

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

Minutes for April 20, 2023

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Jorgel Chavez, 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

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
Barbara Romero, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

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
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, County of Los Angeles Office of the County Counsel
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Joseph Rasmussen, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Genevieve, Osmena, 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
Breana Romero, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, 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 1:04 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 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:

- ECONWARD provided a [presentation](#) on their hydrolysis and anaerobic digestion (AD) technology which creates biogas and digestate from waste.
- Tetra Tech continued expanded evaluation of potential sites for organic waste processing or thermal conversion facilities in the County. They are also supporting Public Works with preparation of a grant application for CalRecycle Organics Grant Program, Cycle 7, for development of an AD 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 (CCL): No odor-related Notice of Violations (NOVs) for March 2023. CCL received 1 NOV from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) and 1 NOV from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). Water Board withdrew the NOV after CCL provided its proof of compliance to the Water Board.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL): There were 146 odor complaints for the month of March 2023 and 5 NOVs issued by AQMD. As of March 2023, there were 5 NOVs issued by AQMD. A total of 563 odor complaints and 18 related NOVs have been received for 2023.
- There was discussion of the erosion control system at SCL following significant damage due to rainstorms. Republic Services (Republic) informed the Water Board of their mitigation measures, and the Water Board was satisfied. Staff will analyze the mitigation measures as it relates to Los Angeles County

- (County) regulations. This item will be included in next month's Subcommittee agenda.
- Republic continues to exceed the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) tonnage limits of 12,100 tons per day. The Task Force staff will request Regional Planning to provide an update on their enforcement tonnage exceedances.
 - There was discussion of the maximum elevations at SCL. Staff reported that per the Task Force's Finding of Conformance for the Landfill, the County portion may have a maximum height of 1,904 feet above sea level, and the City-owned portion may have a maximum height of 2,004 feet above sea level. Finding No. 47f attached to the CUP reads if there is a conflict between City and County permits, the most stringent regulation governs. Task Force staff will work with Regional Planning to determine what the maximum height requirement is at SCL.
 - A letter was sent on behalf of the Task Force to AQMD and Public Health, requesting their review of the SCL-Community Advisory Committee's Health Risk Assessment.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked what the current level of elevation is at SCL. Mr. Michael Harmon responded that the Landfill operates multiple areas with different elevations in both the County and City side. Staff can provide elevation information at the next FPRS Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Clark asked for clarification regarding the 12,100 tons of trash per day and the amount recycled as beneficial reuse. Mr. Mohajer clarified that 12,100 tons of material are received by SCL per day and up to 3,300 tons could be recyclable material such as soil imported to use as a daily cover. Ms. Clark asked why recyclable materials would stay at the landfill instead of being recycled. Mr. Mohajer responded that the amount is what comes through the gate, and what leaves is a separate issue due to the traffic analysis and how many trucks are allowed to transport through the community due to the pollution they emit. Mr. Shammass commented that SCL lawyers have a different interpretation of what 12,100 tons of material includes and sent their interpretation to Regional Planning, who is currently reviewing.

Mr. Larry Israel with the AQMD noted that through today April 20, 2023, there have been 118 odor complaints, which he believed approaches over 650 odor complaints for the first 3.5 months of this year and a total of 25 NOVs also for this year. Mr. Israel also noted that Van Gogh Elementary staff instruct schoolchildren to remain indoors when odors are prevalent. Ms. Clark asked what SCL can do to mitigate the odors for the children. There was no direct answer; however, Mr. Israel stated that the AQMD is looking into measures. Discussion ensued about the odors affecting the community.

V. UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNSEL

Jonathan Brazile confirmed that the vote by the FPRS on February 16, 2023, was invalid. However, since the FPRS has an advisory role to the Task Force and the Task Force is the main legislative body, the vote the Task Force approved on February 16, 2023, to send the Joint Technical Document letter to various agencies stands. He expected the letter to be sent soon with Ms. Clark's signature on behalf of the Task Force.

Mr. Mohajer expressed his appreciation to County Counsel for attending two meetings in a row.

VI. UPDATE ON LOS ANGELES COUNTY REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Aric Rodriguez reported that on August 2, 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) certified the Final Environmental Impact Report and its associated environmental documents for the Los Angeles County Revised Countywide Siting Element (Revised CSE), as well as authorized Public Works, acting as the lead agency, to release and submit the Revised CSE to each city within the County for a State-mandated 90-day approval period which ended on December 12, 2022.

The next step to the Revised CSE is requesting the Board to adopt a resolution approving the Revised CSE by conducting a duly noticed public hearing scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2023. A Notice of Public Hearing was published 30 days in advance in a local newspaper of general circulation. Upon adoption by the Board, the Revised CSE will be submitted to CalRecycle for approval.

Mr. Mohajer requested copies of all writing communications regarding the Revised CSE, including the letter sent to the Board. He also requested that the Task Force be copied on the letter to be sent to CalRecycle.

VII. PRIORITIZING BILLS FOR THE COVER PAGE

Mr. Darensbourg provided a [presentation](#) on how bills are prioritized as Task Force statutory responsibilities include monitoring, analyzing and reviewing legislation, and proposing legislation as needed.

Mr. Sisson thanked Mr. Darensbourg for his in-depth presentation and asked if it was possible for staff to break down the 70-page list of bills to a crib sheet. He also requested a summary of Task Force policies in order to be informed on which bills align with Task Force policies besides County Code 3.67. Mr. Darensbourg

responded that he would provide the priorities policy that was completed in 2020, right before the pandemic along with a reference sheet identifying how current legislation fall under those priorities.

In relation to Assembly Bill (AB) 895 (Chen): Solid waste management, Ms. Clark asked if there were any current results of cities meeting their goals with Senate Bill 1383 (2016) compliance. Mr. Darensbourg responded that CalRecycle has monthly meetings, and his understanding is that they know which cities are meeting their compliance targets and those that are on a list of Notice of Intent to Comply. Ms. Clark asked if CalRecycle had a link that she could access to acquire how the City of Rosemead, or any other cities are doing with SB 1383 compliance. Mr. Darensbourg was uncertain but would check. He also mentioned for clarification that the only language change in AB 895 was the addition of "and five years thereafter" after "by January 1, 2020", and that the bill reemphasized that it is an unfunded local mandate. Discussion ensued regarding AB 895.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Darensbourg noted the following dates:

- The last day for policy committees to hear fiscal bills is on April 28, 2023.
- The last day for policy committees to hear non-fiscal bills is on May 5, 2023.
- The last day for fiscal committees to hear and report to the floor the bills introduced into their house is on May 19, 2023.

Mr. Darensbourg provided the legislative update. There were 49 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and 3 on the cover page for consideration:

- AB 1594 (Garcia): Medium- and heavy-duty zero- emission vehicles: public agency utilities. Mr. Jordan Sisson made a motion to Support and Amend with including solid waste language, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.
- AB 1705 (McKinnor): Solid waste facilities: state policy goals. Ms. Margaret Clark made a motion to Oppose, and Mr. Eddie De La Riva seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- SB 665 (Allen): Plastic waste: single-use plastics alternatives: working group. Ms. Clark made a motion to Oppose Unless Amended, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

Mr. Mohajer reiterated his request from last month's meeting to invite Senator Allen to attend a Task Force meeting so the Task Force may address their concerns regarding opposition to conversion technologies.

After review of the bills on the cover page, Ms. Clark made a motion to Support AB 324 (Pacheco): Gas corporations: renewable gas procurement, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Joseph Rasmussen provided an [update](#) to the Task Force. Mr. Shammas referenced Ms. Clark's question and asked if CalRecycle's website lists how cities are doing with organic waste recovery targets. Mr. Rasmussen responded that CalRecycle is frequently updating their website and that he would research and e-mail the link to staff to disseminate to the Task Force.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mohajer mentioned an item for next month's meeting, a proposed bond measure to be on the ballot in March 2024, involving drinking water and forest fires, with the allocation of \$50 million to CalRecycle to provide funding for the development of infrastructure.

Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens reiterated the excessive odors at SCL in the mornings and evenings and the impact to school children and residents in the community and mentioned the gas emissions that are coming from wells that are filled with water due to recent rainstorms. Mr. Hunter added that the AQMD has not had any abatement hearings, even after the community's request in writing.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 1 p.m.