

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

**Minutes of February 18, 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

**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  
Cynthia Harding, rep by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of  
Public Health  
Grace Hyde, rep by Chris Salomon, County of 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  
Cathy Warner, League of California Cities

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dale Weber, SCS Engineers  
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita  
Primitivo Nuñez, CalRecycle  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kathy Salama, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jason Jones, 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 1:14 p.m., by Ms. Margaret Clark.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 21, 2016, MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the January 21, 2016, minutes, as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE (PEIS)**

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that the Public Education and Information Subcommittee met and finalized a number of articles for the next Inside Solid Waste (ISW) Newsletter, which will be going out in the next few weeks. Below is the list of articles for the winter 2016 issue of ISW:

- 2014 State Waste Characterization Study
- Southern CA Waste Management FORUM Summary
- Update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill – preliminary results from alternative cover
- City of Santa Monica – Commercial and Residential Organics Management programs
- Manufacturers Challenge Workshop
- Food waste program at Puente Hills MRF
- AB 1063 – CalRecycle workshop
- Update on EPR Ordinance
- CalRecycle Update
- Legislative Update

The committee also discussed various topics for the next issue, which will include the current status of 2016 recycling and disposal in California.

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

Mr. Clark Ajwani provided a report from the ATAS meeting and reported there was a presentation given by Mr. Jan Allen of Impact Bioenergy. Mr. Allen presented their technology to treat organic waste via anaerobic digestion. Their technology is on a smaller scale system, for space constraints, that can be used closer to the source of organic waste. Currently in Europe there is a system that operates at 25 tons a year. They are looking to add another operating system to the North West within a year or two.

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The ATAS also discussed the County's proposed legislation to incorporate the bi-product of digestion and composting into the definition of biomass conversion. However, the County has not been able to secure an author for this session, and they will continue to work on the issue for next session. Mr. Ajwani also reported that the County's white paper on conversion technologies that compares the greenhouse gas emissions of traditional landfilling versus integrated facility conversion technology has been finalized, and the findings will be released for publication starting today. Mr. Ajwani stated the study looks at two specific scenarios; the first scenario is the Baseline Scenario with traditional transport and landfilling at 1,000 tons per day, which also utilizes a landfill gas-to-energy system after about seven years once there is enough gas. The second scenario is the Alternative Scenario: Integrated to Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) with Conversion Technologies, which takes recycled residuals and reuses them through a separation process.

The Conversion Technology Conference date still needs to be finalized. Staff is working around the schedule of the potential keynote speaker, Ms. Mary Nicolls from the Air Resources Board. The Task Force asked that when scheduling the Conversion Technology Conference they avoid scheduling it on the first and fourth Thursday of the month. Mr. Ajwani stated they are looking at a Friday in April.

Mr. Ajwani also reported there was a brief update from the Sanitation Districts (Districts) on their food waste project. The Districts won the grand prize for the Operations and Management Award from the American Academy of Civil Engineers and Scientists. The Districts also provided an update on the test press from Anaergia that they are utilizing at the Puente Hills MRF to separate organic waste from certain loads. The press was tested for 10 days for a total of 45 loads and was a very appealing separation process for separating out organic waste that they may use in the future.

It was mentioned that the Bioenergy Association of California will be holding a Lobby Day where the BAC members will be meeting with Legislators to discuss legislation that pertains to bioenergy on March 9, 2016, in Sacramento. Staff members Mr. Dan Lafferty and Mr. Patrick Holland will be in attendance.

The CalRecycle report on the 75 percent goal did not mention anything with regard to thermal conversion technologies, which will be discussed with CalRecycle. Lastly, Mr. Ajwani mentioned there is a site meeting scheduled between Public Works, the consultants, and the Sheriff's Department to finalize some details on the RFP for a potential project on anaerobic digestion at the Pitchess Detention Center.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis gave an update on the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) meeting. Ms. Landis reported that the FPRS discussed the Department of Regional Planning's response to the Task Force's inquiries on the determination of Sunshine Canyon Landfill's (SCL) overall CUP compliance. The Department of Regional Planning stated there is nothing wrong at this time, and they are basing their compliance on the study of particulates in the air and not from anywhere else. Staff was instructed to send a letter to the Department of Regional Planning Committee stating they have not addressed the Task Force's questions regarding the odor problem.

In January 2016, a total of 100 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline relating to SCL odors. In comparison with December 2015, the number of complaints increased from 65 to 100. Compared to January of 2015 the number decreased by 61 percent. Of the 100 complaints received in January 2016, 21 complaints were called in from nearby schools. As of February 17, 2016, AQMD did not issue any notices of violation.

The Alternative Daily Cover is ongoing and working partially due to not having any heavy rains. Ms. Landis stated that they did not receive a report from the County Health Officer Activity on the odor impact on residents and public health and safety at SCL due to being occupied with the Porter Ranch gas leak.

Ms. Landis also reported the access road and tree planting at SCL will be done in four phases and will be completed in various timeframes. Ms. Landis made a motion to send a letter to City Planning, County Regional Planning, and TAC stating that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Sage Project is doing so well, the vegetation committee at Sunshine Canyon Landfill recommends a new pilot project be budgeted this year and begin immediately by Republic Services on Deck A. Mr. Mike Mohajer seconded the motion. The motion passed with two abstentions (Ron Saldana and Chris Salomon).

**VI. CONSIDERATION/PRESENTATION OF REVISED PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**

Mr. Joe Bartolata gave a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on the Revised Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element. Ms. Reina Pereira requested additional time for the City of Los Angeles to review the Draft and place it on the March 17, 2016, Task Force agenda.

## VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Coby Skye gave an update on current legislation and reviewed items on the attached [legislative table](#). Mr. Skye stated that February 19, 2016, is the deadline to submit new legislation.

Mr. Skye stated that staff is continuing to watch AB 45, which is a bill that will revise the definition of hazardous waste including pharmaceuticals and sharps waste and would require local jurisdictions to collect and properly dispose of these items. It was stated that many local governments are opposing the bill, and the Task Force sent a letter opposing the bill as well. The Task Force would like to re-send an opposition letter to the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting the Board to oppose AB 45. Mr. Ron Saldana seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mike Mohajer discussed AB 1063, which would raise the tipping fee from \$1.40 to \$4.00 per ton. The Task Force has sent a letter opposing the bill. Mr. Mohajer stated that \$1.50 of the \$4.00 increase would go to the grant for building and infrastructure, but the bill states that once CalRecycle receives the \$4.00 the funds would first be distributed to CalRecycle and the Water Board for their needs and what's left would go towards the grant program. Mr. Mohajer also stated the bill proposes to impose a generator charge on all residents and businesses throughout the State. The proposal requires local jurisdictions to collect the generator charge and ship the money to the State (at jurisdiction's expense) for use by CalRecycle. Mr. Mohajer further indicated that the goal of CalRecycle is to collect \$15 million annually during the initial three years to subsidize the shortage of the tipping fee revenue, and if there is any excess money left, the excess will go to local jurisdictions as grants. After the first three years CalRecycle will determine the amount of the generator charge, which will not be subject to legislative branch approval. For example, AB 1063 will allow CalRecycle to impose a \$20.00 per month per resident service charge fee.

Mr. Mohajer also stated that two bills were added to the legislative update. The first bill is SB 778, which requires the automotive dealer to notify the customer getting an oil change of the recommended oil drain interval, oil grade, and viscosity specified in the maintenance schedule. The second bill, AB 655, would provide for the Department of Food & Agriculture (DFA) to increase its various fees on rendering businesses and transporters of inedible kitchen grease. Specifically, this bill proposes to increase the transporter license fee from \$100 to \$250; increase the DFA cost of activities relating to checking vehicles involving inedible kitchen grease from \$350 to \$500 per vehicle/per year; and increase the per registered transporter maximum DFA's fee for running the program from \$3,000 to \$10,000 per year.

Ms. Betsey Landis discussed AB 1103, which would require a person who transports a certain amount of food waste to be registered with CalRecycle and would require the registered transporter to maintain a record of food waste transported.

**VIII. DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING'S RESPONSE TO TASK FORCE'S INQUIRIES ON ITS EFFORTS TO MITIGATE ODORS AT SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL**

Item was not discussed.

**IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Mr. Primitivo Nuñez reported the following:

CalRecycle was just made aware that recycling center operator RePlanet closed almost 200 recycling centers around the state effective at the end of January. The centers mainly purchase California redemption products, which accounts for about 10 percent of all certified recycling centers in the state. Most of the facilities that closed were in Northern California. CalRecycle is bringing awareness to all jurisdictions in case they receive calls from residents regarding the closings. They have set up an 800 recycle hotline number for jurisdictions to refer residents to help them find other locations to serve their recycling needs. Mr. Mike Mohajer would like CalRecycle to send the Task Force an article that can be published in the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter to help the communities.

**Grants**

**Tire Derived Aggregate Grant Program** – provides opportunities to divert tires waste from landfills disposal and prevented illegal tire dumping, the grant closes March 10, 2016.

**Local Government Waste Tire Clean-up Grant Program** – provides funding for the cost of clean-up, abatement, and other remedial actions related to disposal of waste tires, the grant closes March 3, 2016.

**Household Hazardous Waste Grant** – designed for small projects that complement existing programs, the grant closes March 16, 2016.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commission regarding how they enforce the transportation of greenwaste materials out of the quarantine areas to composting facilities. The

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motion was seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis. The motion passed with one abstention (Mr. Ron Saldana).

**XI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2016, in conference room B.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

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