

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

November 16, 2023

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Jim Smith, 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 by Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Public Health
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
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)
Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County
Angela Ovalle, Chief Executive Office
Noemi Bigarre, 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
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, 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 p.m. by Mr. Coby Skye, who the Director of Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) designated to Chair the Task Force in his place from this meeting forward.

II. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, AND OCTOBER 19, 2023, MINUTES

Mr. Jim Smith made a motion to approve the September 21, and October 19, 2023, minutes and Mr. Jordan Sisson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. FILL VACANT POSITION AND APPOINT CHAIR TO FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

With no volunteers or nominations to serve on the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) to fill the fifth position or serve as Chair, item was postponed until the January 2024 Task Force meeting.

IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL WEBSITE PRIVACY POLICY

Mr. Jonathan Brazile of County Counsel advised that County Counsel's proposed solution was to work with Public Works staff to make the reports on the website available to the Task Force, as well as posting on the Task Force website for the public to view.

V. UPDATE OF TASK FORCE LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Ms. Angela Ovalle of the Chief Executive Office (CEO) provided an [update](#) on the appropriate legislative process.

Mr. Sisson asked for a better description of how the legislative process will play out with the new changes going into effect since Public Works staff had been fantastic in highlighting legislation that fall within the purview of the Task Force, as well as having subject matter expertise and coordinating with other waste recycling industry groups. Because of the nature of the CEO, Mr. Sisson felt the CEO may not have the same subject matter perspective. Ms. Ovalle responded that the process was for all the commissions and that there are not many commissions focused on legislation, but there are some, and the CEO works with those relevant departments to provide analyses on any legislation that is flagged. She indicated that the CEO is very actively engaged on every single bill that comes out, flagging it for review, and talking to respective departments. Ms. Ovalle stated that analyses provided to the Task Force by Public Works staff is part of the work they are doing with the CEO, and that the CEO relies on the subject matter expertise

from the respective departments in order to take a deep dive into the legislation. Discussion on CEO process of legislation ensued.

Mr. Skye mentioned concerns from some Task Force members about the schedule and streamline process, and asked what the process would be if the Board already had a position on a bill that the Task Force wanted to take a position on. Ms. Ovalle responded that since advisory committees cannot take individual positions, they can still submit information to the CEO that may assist in their advocacy effort. The County's Sacramento and Washington D.C. teams meet with the Legislators and the CEO works with the departments to prepare fact sheets, talking points, and presentations to advocate for bills. She noted that legislation is very dynamic and throughout the year there may be amendments at which time the CEO will contact the department asking if they still want to keep the same position. Ms. Ovalle indicated that the CEO was very diligent in observing amendments and just a few years ago a bill was passed which required amendments be printed for 72 hours before being voted upon. She also noted that timing was very important when advocating a position on a bill and the CEO can also advise departments on the timing for respective bills.

Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens shared his concerns about the timeframe because there may be multiple letters that need to go to the Legislature due to amendments so asked if the CEO could handle the workload. Ms. Ovalle responded yes and that the CEO, Sacramento, and Washington D.C. teams monitor all the committee hearings and that they testify at committee hearings. The CEO is sometimes asked to identify the subject matter experts from departments to be the lead witness. The CEO also sends floor alerts, letters at each committee stop, letters to authors that introduce the bill, letters to delegation, and once bills are ready, letters to the Governor requesting he sign or veto a bill.

Mr. Hunter asked if there was going to be a motion to approve the change in the process that was being provided to the Task Force. Ms. Ovalle responded this process was not a change, but rather the Board's existing policy for all department and commissions. Mr. Hunter asked if he may read a statement into the record. Mr. Skye responded he was welcome to do so. Mr. Hunter stated, "Again, my name is Mr. Wayde Hunter, President of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc. I have been given to believe that there exists potential Brown Act Violations and the specter of a Freedom of Information Act, and a lawsuit. For those of you who were not here last month and did not have an opportunity to hear Mr. Brazile of County Counsel, and his presentation nor the opposition and questions raised by Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of this Commission, and others, or even my position that this change would only add two additional layers of approval without any time limits on them, nor a timely feedback. All of you know

Mr. Mohajer. He wears his heart on his sleeve defending County Public Works, the public, and yes, the Task Force too. Unfortunately, he is not here today, but he submitted a three-page letter back on [November 9, 2023](#), rebutting Mr. Brazile's presentation and the position that he had taken, and Mr. Mohajer had asked that this letter be distributed to the Task Force. Did you get this letter? If not, you do not have the information necessary to make an informed decision today. As I said, there are issues which must be addressed to the fullest extent, and I would respectfully ask that you not approve this change and that you continue it until you have had an opportunity to fully review the letter, and to understand the ramifications to the Task Force and to the Cities which you represent. I appreciate my comments being included in the Minutes. Thank you very much." Mr. Skye responded that the material by Mr. Mohajer was provided passed the deadline for mailout, but it would be shared with the Task Force members. Mr. Skye thanked Ms. Ovalle for the presentation and reiterated this was not a change to the process or to take action upon, it was only to clarify the process the Task Force will follow, effective immediately.

VI. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

No update was provided due to the absence of Mr. Mohajer, Subcommittee Chair.

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

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

Generate Capital provided a [presentation](#) on their white paper titled "Making Organics Diversion & Recycling Policy in California Work: Experience from a Leading Investor/Operator."

Tetra Tech provided the following update, stating that they:

- Conducted an evaluation of the closed Spadra Landfill for the potential development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and thermal conversion technology (CT) facility. The initial finding identified the site as non-desirable.
- Are preparing a Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92. The study includes a high-level review of economic, environmental and technical considerations for AD and thermal CT facility options.
- Are performing a Countywide siting analysis for the development of AD and thermal CT facilities.

- Are performing a detailed evaluation of three closed landfill sites which will investigate land availability and land use compatibility.
- Prepared a fact sheet and are currently finalizing an associated PowerPoint presentation for the proposed AD facility at Calabasas Landfill in support of community outreach.

Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

Mr. Sisson requested information on the Countywide siting analysis. Mr. Rahimi responded that the information would be provided.

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

Due to the absence of Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Sam Shammass reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL): Odors continue due to chemical reaction in the subsurface of CCL. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issued 16 Notices of Violation (NOV) in the last month, and two from the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) related to methane probes and leachate. The permit for a new flare was approved and CCL is on schedule for installation. The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) read-in motion requirements include funding for health studies in the community, reports on solid waste management impacts if CCL were to cease accepting waste, directing implementation from CalRecycle and LEA recommendations, and a Dimethyl Sulfide Committee was created.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL): For the month of October, SCL received 230 odor complaints, which was an increase from the 148 received in September. AQMD issued 6 NOVs related to air quality in October. For the 2023 calendar year, SCL received 1,478 odor complaints.

Mr. Hunter advised that to date, for November, there were 102 more odor reports and 4 more NOVs for SCL and with the wet weather, he anticipated much more.

IX. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL'S ENVIRONMENTAL RELATED ISSUES

Mr. Ramon Herman provided the following update on CCL:

CCL is experiencing an unexpected increase in production of landfill gas due to a reaction within a portion of the Landfill's waste mass at the northwest closed

portion. Since May 2023, CCL has received over 96 NOVs from AQMD and other regulatory agencies for causing odor nuisance to the community. Various agencies are taking the following actions:

- On September 6, 2023, the AQMD Hearing Board approved a Stipulated Order for Abatement that contained numerous conditions for odors.
- On October 16, 2023, CalRecycle submitted their findings and recommendations to the LEA regarding their review of CCL.
- On [August 8, 2023](#), the Board approved a read-in motion directing the Office of Emergency Management in collaboration with other agencies, to report back on actions to mitigate odors.
- On [September 12, 2023](#), the Board approved motions pertaining to Grant Relief Programs.
- On [October 17, 2023](#), the Board approved a read-in motion that specified a series of actions to mitigate odors at CCL.

X. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL – RESCISSION OF NOTICE OF VIOLATION FOR EXCEEDANCE OF THE DAILY TONNAGE

Ms. Genevieve Osmena advised that the NOV for exceedance of tonnage at SCL that was issued in May 2023 by referral of Public Works was rescinded, also by referral of Public Works. The NOV was rescinded for a variety of reasons, but the emphasis was to allow the County to receive additional input from stakeholders such as from residents, regulatory agencies, and jurisdictional/civic partners. Likewise, there is ongoing discussions with the Landfill Operator regarding corrective measures that they started implementing.

Ms. Osmena informed that the decision for the rescission was also a good faith effort to resolve the odor issues rather than taking the path of NOVs with more stringent enforcement and potential legal actions that could potentially close communication lines between County agencies and Landfill Operator executive leadership, and respective stakeholders. She further indicated that despite the rescission, the County retained full authority to pursue enforcement in the future if the communication and good effort did not prove to be beneficial.

Mr. Skye mentioned this topic was discussed at the most recent SCL-Community Advisory Committee meeting, including the significant increase of odor complaints and NOVs issued by AQMD, which was a priority for all County agencies.

Mr. Hunter indicated that the community has been begging for an Order of Abatement Hearing from the AQMD since they have the authority to put conditions on SCL that the Landfill Operator must comply with.

Mr. Hunter further asked if the corrective measures were written down because any agreements that AQMD has made with Republic Services about three or four months ago does not appear to be working as the odors continue to increase.

Mr. Hunter also asked if there was a timeline for those corrective measures so he may inform the community. Ms. Osmena responded that an order from AQMD with corrective measures would be a document noting those corrective measures with a timeline.

Mr. Skye responded that it was reasonable to request a written agreement for any steps the Landfill Operator will take and that it was something that Public Works was currently negotiating with the Landfill Operator, as well as discussing every possible tool and leverage available with other County agencies to hold SCL accountable. Public Works will continue providing updates on what they and other agencies are doing.

XI. CALRECYCLE'S STATUS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT (REVISED CSE)

Mr. Aric Rodriguez provided an update on the Revised CSE:

- Public Works transmitted the Revised CSE and supporting documents to CalRecycle on June 21, 2023.
- CalRecycle responded with a letter of completeness to Public Works on July 26, 2023.
- CalRecycle's review period ends on November 23, 2023.
- CalRecycle's monthly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 10 a.m.
- CalRecycle's agenda will soon be revised to include an item on Revised CSE.
- Public Works staff will monitor CalRecycle's public meeting virtually and will provide an update to the Task Force.

XII. DECEMBER TASK FORCE MEETING

Mr. Sam Shammas made a motion to cancel the December Task Force meeting, unless something urgent arises, and Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously. With the FPRS unable to vote on a December meeting due to lack of quorum, the Task Force encouraged the Subcommittee to also cancel their meeting unless something urgent arises.

XIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

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

Ms. Erin Rowland asked if the Redemption Pilot Project Program was for CRV redemption. Ms. Gonzalez responded that she had to double check.

Mr. Ron Milo asked how much the minimum compensation a jurisdiction could receive was for mattresses brought to a recycling facility under CalRecycle's mattress recycling program. He stated that the City of Los Angeles had a discussion with the Mattress Recycling Council, who indicated wanting to speak with CalRecycle. Ms. Gonzalez responded that she needed to look into it.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public Comment.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 1 p.m.