

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

Minutes for September 15, 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
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
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 Dee Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Public Health
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works
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:

Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Valerie Moore, Republic Services
Diana Suarez – Arguellos, California Department of Resources Recycling and Resources
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Chris Sheppard, 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 AUGUST 18, 2022 MINUTES

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

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

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

- Staff provided an [update](#) regarding Senate Bill (SB) 54, Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act.
- Mr. Eugene Tseng, representing the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles Local Enforcement Agencies, gave a [presentation](#) regarding challenges that facilities are experiencing with SB 1383 Organics Quarterly Sampling Requirements for Recovery of Organic Materials.
- Tetra Tech continues to support Public Works in SB 1383 and waste diversion planning efforts, evaluating closed landfills for potential sites for organic waste processing facilities, and in evaluating responses to the Calabasas Anaerobic Digestion Facility Request for Proposal.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology \(CT\) Newsletter](#).
- Mr. Mohajer requested that SB 54 be summarized and published in the CT newsletter.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens shared his astonishment on the cost associated with sampling as presented by Mr. Tseng. He feels that an unnecessary cost will be passed on to the public. Mr. Hunter asked what the data is being used for and if any cost to benefit analysis is being done on the data. He believes that the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) is unaware of the impacts and that the issue must be addressed, including the fact that there is no sunset for requiring the generated data.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked what sampling meant. Mr. Charles Darenbourg responded that SB 1383 requires facilities to sample what they receive and what they recover. There are various amounts of samples required depending on the facility and what is received from respective jurisdictions and their waste streams.

Mr. Shammass commented that at the Puente Hills Material Recovery Facility, they must sample for each source separated organic stream such as food waste, cardboard, paper, and green waste every quarter over 10 days when they ship out material from the facility. His understanding is that jurisdictions have additional sampling over what facilities must do. CalRecycle wants to see how efficient facilities are removing organics and how much contamination there is. Mr. Rahimi's understanding is that Mr. Tseng was also not clear on the purpose of collecting so much data and the ability to obtain quality data from indiscernible pulverized waste streams. Ms. Landis also conveyed her concerns of what is solid and organic waste and all the legislative bills associated. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned a documentary by Michael Moore titled [Planet of Humans](#), that he would send to staff for dissemination to the Task Force.

Staff confirmed that Mr. Tseng's ATAS presentation was only disseminated to the ATAS and Mr. Shammass asked that the presentation also be sent to the Task Force.

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

Ms. Landis reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill update: Zero Notice of Violations (NOVs) reported for the month of August 2022. In the status of the two lawsuits against the County, the first lawsuit was partly settled, and the trial is set for December 2022. The second lawsuit is still in negotiations and the trial is also set for December 2022.
- Finding of Conformance reports will be available at the next Subcommittee meeting.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill update: There were 40 odor complaints for the month of August 2022. As of August 2022, there have been 447 odor complaints for the year 2022, compared to 446 odor complaints for the 2021 calendar year.

Ms. Landis mentioned a concern brought up by Mr. Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens regarding the increase of odors.

V. UPDATE ON REVISED LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Aric Rodriguez provided an update on the Revised Countywide Siting Element (CSE). Public Works sent a letter dated September 6, 2022, to all jurisdictions in the County transmitting the Revised CSE for the state mandated 90-day approval period in which jurisdictions have 90-days to either take formal action to adopt,

take no action, or disapprove the Revised CSE at the cities' individual discretion. State law requires the Revised CSE to be approved by the County and by a majority of cities within the County, which contain a majority of the population of the incorporated areas of the County. In addition, the Revised CSE will then be submitted to CalRecycle for review and approval. If the Revised CSE is not approved by the majority of the cities within the County which contain a majority of the population of the incorporated area, the County will revise the deficient areas of the Revised CSE and will recirculate the document in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14. Staff will continue to provide updates to the Task Force as the process moves forward.

Mr. Mohajer asked that comments received by cities and draft responses to changes in the Revised CSE be shared with the Task Force, as well as follow up actions. Mr. Rodriguez responded that if any city disapproves with the Revised CSE, they are required to provide their comments in writing to Public Works, CalRecycle, and the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer also stated that the process for the approval or disapproval of the Revised CSE must be conducted in a public hearing with a notice of which must be posted. Mr. Rodriguez confirmed that each city is required to hold their own respective public hearing if they choose to carry out a formal action of approval or disapproval of a resolution. In addition, if the County receives approval results from respective cities, the County must still have a public hearing for approval.

Mr. Jordan Sisson commented if cities do not take formal action, then it would be counted as approval in the majority, and therefore would avoid the public hearing process and still give the County the required majority approval to have the Revised CSE pass. Mr. Rodriguez responded yes.

Ms. Reina Pereira of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation asked who in the City of Los Angeles received the Revised CSE. Mr. Rodriguez responded that staff would double check and let her know.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Darensbourg provided a [Legislative Update](#) on the status of bills the Task Force took a position on and where they currently stand.

Legislature concluded their second year of the current legislative session and will be in recess until January 2023. The Governor has until the end of September 2022 to consider signing or vetoing hundreds of bills from Legislature. Legislation signed by the Governor will go into effect January 1, 2023, unless Legislation includes an urgency clause.

There were 47 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) (none on cover page) of which 9 failed to pass by the deadline and 28 were enrolled and presented to the Governor.

Ms. Landis shared her concerns with the bottle bills and the manpower it would take, as well as the definitions of waste and the costly expense.

Mr. Mohajer asked what SB 45 by Senator Portantino did. Mr. Darenbourg commented that SB 45 was not intended to provide any grant or specific funding, but rather intended to direct CalRecycle to assist jurisdictions with complying with organic waste management programs, as well as complying with the requirements of SB 1383 regulations. Mr. Mohajer noted that various elected officials in Sacramento are from Los Angeles County but are not authoring meaningful legislation that can assist local jurisdictions with implementing SB 1383. Mr. Mohajer commented that the League of Cities and the County need to talk to those elected officials in order to get something accomplished because of the increasing mandates and because jurisdictions up north are excused from those same mandates.

Ms. Landis wanted to know how many bills are requiring new mandates that are not achievable. Mr. Hunter asked if there was a tracking list with effective dates and potential impacts of each bill. Mr. Darenbourg responded that CalRecycle has multiple webpages updated with bill status and that Public Works keeps track of dates for bills that affect the County. Mr. Hunter shared his concerns that the public needs to know where to locate details for current and past bills, especially when certain products may no longer be available to the public due to legislative changes. Mr. Darenbourg agreed that this was a challenge, and that education and outreach was needed. Ms. Landis also shared her concerns of how to properly dispose used products such as lightbulbs. Discussion ensued.

VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

The following was reported by Ms. Diana Suarez-Arguelles, in addition to full detailed [update](#):

- Yana Garcia was appointed CalEPA Secretary by the Governor in August 2022.
- Electronic Annual Report is due on October 3, 2022, and Q&A webinar is on September 27, 2022.
- Jurisdictions with approved Notification of Intent to Comply with SB 1383 Regulations will start hearing from CalRecycle regarding SB 619 Corrective Action Plans.
- Several Grant Application due dates.

- Next CalRecycle public meeting is on September 20, 2022.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Landis asked if the City of Los Angeles purchased new garbage trucks since she can no longer hear them. Ms. Pereira responded that she believes the City of Los Angeles is currently piloting one electric truck. However, she would confirm if there were more trucks and in what areas because she is in Glendale and was also unable to hear the garbage truck until they picked up the bins.

No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 20, 2022, at 1 p.m.