

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

**Minutes of January 21, 2016**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Sam Pedroza, League of California Cities  
Charlie Tripp, Long Beach Department of Energy

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Gail Farber, rep by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, rep by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of  
Public Health  
Grace Hyde, rep by Chris Salomon, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Dr. Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
David Thornburg, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles  
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Howard Levenson, CalRecycle  
Cara Morgan, CalRecycle  
Cynthia Vant Hul, Mariposa ECO Consulting  
Joe Vitti, SCL-CAC  
Wayde Hunter, NVC/SCL-CAC  
Gabe Chavez, VWS  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Cynthia Sternquist, City of Temple City  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services  
Kathy Salama, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jason Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Frank Chin, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jonathan Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m., by Ms. Margaret Clark.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 15, 2015, AND NOVEMBER 19, 2015, MINUTES**

A motion was made to pass the October 15, 2015, and the November 19, 2015, minutes. The motion was passed with one abstention (Mr. Chris Salomon).

**III. UPDATE ON CALRECYCLE 2016**

On behalf of Mr. Scott Smithline, Director of CalRecycle, Mr. Howard Levenson, Deputy Director, and Ms. Cara Morgan, Branch Chief, gave the 2016 CalRecycle update. Mr. Levenson stated CalRecycle's 2016 priorities are focused on organics and reformation of the tipping fee and beverage container program.

In September 2015, CalRecycle submitted the 75 percent report to the Legislature and the top 5 priorities listed in the report are moving organics out of the landfills, expanding the recycling/manufacturing infrastructure in the state, funding issues at the local and state levels, promoting procurement, and promoting extended producer responsibility (EPR). In connection to EPR, Mr. Levenson indicated that CalRecycle is considering sending a letter to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors in support of the proposed Los Angeles County Pharmaceutical and Sharps Ordinance.

At the December 8, and 15, 2015, workshops, CalRecycle received a lot of good input regarding funding reform. Funding is a very critical issue for CalRecycle. They have not had a tip fee increase in 15-20 years and have not kept up with inflation or the additional mandates imposed on them by the State Legislature. The overall issue of local and state funding is very critical and the discussion will continue. The workshop was a spin-off of the AB 1063 policy discussions. CalRecycle received a lot of good input on issues related to a proposed generator fee and local collection of the fee. In response to questions from Task Force members regarding the state tipping fee going up from \$1.40 to \$5.00 and whether the fees can be raised gradually, Mr. Levenson indicated that they do not have a source of money that is dedicated to CalRecycle to use for promoting organics as most of the tip fees are for infrastructure grants. He also commented that if there is a tip fee that everyone agrees on, a certain amount of the tip fees can be dedicated for multiple uses which would provide sustainable funding.

Mr. Levenson stated that Governor Brown has proposed \$100 million in cap and trade money, of which \$60 million is intended for organics grants. CalRecycle will be releasing notices of funding availability for these grants around April 2016. In

response to a question about CalRecycle's mission statement, Mr. Levenson responded they have a dual mission to protect public health and safety as well as trying to achieve a goal of a 75 percent through source reduction, recycling, and composting.

The issue of pathogens in compost was raised including the need to prevent the spread of these pathogens. Mr. Levenson indicated CalRecycle discussed this along with enforcement with the Department of Food and Agriculture, and they have done extensive analysis on pathogens.

Regarding organics and the 75 percent statewide goal. Mr. Levenson explained that CalRecycle does not have a preference whether the material goes to compost, anaerobic digestion, or is used as mulch for land application. He acknowledged there are concerns with unprocessed mulch material and the potential increase of pathogen transmittals as well as the direct land application of unprocessed greenwaste. Mr. Levenson also discussed conversion technologies including what some of the barriers and challenges are for these technologies. With regard to the ongoing discussion of the AB 45 HHW bill, Mr. Levenson commented that CalRecycle is not involved on how the bill has been drafted. There was discussion that HHW makes a small percentage of the waste stream and is typically handled at HHW centers or temporary events. Although programs are dealing with small volumes of hazardous materials, it is very costly to handle, which is the primary reason that in 2006 – 2008 the Waste Board conducted hearings on EPR as a way to address these kinds of material. A framework was developed, and Mr. Chesebro introduced legislation to the Assembly; however, it did not make it through the legislature.

CalRecycle has maintained that EPR is an effective way to deal with hard to handle materials and relieves the burden of local governments. He mentioned there is talk about mandating CalRecycle to come up with a model ordinance that would preempt the local government, but that is not CalRecycle's thinking. A comment was made that solid waste goes to a very diverse list of facilities and to place the fee on a disposal facility or landfill does not net CalRecycle the funds necessary based on the activities CalRecycle needs to manage the facilities. Mr. Levenson stated an issue with that would be that recycling facilities are not regulated by CalRecycle.

Ms. Cara Morgan provided an update on the implementation of AB 1826 stating that CalRecycle has conducted workshops throughout the State soliciting input. That input lead to the development of tools, such as outreach and education and approaches to identifying regulated businesses and entities. The tools are now on CalRecycle's AB 1826 web page. Most of the tools are customizable so local jurisdictions or haulers can make it their own. Ms. Morgan also mentioned the Countywide Integrated Waste Management (CIWM) Enforcement Policy Part II

has been revised and will lay out specific criteria and not just a list of must haves. She explained CalRecycle staff will need to be flexible and will evaluate each jurisdiction on a case by case basis and be aware of the different types of barriers and constraints, the type of arrangements jurisdictions may have with their haulers, the demographics of their community, and the types of programs individual jurisdictions want to implement.

This year CalRecycle is planning to have each local assistant staff person meet with each of their jurisdictions within the first 3-6 months of the year. As part of the calls and meetings, they will be going over what jurisdictions are planning to do for their organics recycling program. She stated some jurisdictions have their plan laid out and some are still working on a plan. CalRecycle's team will be getting information on where jurisdictions are with their implementation.

CalRecycle has seen that jurisdictions across the State have different aspects of organics management. Many are managing organic waste from the front end by promoting food waste prevention as well as food rescue. It is believed they will see that continue to grow and are encouraging and promoting that type of management of organic waste. Jurisdictions are continuing to develop their programs and some are going beyond the 8 cubic yard generator and rolling it out to more businesses on a voluntary basis. The jurisdictions that are going beyond the 8 cubic yard threshold are doing that for a cost perspective in order to collect more material and spread out the cost.

CalRecycle is also in the process of refining the Annual Reporting System that jurisdictions use to report to CalRecycle. The first report that will include organics diversion information will be in August 2017, which will follow very closely to what they have been doing with mandatory commercial recycling and will try to capture the high level data required under the legislation. They are trying to create a flexible program that is not overly burdensome in time spent to do the reporting.

Across the State they are seeing the challenges with identifying regulated businesses because of the tiered thresholds. The goal over the next four years is to capture all the regulated generators and CalRecycle is working with each jurisdiction. They have reached out to the business community and have done a lot of work with the California Chamber of Commerce, the Manufacture Association, and all of the big associations. Mr. Levenson and Ms. Morgan have met with the California Restaurant Association and they are working with CalRecycle to get the message out to their members. The feedback from the associations has been very positive.

Ms. Morgan also gave an update on the implementation of AB 876, which requires counties and regional agencies to estimate the organics disposal they will have in 15 years to identify needed capacity and disposal locations.

CalRecycle is currently in the process of developing guidance on the bill and have tools available to counties and regional agencies to assist with estimating disposal they will have. Ms. Morgan also stated CalRecycle met with the California Association of School Business Officials and Superintendents Association and a communication plan is being developed to get information out to schools and school districts that they are a business and they also need to participate.

Mr. Levenson concluded his update by mentioning BioCycle, a national magazine, will be holding a conference April 4 - 8, 2016, in San Diego. April 4 will be dedicated to food waste rescue prevention. CalRecycle is hoping to unveil a draft of their food waste grant prevention program at that time so they can get feedback. Other conference topics will be food bank association and various non-profits and city programs.

In response to a question regarding the mattress, carpet, and the paint storage programs, Mr. Levenson stated all three programs have public items that will be heard Tuesday, January 26, 2016. They all are in different stages of implementation, and of the three programs, the paint program has been relatively successful. The mattress program is too new to tell, but it seems to be running well. The carpet program is statutorily the weakest because there is not a specified target goal; rather there is a goal of continuous and meaningful improvement with 16 percent by 2016.

The Task Force members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Levenson and Ms. Morgan for their attendance and updates.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED COUNTY PHARMACEUTICAL ORDINANCE**

Mr. Patrick Holland gave an update on the County's effort to develop a Pharmaceutical and Sharps Take-back Stewardship Ordinance. The purpose of the ordinance is to provide safe, convenient, and sustainable collection and disposal of unwanted drugs and sharps for residents. The ordinance will be before the Board of Supervisors for consideration of adoption on February 16, 2016.

Mr. Ron Saldana asked if the pharmaceutical industry is still opposing the ordinance. Mr. Holland affirmed that the pharmaceutical industry has continued to express opposition. There was a discussion that the ordinance is for the unincorporated county areas but that cities can adopt the ordinance through action by their city council. Mr. Sam Pedroza made a motion to send a support letter to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Mike Mohajer amended the motion that a letter also be sent to each City Mayor, Manager, and Council Member which

recommends that they send a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing their support for the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed with one abstention (Mr. Chris Salomon).

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

Mr. Patrick Holland gave an update on the ATAS. Mr. Holland reported the proposed Conversion Technology (CT) conference was discussed. An invitation letter was sent to Ms. Mary Nichols, chair of the Air Resources Board (ARB), asking if she could be the keynote speaker. The County would like to make this conference free of charge if possible.

Upcoming events were also discussed, such as the VerdeXchange conference which is scheduled for the week of January 25. Mr. Holland also discussed CT projects that are in the works including an update on the Pitchess Detention Center project and the draft RFP that is being developed for this project. Mr. Holland added that the Sanitation Districts are testing an organic waste separation press at the Puente Hills MRF, which was described as a giant garlic press the squishes trash through to separate the organics which upon further processing can be sent to digesters and be turned into gas.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis gave her report from the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS). She reported that the FPRS discussed the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints for the months of November and December 2015. In November 2015, a total of 85 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline. In comparison with October 2015, the number of complaints decreased by 77 percent from 370 to 85. Of the 85 complaints received in November 2015, 16 complaints were called in from nearby schools. Republic received two notices of violation issued by AQMD for the month of November 2015. In December 2015, a total of 65 complaints were made to the SCAQMD hotline. In comparison with November 2015, the number of complaints received in December 2015 decreased by 24 percent from 85 to 65. No violations were issued by the SCAQMD for the month of December 2015.

As an update on the use of alternative daily cover at the SCL, it seems that this cover is working moderately well during the recent, strong rain storms. Also, the storm drain systems and basins at SCL functioned properly during the recent rain events. An update was not given on the Los Angeles County Health Officer activities on the odor impact on public residents and children health and safety

because of the issues in Porter Ranch. The FPRS subcommittee moved and approved sending the Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element for Task Force to review. There was a discussion on the Calabasas Landfill, which is getting a revised solid facility permit. Caltrans needs 2 acres to create an on/off ramp, which will be a two-year project. There was an update on the Finding of Conformance Report for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. It was also reported that the final draft form of the EIR for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion Project has not been finalized.

## **VII. PRESENTATION OF THE REVISED PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**

Ms. Margaret Clark requested the presentation for the Countywide Siting Element (CSE) Revisions be postponed until the next meeting. Mr. Carlos Ruiz explained that staff's presentation was to provide an overview of the changes made to the Preliminary Draft CSE and for Task Force to review the document. Ms. Reina Pereira inquired if the revision reflected comments provided by the City of Los Angeles' Bureau of Sanitation (LASAN). Mr. Ruiz clarified that the revisions to the Preliminary Draft CSE reflected the changes in legislation, i.e. the mandatory commercial organics recycling (AB 1826) and engineered municipal solid waste (AB 1126). Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa responded to Ms. Pereira's inquiry by stating that comments received from LASAN have been addressed into the latest version of the Preliminary Draft CSE. It was agreed that the revised Preliminary Draft CSE be provided to the Task Force for review.

## **VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Gabriel Arenas gave an update on current legislation and reviewed items on the attached [legislative table](#). Mr. Arenas stated that Legislatures have until February 19, 2016, to introduce bills, so more items will be discussed next month.

## **IX. UPDATE ON MATTRESS PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP**

Mr. Frank Chin gave an update on the Mattress Product Stewardship program. Mr. Chin commented that CalRecycle will be reviewing the revised findings of the mattress recycling plan and will likely approve the plan. The annual solid waste recording requirements believe that illegal dumping of mattresses has decreased since last month, according to an email from CalRecycle. Currently there are about 10 solid waste permitted facilities or entities in the Los Angeles County area that are signed up for Mattress Recycling Counsel and there are 4 mattress recycling facilities in the Los Angeles Basin. The Mattress Recycling Counsel is also in contract negotiations with other solid waste facilities and dealing with liability issues.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

**XI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2016, in conference room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

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