

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

**Minutes for September 21, 2023**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles  
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Mark Pestrella, rep by Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities  
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Charles Darensbourg, 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  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Coby Skye, 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 AUGUST 17, 2023 MINUTES**

Approval of Minutes postponed until next month due to lack of quorum.

**III. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Election of Vice-Chair postponed until next month due to lack of quorum.

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

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

- Mainspring Energy provided a [presentation](#) regarding their Linear Generator, which uses organic-waste derived biogas to produce renewable power.
- Tetra Tech provided an update and stated that they are:
  - Preparing a Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92; which includes a high-level review of economic, environmental and technical considerations for anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facility options.
  - Performing a Countywide Siting Analysis for the development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities.
  - Performing a detailed evaluation of three closed landfill sites which will investigate land availability and land use compatibility.
  - Preparing Fact Sheets for the proposed AD Facility at Calabasas Landfill in support of community outreach.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

Mr. Jordan Sisson asked when Tetra Tech anticipated the completion of the Countywide Siting Analysis report. Mr. Rahimi responded that Tetra Tech is currently preparing the preliminary scope. Once the preliminary scope is completed, staff will request Tetra Tech to present to the Task Force.

Mr. Mohajer raised his concern that the Task Force approved a motion to send a letter of support for the H-Cycle application submitted to CalRecycle, but that Public Works did not send the letter, even though the County of Los Angeles

Board of Supervisors (Board) and Task Force have been in support of CTs since 1990. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that although the Director of Public Works is Chair to the Task Force, he only has one vote and does not have the authority to overrule decisions made by the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer requested that Public Works provide an update at the next meeting addressing the issue. Mr. Rahimi indicated that staff is working on the issue internally and that a response will be presented at next month's meeting.

Ms. Karen Gork asked which three closed landfills sites Tetra Tech was evaluating. Mr. Rahimi responded that Tetra Tech performed a preliminary evaluation and is preparing a scope of work for further analysis. He added that the analysis will be presented at a future meeting.

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Sunshine Canyon Landfill Update (SCL): There was a significant increase of odor complaints at 264 for the month of August, including 9 Notices of Violation (NOVs) pertaining to odor and 2 NOVs pertaining to dust.
- SCL is continuing to work on mitigation measures caused by the rainstorms earlier this year.
- Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL): Odor problem continues at the Landfill due to dimethyl sulfide (DMS).
- On [August 8, 2023](#), the Board passed a motion instructing the Office of Emergency Management, in collaboration with various agencies, to report back to the Board in 30 days with a report on the cause of odors at CCL. On [September 12, 2023](#), the Board received the report from the Office of Emergency Management regarding the cause of odors at CCL.
- South Coast Air Quality Maintenance District (AQMD) issued a Stipulated Order for Abatement for numerous items to be addressed by CCL to mitigate odors that are coming from the northwest portion of Landfill. One of these items include forming a DMS committee consisting of experts to assist with the odor incident. AQMD also requires that members must have technical expertise to evaluate the impacts on public health. The question raised was the relation between the DMS committee and the committee established by the Board.
- Discussion regarding why the letter to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) that the Task Force approved regarding the request to expedite NOV hearing for SCL, had not been sent. The FPRS was advised that the letter was under review by management, which Mr. Mohajer commented that the Director of Public Works does not have the

authority to prevent a motion approved by the Task Force to be processed, nor does it state he can in the Ordinance and in the State of California [Public Resources Code](#). The item will be continued next month.

- Mr. Mohajer mentioned that legislation letters are also being put on hold by Public Works Administration and reiterated that members of the Task Force represent the legislative body and not just the Director of Public Works and that Public Works staff is staff to the Task Force.

## VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Coby Skye, Deputy Director of Public Works, addressed the Task Force regarding the following:

- In reference to the Regional Planning letter the Task Force approved to send, Mr. Skye reached out to his contact at Regional Planning to expedite a response regarding the Task Force requesting to expedite the hearing process. Regional Planning indicated that they could not move up the hearing due to the need to respond to a Public Record Act and to ensure that the Hearing Officer remained independent so they may not be directed to change the date or to take other actions. Mr. Skye encouraged the Task Force to use Public Works staff as they have very good relationships with other County departments to get information more quickly than with a formal letter.
- In reference to the two legislative letters the Task Force approved to send for Assembly Bill (AB 2) related to solar photovoltaic modules and AB 1238 directing the Department of Toxic Substances Control to create alternative management standards for managing photovoltaic modules, Public Works staff was preparing the letters, but in the interim, both bills were held back as part of the legislative process. One bill was held in the committee and the other became a two-year bill.
- Public Works staff is having discussions internally with County Counsel regarding the authority of the Task Force to take positions related to pending legislation. The County Code specifies the responsibilities for the Task Force, which includes monitoring, analyzing, and reviewing legislative bills, and proposing legislation. However, what is unclear is the authority to advocate, lobby or take formal positions on local, State or Federal legislation. The Board also recently reiterated in their policy manual that only elected officials within the Los Angeles County such as the Board, District Attorney, Sherriff, and Assessor, have the authority to take formal positions on budget or legislative issues. County Counsel and the Legislative Team will attend the October 2023 Task Force meeting to provide an update on the findings.

Mr. Sisson's understanding was that at the October meeting, only one of two options will be available regarding [County Code 3.67.080](#), either the Task Force will have or not have authority. He asked if at the October meeting, the Task Force would be presented with the County's position in terms of what avenues they are taking or the options to exercise Subdivision G regarding monitoring, analyzing, and reviewing legislative bills and proposing legislation. Mr. Skye confirmed yes, and that County Counsel will have their analysis and a recommendation for the County's position at the October meeting.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley of Concerned Citizens commented that he received a phone call from Mr. Skye regarding why the Regional Planning letter was not sent. Mr. Hunter stated he was missing the official record, as the letter was to be generated and sent to Regional Planning and now, there is nothing to reflect it. Ultimately, losing the official record of support from the Task Force requesting Regional Planning to move up the hearing. Mr. Hunter stated the letter was innocuous and how everything was verbal with no official record. Mr. Sisson asked if the Minutes would reflect the official decision made by the Task Force, which is public record, that could be used to address the issue. Mr. Shammass and Mr. Mohajer concurred that both the Task Force decision and response from Mr. Skye would be reflected in the Minutes and could be the official record. Discussion ensued.

Before the Legislative Update, Mr. Mohajer noted that there were several bills that the Task Force took a position of opposition or support that made it to the Governor and that the Task Force has always sent follow up letters to either justify opposition of a bill or request signature from the Governor in support of a bill. Mr. Mohajer stated there was no reason why those letters should not be sent with the deadline approaching on October 14, 2023.

Mr. Charles Darenbourg provided the following Legislative Update:

- The Legislature had until September 14, 2023, to determine what bills would move forward.
- The Governor has until October 14, 2023, to either sign bills into law or to veto them.
- Legislation signed by the Governor will go into effect on January 1, 2024, unless Legislation includes an emergency clause.

There were 55 State bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and no bills on the cover page for consideration. Mr. Darenbourg provided an update on bills relevant to the Task Force which included bills related to Extended Producer Responsibility, Procurement of Renewables and Technology, and Policy, and where they landed at the end of this legislative session.

Next month's Legislative Update will include the results of bills that made it out of the Legislature and signed by the Governor.

Mr. Jim Smith asked what bills the Task Force took a position of Oppose Unless Amended or Support if Amended, and confirmation on those that were amended and enrolled. Mr. Darenbourg noted the following four bills sent to the Governor:

- SB 224 (Eggman): Right to Repair, which the Task Force took the position of Support.
- SB 665 (Allen): Plastic waste: single-use plastics alternatives: working group, which the Task Force took the position of Opposed Unless Amended. However, the recommendations by the Task Force were not considered.
- AB 1594 (Garcia, Carillo, Bradford, Dahle): Medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles: public agency utilities, which the Task Force took the position of Support if Amended.
- AB 557 (Hart): Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences, which the Task Force took the position of Support.

Mr. Mohajer commented on SB 707 (Newman): Responsible Textile Recovery Act 2023, now a two-year bill. He stated that it was amended and that the Task Force took a position of Opposed Unless Amended because of residuals from carpet and other materials and textiles that cannot be recycled, resulting in either going to landfills or conversion technology facilities. He explained how the bill needed to be expanded to include provisions for those residuals.

Mr. Ron Milo asked if SB 353 regarding beverage containers had been sent to the Governor for signature. Mr. Darenbourg responded even though the bill was on the Legislative Table, it previously was not a priority for the Task Force to review and take a recommended position on. Mr. Milo explained that the City of Los Angeles has been receiving beverage recycling grants of approximately \$1 million per year and that the amendment to SB 353, would expand more grants and funding opportunities for all municipalities.

For the bills that the Task Force supports that are enrolled, Mr. Smith asked if there was further action the Task Force could take to encourage the Governor to sign the bills. Mr. Mohajer reiterated the October 14, 2023, deadline he mentioned earlier regarding the Task Force sending letters to the Governor on those bills the Task Force previously recommended positions on.

Mr. Smith asked if a motion could be taken for the Task Force to include SB 353 to the list of bills that the Governor is encouraged to sign. Mr. Mohajer responded yes, if staff could explain to the Task Force what the bill entails, and the Task Force

passed a motion to support. However, due to lack of quorum, a vote cannot be made.

Mr. Hunter requested if staff could call out the page number on the Legislative Table when discussing bills, making it much easier to follow along rather than having to flip through the pages looking for bills being discussed.

**VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Adylene Gonzalez provided an [update](#) to the Task Force.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 1 p.m.