

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

Minutes for March 16, 2023

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
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 Dee Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Public Health
Mark Pestrella, rep by Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, County of Los Angeles Office of the County Counsel
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Kimberly Peña, Republic Services
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Henry Kong, 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
Breana Romero, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, 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 FEBRUARY 16, 2023 MINUTES

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

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

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

- New Planet Energy provided a [presentation](#) on their proposed Advanced Mixed Waste Processing Facility to be able to process black bin trash. This process would separate recyclables, recover organic waste, and produce engineered fuel as a substitute for coal in the production of cement.
- Tetra Tech continued expanded evaluation of potential sites for organic waste processing or thermal conversion facilities at old landfill sites and other potential sites in the County. They are also supporting Public Works with preparation of a grant application for California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) Organics Grant Program, Cycle 7, for development of a proposed anaerobic digestion facility at the Calabasas Landfill.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

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

Mr. Mohajer reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill Update: Odor complaints will be provided at next month's Subcommittee meeting. The Landfill submitted their Twenty-Third Monthly Update. No Notice of Violations (NOVs) were received for the month of February 2023.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) Odor Complaints from South Coast Air Quality Management (AQMD): There were 191 odor complaints for the month of February 2023, a decrease from 226 odor complaints in January. For the month of February 2023, there were 5 NOVs issued by AQMD.

- Fourth Quarter Vegetation Report at SCL: Vegetation is good on the southside owned by Los Angeles City compared to County side. Staff is reviewing the consultant's recommendations.
- Beneficial Reuse and Permitted Tonnages: There are some differences in the interpretation of permit language between the Landfill Operator, Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), and Public Works pertaining to the authority of the Land Use Permit versus the Solid Waste Permit. The LEA has confirmed that the operator should follow the most stringent requirement imposed by the local jurisdiction. It is very clear that the Land Use Permit governs over the Solid Waste Permit. Discussion of drainage damage at SCL due to recent storms took place. The Landfill Operator will remedy the storm's impact. Public Works staff will monitor, follow up with the Landfill Operator on their reporting to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and will provide an update at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

V. PRESENTATION ON THE LAO'S RECOMMENDATION ON CALRECYCLE'S ZERO WASTE PLAN PROPOSAL

Mr. Rahimi provided a [presentation](#) on the LAO's analysis and recommendations regarding CalRecycle's proposed funding to assess programs and implement their Zero Waste Plan.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Rahimi provided the following update:

- As of February 17, 2023, there were 2,632 bills introduced.
- The Legislature will recess on March 30 and reconvene on April 10, 2023.
- The last day for policy committees to hear and pass fiscal bills will be on April 28, 2023.
- CalRecycle hosted a Senate Bill (SB) 54 (Allen, 2022) webinar regarding Advisory Board needs and assessment.
- CalRecycle is accepting applications for Advisory Board members. Deadline is March 24, 2023.

There were 37 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and 3 bills on the cover page for consideration:

Task Force staff recommended a "Watch" for two bills, [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 1526 \(Natural Resources Committee, 2023\)](#) and [SB 707 \(Newman, 2023\)](#), and recommended a "Support in Concept" for SB 560 (Laird, 2023), which would

establish a framework for extended producer responsibility (EPR) and end-of-life management of propane gas, helium, isobutane, and butane cylinders.

Ms. Margaret Clark made a motion to "Support in Concept" SB 560 and Mr. Jim Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer expressed his concerns regarding AB 1526, which revises last year's SB 54. As written, the bill removes the exemption from EPR and prohibits the sale of paint for homeowners use if amount is less than five gallons. Mr. Mohajer mentioned how he and Ms. Margaret Clark were extremely involved in the formation of the EPR, which is now becoming more restrictive to every individual. Mr. Shammass asked Mr. Rahimi to explain the language in the bill as it pertains to exemptions in the EPR program. Mr. Rahimi responded that staff would look further into the bill as it is being watched.

Ms. Clark brought up the issue of conversion technologies (CT). Mr. Mohajer suggested that the Task Force may want to invite Senator Allen from Santa Monica to a Task Force meeting to discuss SB 54 requirements that he wrote into the bill, which prohibits the development of CT, as well as discussing some of the SB 303 requirements. Mr. Jordan Sisson requested that staff address the specific concerns to the current "Watch" bills at a future Task Force meeting.

Mr. Mohajer commented that according to the author, SB 707 states that the amounts of textiles disposed in landfills was only 3 percent of the disposal. However, roughly, about 50 percent of textiles disposed were synthetic, and synthetics will decompose over a course of 100 years. Mr. Mohajer continued with his concerns that this bill was the most restrictive EPR he had ever seen with what producers must do and the penalties imposed and expressed verbally to the California Products Stewardship Council that SB 707 had gone too far. He also noted recommending the "Watch" as the enactment of the bill moves forward and that concerns should be considered including that of protecting public health, the environment, and the economic feasibility. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sisson asked staff if they could share the list of bills that they felt should be prioritized for the next two months as the bills move along through their respective committees. Ms. Perla Gomez responded that there are 37 bills that staff is currently watching, including all EPR bills and a couple of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) bills. Mr. Mohajer indicated for the record that sometimes when a bill is scheduled before a committee, it may be done one week in advance without informing anyone and the existing standard policy is that once the Task Force takes a position on a bill, then they move forward with it, and address those bills that have amendments with insufficient time to present to the Task Force. Mr. Shammass asked staff if they could e-mail the list of bills expected

for April. Ms. Gomez responded that many bills are currently in text language and may have amendments, but that a list of bills could be provided.

VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

CalRecycle representative did not attend the meeting.

VIII. UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNSEL

Mr. Jonathan Brazile, Senior Associate County Counsel, provided an update on the FPRS motion to send a letter to various agencies regarding revisions of the Joint Technical Document that passed with two members voting yes and three members abstaining at the February 16, 2023, Subcommittee meeting, and the Task Force subsequently passing the motion recommended. The County Code reads that the majority of members present must vote yes, in order for a motion to pass. However, the tentative outcome is that since the FPRS has an advisory role to the Task Force and as long as the Task Force properly votes on a motion, the motion stands as they are the main committee. However, County Counsel will confirm with their Brown Act expert who is currently on leave and will forward their findings to staff.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 1 p.m.