

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

Minutes for August 17, 2023

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammas, 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 Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Miki Esposito, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Genevieve, Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Fahim Rahimi, 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 1:02 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 20, 2023 MINUTES

Mr. Jim Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Christopher Sheppard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Mohajer reported the following at the PEIS meeting:

The Subcommittee reviewed several articles to be published in the fall issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter, including articles submitted by the Cities of Malibu, Pomona, and Santa Clarita, respectively. The Subcommittee also reviewed an article regarding the Los Angeles County Recycling Market Development Zone. Suggested articles to be written included requesting Governor Newsom to delay closure of three natural gas plants in Orange County, an update regarding Chiquita Canyon Landfill, and a Legislative Analysis for 2023-2024 Budget. A Legislative Table will also be included in the newsletter.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked why the proposal to delay closure on natural gas plants. Mr. Mohajer responded that the closure was part of the Governor's proposal in 2020 to electrify everything, and that natural gas was considered a fossil fuel. However, if the plants are closed, there will be a shortage of electricity to meet demands so the delay will be until the end of 2026.

Mr. Mohajer also discussed the suggested article on the budget analysis by the Legislative Analyst's Office regarding grant money for Senate Bill (SB) 1383 implementation and the needed funding for infrastructure.

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

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

- Public Works provided a [presentation](#) regarding Framework for Gasification and other Advanced Technological Processes that recycle or convert solid waste.
- Tetra Tech stated that they are working on the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92 Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for

Antelope Valley. The study will include a high-level review of economic, environmental and technical considerations for application of thermal conversion technology facilities.

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

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL): South Coast Air Quality Maintenance District (AQMD) reported 550 odor complaints for the month of July and issued 29 Notices of Violation (NOV) to CCL related to odor for the calendar year, as of July 31, 2023. In August, CCL was issued a NOV every day from the AQMD related to odor.
- CCL received a Public Health Notice from the Los Angeles County Public Health regarding the odor nuisance. CCL has proposed a number of mitigation measures.
- The Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a motion on August 8, 2023, directing the Office of Emergency Management, in collaboration with various agencies, to report back to the Board on the cause of odors at CCL.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill Update (SCL): SCL reported 34 odor complaints for the month of July 2023. One NOV was issued related to Odor. One NOV was also issued related to track-out of dirt.
- The Task Force passed a motion last month to send the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) a letter requesting that they expedite the NOV process related to SCL exceeding daily tonnages. The letter is under review by Public Works Administration. A request for staff to expedite the review of the letter was made by the Subcommittee.
- Due to time constraint, Finding of Conformance item was postponed to next month's Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens raised the issue of the letter that was approved by the Task Force to send to Regional Planning to expedite the hearing process for SCL regarding their tonnage violations. Mr. Hunter explained since last month's Task Force meeting in July, SCL's reported tonnage exceeded 12,000 tons per day for 15 out of 21 days. He also mentioned that the community has testified at the SCL Community Advisory Committee meetings of which Public Works has attended about the ongoing problem with the trucks and the dust and dirt that comes with said trucks. Mr. Hunter respectfully asked that staff request the Director of Public Works sign

the letter and send to Regional Planning. Mr. Mohajer confirmed that the motion was passed last month by the Task Force to send a letter to Regional Planning, and that the letter was under review by Public Works Administration. Mr. Sheppard responded that Public Works staff is requesting that the letter be expedited.

Ms. Clark asked if there was an explanation regarding the long duration of the hearing process. Ms. Clark asked if it was now out of the Task Force's hands and Mr. Sheppard replied yes, in terms of the NOV process.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided the following update:

- The Legislature reconvened from summer recess this week.
- Many of the policy bills that passed out of the policy committee will be added to the suspense file in each house.
- The Assembly and State must act on the bills by September 1, 2023.

There were 55 State bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and 1 bill on the cover page for consideration:

Ms. Clark asked if there were any hazardous components in the solar panels. Mr. Darensbourg responded there are elements such as cadmium that needs to be properly disposed of as hazardous waste. Ms. Clark asked why they say no permit is needed. Mr. Darensbourg speculates that since the panel may have minimal contaminants it is considered universal waste. Ms. Clark shared her concerns about reusing or recycling the solar panel if it has hazardous waste. Mr. Mohajer commented that the state wants to support electrification and solar panels would be essential. He indicated that some of the existing solar panels are reaching the end of life and to manage them as hazardous waste would increase costs. Therefore, they are designated as universal waste, which reduces the requirements. Discussion ensued.

- AB 1238 (Ward), Amended 3/21/23: Hazardous waste: solar panels. Ms. Clark made a motion to send a comment letter raising questions and concerns about the health, safety, and physical effects of the hazardous material mentioned in the bill, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. Motion passed with 7 voting yes (Ms. Clark, Mr. Eddie De La Riva, Ms. Karen Gork, Mr. Ronaldo Milo, Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Shammas, and Mr. Jim Smith) and 2 abstaining (Mr. Jack Cheng and Mr. Sheppard).

Since staff was giving the legislative update, Mr. Shammas asked about SB 1383 and if there was any update or recommendations from the Little Hoover

Commission. Mr. Darensbourg responded that Legislature was in the middle of the legislative session and does not know if any new bills will consider the recommendations next year. Ms. Clark commented that SB 1383 is enforced, and trash companies are implementing it so people must sort all three types of waste and they can be penalized if the wrong material is placed in the wrong bin. Ms. Clark asked if there were any delays on that. Mr. Sheppard responded that every jurisdiction had to adopt their own ordinance and CalRecycle is starting to enforce the requirements on jurisdictions, who will then enforce penalties on their residents. He also stated that the law requires one of two methods to check for compliance, which is route reviews by waste haulers or waste characterization studies at a centralized location such as at a material recovery facility or material transfer station. Discussion ensued regarding SB 1383 and its compliance.

VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

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

Ms. Clark asked what SB 1013 involved. Ms. Gonzalez responded it pertained to beverage container recycling and CalRecycle would be providing a general overview.

In relation to SB 1383, Ms. Clark asked if non-glossy paper plates can be discarded with food waste. Ms. Gonzalez responded that every jurisdiction and waste haulers has different guidelines based on where the waste hauler is taking their food waste to be processed. Some facilities may accept paper plates with the food waste, but others may not. Mr. Shammass commented that the Sanitation Districts accepts food waste, but they cannot accept paper because the food waste is processed at their wastewater treatment plant. However, some composting facilities may accept paper. Mr. Sheppard commented that haulers are limited on what they can collect based on what facilities can process, but the law states that local jurisdictions must collect paper plates and divert them from landfill disposal, which is why infrastructure is needed to handle the various types of food-soiled paper. Mr. Ron Milo stated that the City of Los Angeles (City) implemented their organic waste recycling program late last year. Diverting paper and compostable plastic is a challenge. Contracted waste haulers do not accept these materials because local facilities cannot process them. He added that they are not accepting some compostable materials, including paper with glossy materials, that have chemicals and additives. For public outreach, the City posted a flyer on their website, initiated an ambassador program to distribute flyers to residents, and provided CalRecycle-funded kitchen pails.

Mr. Mohajer asked if anyone knew about a technology that checks the content of each bin and identifies material that should not be in the bin. Mr. Shammass said

that he had read trash trucks using GPS-enabled cameras to scan for contaminants and that use bar codes on the trash containers to determine which account the contaminated load was picked up from.

Mr. Mohajer asked how to keep ants and other pests out of food waste. Mr. Milo recommended dumping a one-gallon pail of baking soda in the waste container. Ms. Gonzalez stated that some jurisdictions have explained to their residents that they can freeze their food waste and place it in their organic waste container on pickup day.

Mr. Hunter commented that unbagged food waste can attract flies. Ms. Gonzalez explained that residents should check with their haulers because each respective jurisdiction has their own requirements about whether they accept bagged food waste.

Mr. Sheppard asked about the organic waste infrastructure grant, including how the process was going, how many submittals were received, and when results would be announced. Ms. Gonzalez responded she did not have the information readily available but would provide it by the end of the week.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hunter asked what the status was regarding audio-visual equipment for hybrid meetings. Ms. Genevieve Osmena responded that the equipment had been ordered and staff anticipates set up by the end of the year.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 1 p.m.