

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

**Minutes for July 21, 2022**

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

**WEB CONFERENCE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles  
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 Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Barbara Romero, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Mark Pestrella, rep by Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Joseph Ramussen, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 16, 2022 MINUTES**

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Ms. Betsey Landis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Charles Darensbourg reported the following at the ATAS meeting:

- The ATAS received a [presentation](#) from the City of Los Angeles on sludge management at the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant, which is the largest of four wastewater treatment plants operated by Los Angeles Sanitation and Environment.
- Tetra Tech continues to support Public Works (PW) in Senate Bill (SB) 1383 planning efforts and has started an expanded evaluation of potential locations for organic waste processing facilities. Tetra Tech is also supporting PW with evaluating responses to the Calabasas Anaerobic Digestion Request for Proposal.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

Mr. Mohajer mentioned WASTECON 2022 will be in San Diego, CA in early December.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) update: The Landfill received zero Notice of Violation (NOV) for the second quarter of 2022. The landfill owner/operator in the lawsuits against the County are engaged in settlement discussions and the next trial is scheduled for December 2022. Staff provided an update of AQMD Order for Abatement and the use of orchard fans onsite.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) update: There were 40 odor complaints in June 2022 and two NOVs issued. Total number of odor complaints for 2022 is 395. Staff provided status update regarding Regional Planning's NOV for failure to have soil cover during the weekends. Since May 14, 2022, SCL has been using soil cover during the weekends.

- The next Finding of Conformance reports will be provided at next month's Subcommittee meeting. Links to reports and other documents will be provided on subsequent agendas.

Mr. Wayne Hunter with the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens confirmed that there are no hearings scheduled for by the South Coast Air Quality Management District regarding SCL. However, there is a virtual meeting scheduled for CCL on September 20, 2022, for a status report.

## V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Darenbourg provided an update on the \$308 billion state budget approved by the Governor on June 30, 2022. Most of the budget details can be found in [AB 178](#).

Ms. Landis shared her concerns with recent bills proposed being troublesome as they are very complex and are asking the government to work with various companies on different kinds of waste that are not necessarily easy to deal with and they are considering putting together an organization to work on the issue. She is pleased that the Task Force is not supporting those specific bills.

Mr. Mohajer requested that staff keep the Task Force informed as budget revisions are made, especially regarding the existing grid system that does not have the capacity to provide electricity in California. Ms. Landis responded that she would like more efforts in promoting alternative conversion technology (CT) to produce electricity, which would take waste out of landfills.

Staff also provided a [Legislative Update](#). There were 44 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) with no bills on the cover page.

- AB 1857 (Cristina Garcia) – Solid Waste. The bill repeals the provision of law that allows jurisdictions to include 10 percent of the waste sent to transformation toward their 50 percent diversion requirement. The Task Force's position is still opposed. The bill was heard in the Senate Committee on Appropriations on August 1, 2022 and placed in the Suspense file.
- AB 2440/SB 1215 – Originally companion bills that would create the Responsible Battery Recycling Act of 2022 that requires producers of covered batteries and covered battery-embedded products to establish a stewardship program for the collection/recycling of covered/covered battery-embedded products. Now stand-alone bills, AB 2440 and SB 1215, were heard in committees on August 1 and 3, 2022, respectively. AB 2440 was placed in the Suspense file, and SB 1215 was re-referred to the Assembly Committee on

- Appropriations. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support both AB 2440 and SB 1215 as last amended, and Ms. Emiko Thompson seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.
- SB 54 (Allen, Stern, Wiener, Hertzberg, Skinner, Luz Rivas) – Solid waste: reporting, packaging, and food service ware. The bill was signed by the Governor on June 30, 2022. After fierce negotiations with lawmakers, amendments were made on June 24 and 26, 2022, which included key additions from previous version giving more authority, funding, and oversight to California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) and the State to ensure circular economy and funding for mitigating environmental impacts.

Ms. Landis shared her concerns regarding SB 54's ability to address plastic waste. She still relies on plastic bags and reuses them, but ultimately, she does not know what to do with them after their extended use. She asked if she may return plastic bags to the store. Mr. Darensbourg responded that consumers should be able to return plastic bags back to stores and noted that the AB 1583 (Eggman, Chapter 690, Statutes of 2019) Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling is developing policies on plastic bags such as banning plastic bags, prohibiting the mislabeling of plastic bags, and ensuring that bags provided are recyclable and/or compostable. Mr. Darensbourg noted that there would be another legislative update at next month's Task Force meeting. Mr. Mohajer commented that the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter will also include the legislative update that is disseminated to all cities and stakeholders.

Mr. Mohajer thanked Mr. Darensbourg and staff for their diligence with providing legislative updates to the Task Force. Both Mr. Shammass and Ms. Landis also extended their gratitude.

## **VI. SENATE BILL 1383 PRELIMINARY CAPACITY REPORT FROM JURISDICTIONS**

Mr. Aric Rodriguez provided a summary of the preliminary SB 1383 capacity data that the County received from jurisdictions as of July 18, 2022. In 2021, the County disposed of approximately 10.6 million tons of solid waste and of that amount, 4.9 million tons was estimated to be organic waste, which includes food, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, digestate and biosolids. As a requirement under SB 1383 regulations, counties are responsible for collecting organic waste recycling and edible food recovery capacity information from each jurisdiction and submitting that data to CalRecycle by August 1, 2022. The County is also responsible for identifying any jurisdiction that does not have enough organic waste recycling capacity based on the data that jurisdiction submitted and informing that jurisdiction that they must

submit an implementation schedule that includes timelines and milestones for planning efforts to access needed capacity. To date, 87 of the 89 jurisdictions have submitted both their organic waste and edible food capacity data to the County or have been approved by CalRecycle for a low population or Notice of Intent to Comply waiver and therefore, do not need to provide their data to the County.

In accordance with the data received from jurisdictions, there is a total organic waste disposal tonnage of approximately 4.5 million tons. Jurisdictions identified approximately 4.8 million tons of verifiably available organic waste recycling capacity. Additionally, 1.3 million tons of potentially available organic waste capacity was identified. PW is currently consolidating data submitted and working with two jurisdictions that have not yet provided data in order to meet the August 1, deadline. The Task Force will receive a copy of the data submitted to CalRecycle.

Ms. Landis asked how organic waste handling is determined and how the number of tons of organic waste is computed. Mr. Rodriguez responded that tons identified are based on current data that was submitted to CalRecycle and is shown in their database. Each jurisdiction is required to go into the CalRecycle database and extract their total number of tonnages disposed so they can estimate their future disposal based on population growth and applying waste characterization study percentages to determine the amounts of organics. PW recommended jurisdictions use CalRecycle's waste characterization study if they do not perform their own study.

Ms. Landis asked if jurisdictions need to identify if they are recycling organic waste. Mr. Rodriguez responded they need to identify what their current capacity for organic waste is that they dispose of. For those jurisdictions that did not identify sufficient organic waste capacity, they are required to submit an implementation schedule to CalRecycle within 120 days of being notified by the County, which would include timelines and milestones for planning efforts to access capacity.

Mr. Jordan Sisson asked if there is a general observation on how those jurisdictions are meeting that capacity. Mr. Rodriguez responded close to half of the jurisdictions have reported they either have sufficient capacity or they have identified potential future capacity. However, many are notifying the County that they will meet capacity through their contracts with their haulers.

Mr. Mohajer asked for the status of the County Siting Element (CSE) and when it would be provided to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board), even if it is not on today's agenda. Mr. Rodriguez responded that the CSE is on the Board Agenda for August 2, 2022. Staff is currently drafting a letter to be sent to all cities notifying them that the Board approved PW to disseminate the CSE to

cities for their local approval process. Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of the final draft CSE. He expressed gratitude to Mr. Rodriguez and his staff for their hard work with the CSE. Mr. Rodriguez also mentioned that the next step in the CSE process was to release the final draft copy to the cities for their local adoption process, at which time the County will receive the results. If the majority of the cities with the majority of incorporated population approve the CSE, then the County will go back to the Board for a duly noticed public hearing followed by Board approval and then final approval from CalRecycle. Ms. Landis commented that she thought the CSE had to be reviewed by the FPRS before it went to the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer explained that the Draft CSE had already been reviewed and approved by both the FPRS and Task Force, which took approximately five years. The Draft CSE went back to PW for final and included all the FPRS and Task Force comments giving the Board authorization to send the document to the cities for acquiring the double majority approval and then going to CalRecycle for final approval. Mr. Mohajer indicated that the Task Force has no involvement after approving the final draft document. Ms. Landis requested the final draft copy of CSE that will be sent to the Cities. Mr. Rodriguez responded that the final draft copy of the CSE approved by the Board that will go to the cities will also be sent to the FPRS and Task Force.

## **VII. UPDATE ON DRAFT ADVANCE CLEAN FLEET REGULATIONS**

Mr. Darensbourg provided an update on the [Draft Advance Clean Fleet Regulations](#), and compared the two comment letters to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) regarding the proposed Advanced Clean Fleet (ACF) regulations; one letter sent from the Task Force dated September 27, 2021, and another letter from the Coalition of Waste Management Providers Implementing California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Strategy dated February 22, 2022.

With regards to exemptions versus alternative pathways for complying with ACF regulations, Mr. Sisson stated that in the private sector they have seen most jurisdictions trying to create markets for renewable natural gas (RNG) and the alternative pathway is most definitely a way to maintain that market to make SB 1383 work. Mr. Sisson made a motion to send a letter from the Task Force to CARB and CalRecycle requesting that the proposed ACF regulations include exemptions and/or alternative pathways for SB 1383 compliance. Discussion ensued about concerns, as well as changes to language on the proposed ACF regulations and what should be updated based on the previous letters sent.

A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer for staff to attend the CARB workshop and prepare a draft letter to CARB for Mr. Jordan Sisson and himself to review. Mr. Sisson seconded the motion. Motion passed with seven voting yes, three voting no, and two abstaining.

## **VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Mr. James Rasmussen reported the following from CalRecycle:

- Webpages are continually updated to include resources such as SB 1383 requirements, jurisdiction procurement targets and procurement calculator tool, and FAQ webpage.
- CalRecycle is accepting department-issued waivers and exemption requests for SB 1383.
- Household Hazardous Waste grant application due on July 28, 2022.
- Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement grant application due on August 11, 2022.
- Tire-Derived Aggregate grant application due on August 17 and December 7, 2022.
- Loans are available for Recycling Market Development Zone Program.
- Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling meetings on August 16 and September 20, 2022.
- RDRS Regulations Rulemaking Workshop Part 2 and Part 3 are on July 26 and August 30, 2022, respectively.

Mr. Mohajer welcomed Mr. Rasmussen as CalRecycle's new representative that will provide monthly updates to the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer asked if the Tire-Derived Aggregate grant is for both public and private agencies. Mr. Rasmussen responded eligible applicants include manufacturers that produce or will produce an eligible product, waste higher processors that also manufacture an eligible product, manufacturers of devulcanized crumb rubber or rubber crumb pounders, manufactures of calendered-rubbered sheeting products, and manufacturers that produce products on a contract basis for other companies (provided other companies have written permission to produce an eligible product and then received the incentive). Mr. Mohajer asked that if a homeowner's association acquires a contract for asphalt on streets that are only accessible to the homeowner's association, would they be eligible for the grant. Mr. Rasmussen did not know and asked Mr. Mohajer to e-mail him the question so he may find out from the Tire-Derived Aggregate Grants team.

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 1 p.m.