approved the Revised CSE, one city (City of Huntington Park) adopted a resolution to approve and one city (City of Calabasas) adopted a resolution to disapprove the Revised CSE. The next step is to go back to the Board requesting the Board to approve the Revised CSE by conducting a public hearing, a notice of which must be published 30 days in advance. Subject to adoption by the Board, the Revised CSE will then be submitted to CalRecycle for approval.

VI. RECYCLING AND TRANSPORTATION OF LITHIUM BATTERIES

Mr. Charles Darensbourg presented on the [staff report](#) disseminated to the Task Force regarding information on the proper collection, storage, transport, and recycling of universal waste as directed by Federal, State, and local [rules and regulations](#).

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that in addition to Assembly Bill (AB) 939 (1989) requiring jurisdictions to divert 50 percent of waste from disposal facilities. AB 939 (1989)

also requires that every city and county in the State prepare a document, Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE), for proper collection and management of all HHW generated by the jurisdiction's residence. This is a mandatory program for each city and each county.

Mr. Mohajer also wanted to ensure that a copy of the staff report was given to all Task Force members, specifically Ms. Betsey Landis, who requested the report.

VII. SENATE BILL 54 (2022) AND ASSEMBLY BILL 1857 (2022) CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. Darensbourg provided a [presentation](#) on the impacts of SB 54 (2022) and AB 1857 (2022) CTs in the State. Information provided included the summary of solid waste processing technologies, its development and misconceptions, impacts of the legislation, and what is wanted and not wanted from CTs.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter of support to CalRecycle on their analysis and findings for H Cycle technologies, and Ms. Clark seconded. The motion failed to pass with two Task Force members voting yes, three voting no, and five abstaining.

Mr. Wayne Hunter from the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens thanked Mr. Darensbourg for his well-done presentation and in recognizing the impact to residents living around landfills. Mr. Hunter requested that Mr. Darensbourg provide his notes, along with the presentation, to those in attendance at the Task Force meeting. Mr. Darensbourg responded he could provide his talking points.

Mr. Sisson commended Mr. Darensbourg on his presentation and asked for a copy as well. Mr. Sisson also clarified that having to take a position on an overview of an application without reviewing it, is very difficult. Mr. Mohajer agreed with Mr. Sisson but stated that this particular item regarding H Cycle was posted on CalRecycle's website on Friday, January 13, 2023, with a Public Hearing for comment on January 17, 2023, and the deadline for comments on January 31, 2023.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Preceding Mr. Darensbourg's legislative update, he mentioned the permitting process documents that were disseminated to the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer requested that the permitting process charts be revised to include a block titled Environmental Justice to be aligned with the California Environmental Quality Act process and approval.

Mr. Darensbourg provided the following update:

- Governor's State Budget Proposal was released on January 10, 2023, that projects a deficit of \$2.5 billion. All programs will see cuts or budget adjustments. Task Force priorities will have modest cuts.
- On January 10, 2023, CalRecycle released an organic diversion implementation update and will soon begin conducting compliance evaluations and will notify jurisdictions.
- On January 1, 2023, CalRecycle begins enforcing AB 793 (2020), which establishes recyclable standards in plastic beverage bottles and is a part of the State Container Deposit Program.
- On January 31, 2023, CalRecycle will host an information meeting regarding SB 54 (2022) regarding the informational regulation process.
- New bills for 2023-24 Legislative Session were introduced and they have two years to go through the legislative process. There were three bills on the cover page of the [Legislative Table](#) that staff recommended to watch.

Mr. Mohajer asked if AB 341 (2011) required 75 percent recycling. Mr. Darensbourg answered that he was not certain. Mr. Mohajer commented on the presentation regarding CTs; even if all recycling programs are implemented, there would still be approximately 30 percent of the waste stream that cannot be recycled and have no commodity value. Without a technology, the 75 percent reduction will not be met. Mr. Darensbourg agreed.

Mr. Mohajer asked if CalRecycle had discussed the composting of dead human bodies since the Governor signed legislation that went into effect on January 1, 2023. Mr. Darensbourg responded that he was unaware of such legislation. Mr. Mohajer suggested that staff look into or inquire with CalRecycle.

IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

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

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 16, 2023, at 1 p.m.