

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

Minutes of October 15, 2015

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 Jeffrey
Gunzenhauser, rep by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Barry Wallerstein, rep by Ed Pupka, South Coast Air Quality Management District

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
Jim Kuhl, Long Beach Public Works Department
Cathy Warner, League of California Cities
Grace Hyde, County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kathy Salama, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Benjamin Lucha, City of Palmdale
Dale Sargent, City of Santa Clarita
Jon Emerson, City of Redondo Beach
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Joe Vitti, NVC/GHNNC
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Primitivo Nuñez, CalRecycle
Lena Wiegard, CalRecycle
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rob Sherman, Republic Services
Jalaine Madrid, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jim Miller, Jim Miller and Associates
Armando C. Aguilar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Vanessa A. Olivas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:18 p.m., by Ms. Margaret Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 16, 2015, AND ACCEPTANCE OF AUGUST 20, 2015 MINUTES

A motion was made to pass the July 16, 2015, and the acceptance of the August 20, 2015, minutes; motion was passed with two abstentions (Ms. Reina Pereira and Mr. Ed Pupka).

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

Mr. Patrick Holland gave an update on the ATAS. Mr. Holland reported that staff gave a presentation on the Air Resources Board 2030 scope plan update and a presentation from Jim Miller regarding Anaerobic Digestion and the various process of Anaerobic Digestion. ATAS gave an update on the planning for the Conversion Technology (CT) Conference, which had a slight delay on the white paper that probably will be finalized, approved, and released later this year. ATAS is aiming for the CT Conference to coincide with Verde Exchange conference with a tentative date of January 27, 2016. Alternative Resources Incorporated (ARI) consultant gave a brief update on the Pitchess Detention Center project at the Sheriff's facility where they are working on getting an RFP. ARI also gave an update on the analysis they are conducting for a potential onsite digestion system to process material from Public Works' cafeteria.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis gave her report from the Facility Plan & Review Subcommittee (FPRS). She reported that the FPRS discussed the odor complaints for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) made in August and September 2015, a total of 126 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline. In comparison with July 2015, the number of complaints increased by 448 percent. Compared to August 2014, the number of complaints increased by 56 percent. In August 2015 there were 337 complaints, which is an increase of 167 percent and a record number of complaints. There was one notice of violation issued by AQMD for the month of August and eight notices of violations issued for the month of September. An evaluation was made on the SCL odor problem and a report was prepared by Yazdani that has some interesting recommendations, which will hopefully follow up and redo the gas collection system and really look into the odor problem.

Ms. Landis made a motion that the Task Force send a letter to the City of Los Angeles Planning Commission for a continuation of the October 22, 2015, public hearing in Van Nuys for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Plan Development and Operations Measures, Phase 3, with a cc to Mayor Garcetti and Councilmember Englander. Mr. Mike Mohajer seconded the motion. Discussion ensued regarding the role of the Task Force in these situations and the City Planning Commission's Phase 3 review process. The motion passed with three abstentions (Mr. Gerry Villalobos, Ms. Reina Pereira, and Mr. Ed Pupka).

Phase 3 is when the City of Los Angeles Planning Commission will determine whether or not to give the landfill the green light on additional mitigation measures. The Planning Commission is holding a public hearing at 8:00 a.m. at the Van Nuys City Hall, and the item is not shown as to when it will be considered by the Commission. The North Valley Coalition wants to have the meeting in the community so they hear what the Commission is going to consider and they can express their concerns.

Mr. Pedroza commented that as a representative of cities he wants to make sure that he represents the voice for the cities but wants to also hear if there are issues coming from the cities in order to represent those voices; therefore, he wants to know what we are working towards. Ms. Landis responded that what the Task Force is working towards is a working system of solid waste management for 88 cities and unincorporated LA County and we have a lot of back and forth trying to make sure we hear the problem and hear whether the cities and County are reacting properly and listening.

The FPRS also discussed the update on the application for Finding of Conformance for the Azusa Land Reclamation Landfill. In May 2015, staff asked for additional information on permit conditions and the facility operator said they are not doing anything on the City of Irwindale section of the site but it was on their maps. Staff is waiting on a new map to reflect the operator's plans not to fill that area. Staff is sending a letter to the operator of the Azusa Land Reclamation Landfill on how to conform their operations so they can get a revised Finding of Conformance.

V. ANAEROBIC DIGESTION BY JIM MILLER AND ASSOCIATES

Mr. Jim Miller of Jim Miller and Associates gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on Anaerobic Digestion in Europe and touched on items such as pre-processing, processing, collection, post-processing, and the different types of Anaerobic Digestion systems.

Following the presentation there was an extensive question and answer period. During the discussion, it was mentioned that there is a similar facility in San Jose, California producing 30 percent residual, which needs to be landfilled.

VI. CALRECYCLE AB 341 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Mr. Armando Aguilar gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on CalRecycle's AB 341 report to the legislature.

After the presentation, concern was expressed about the funding being sustainable if it is not going back into the needed infrastructure. Concern was also expressed about the Promotion of EPR because it could end up being a burden to cities and local jurisdictions.

VII. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL REVISED FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Karlo Manalo gave an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Revised Finding of Conformance. At the August 20th Subcommittee meeting, staff provided an update regarding the proposed alternative daily cover (ADC) pilot project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Since then, Republic has released 3 letters on September 3, 2015, notifying various agencies of their intent to commence the implementation of the ADC pilot project on the City-side of the Landfill on September 14, 2015, without prior approval from Public Works. Following these letters, Republic also sent a letter dated September 9, 2015, notifying the agencies of their postponement of the intended implementation of the ADC pilot project until after the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Technical Advisory Committee meeting on September 29, 2015.

Consequently, the Task Force sent a letter on September 28, 2015, requiring Republic to obtain a revised Finding of Conformance (FOC) from the Task Force prior to implementation of the ADC pilot project. On October 12, 2015 Republic sent a letter to the Task Force, indicating that Republic does not believe an FOC is required for this pilot project as the "FOC is not a permit and does not regulate on-going operation at the landfill". Consequently, Republic is moving forward with the project. Staff has responded to Republic's letter stating that their assertions are incorrect and directed Republic on how to apply for an FOC.

Similarly, Republic sent a letter on October 8, 2015, to Public Works informing them that Republic plans to move forward with the ADC pilot project on October 12, 2015, as directed by the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Technical Advisory Committee in its October 5, 2015, letter to Republic.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Gabriel Arenas gave an update on current legislation. Mr. Arenas informed the Task Force that the Governor had until October 11, 2015, to sign bills which the Legislature had passed during the first year of the 2015/2016 Legislative Session. The following bills which the Task Force took a position on were signed by the Governor:

[AB 199](#) (Eggman) Tax Exclusion: Recycled Feedstock Projects–Support
[AB 876](#) (McCarty) Annual Report: 15-year Organic Processing Capacity–Oppose
[AB 901](#) (Gordon) Solid Waste Facility Reporting–Neutral
[AB 1045](#) (Irwin) Composting Policies Streamlining–Oppose Unless Amended
[SB 485](#) (Hernandez) Sanitation Districts: Beneficial Use of Water–Support
[SB 489](#) (Monning) Photovoltaic Modules–Support
[SB 662](#) (Senate EQ) Recycling Market Development Zones–Support

Mr. Arenas also mentioned that a number of noteworthy 2-year bills will most likely be brought back for legislative consideration in 2016, including:

[AB 45](#) (Mullin) Household Hazardous Waste Programs–Oppose
[AB 1063](#) (Williams) CalRecycle Fees – Oppose Unless Amended
[AB 1103](#) (Dodd) Food Waste Transporter Registration/Fees –Oppose
[AB 1159](#) (Gordon) Sharps and Batteries Pilot Collection Program –Support
[SB 32](#) (Pavley) Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Limit–Oppose
[SB 687](#) (Allen) Renewable Natural Gas Standard–Watch

The attached [legislative table](#) was distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Mohajer commented that hearings on AB 45 are being held. AB 45 would require jurisdictions to provide curbside household hazardous waste collection and, if enacted, would replace current countywide programs. Mr. Mohajer stated it is coming back and they are having a hearing in Palo Alto this week or next. Mr. Pedroza stated the League of Cities and contract cities have opposed the bill.

Mr. Mohajer also stated that AB 1063 is really critical because it is going to create a generator fee and will give CalRecycle the authority to adjust their rates every 3 years, indefinitely. He emphasized that it is incumbent on stakeholders to work with the authors on the language for AB 45 and AB 1063.

Mr. Mohajer also discussed AB 876, which is a critical bill that will impact the County significantly and will create a lot of political issues for the cities. AB 876 will go into effect January 2016, and will require Counties and regional agencies to estimate the amount of organic waste that will be generated in the County or region over 15 years; the additional organic waste recycling composting needed

to process that waste; and to identify areas for new or expanded organic waste recycling facilities. LA County has one such regional agency, Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA) which includes 18 member cities, including the City of Los Angeles.

IX. ARB AB 32 SCOPING PLAN UPDATE

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on ARB AB 32 Scoping Plan Update.

Ms. Landis stated that “minimize conversion” means you don’t take wildlands and convert them into communities where all the water is put into sewer or storm drains and you lose your watershed potential. The city planning boards will need to be careful as to where they build. There has been a lot of push about taking compost and dumping it on grazing lands or open lands, unfortunately the mass of compost that would be created if we did this throughout the state, if you put more than a couple of inches on wild land you suppress the seed bank and kill all the plants and the same goes for grazing lands if you put more the six inches down it will be dead. You are not sequestering carbon for the future you are making a technological solution for the cities. Innovative Cross Sectors need to have an understanding of the environment especially in California where it is so important and bio-diverse. The sequestration targets have to be careful as to what they do with what humans produce. Climate targets with co-benefits will have to understand that the earth’s ecosystem is the one you want to target for best results. Ms. Landis would like a copy of the draft 2030 Scoping Plan when it is available in the spring of 2016.

X. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Mr. Primitivo Nuñez reported the following:

- CalRecycle website - AB 1826 Mandatory Organics Recycling (MORe) Implementation toolkit is now available on the CalRecycle website and the toolkits consist of customizable materials for jurisdictions to use for education and outreach, which include: news release, PSA videos, template memos and letters for employees and tenants, and a brochure for businesses. Also posted on the website is a letter to cover businesses from CalRecycle, it was suggested that CalRecycle prepare a letter that could be attached to local outreach that jurisdictions are doing and to add more support to those efforts.
- Generator ID tool – under AB 1826, jurisdictions will be asked to identify generators, starting with generators that generate 8 cubic yards of organic waste or more. The purpose of the tool to help jurisdictions estimate how

many employees it takes to generate 8 cubic yards and eventually 4 cubic yards of organic waste per week for different business types. Another similar tool is a generation-based service level generator to estimate the service level in cubic yards. This will help jurisdictions estimate how many businesses are at each level. Other tools that have been added include a tool to identify Waste Recycling facilities that are located near jurisdictions and a Program Assessment tool that incorporates the questions that CalRecycle staff will be asking during annual visits, annual reports, and the 4 year review cycle. There have not been a lot of questions on AB 1826; CalRecycle was able to break them down by grouping so that jurisdictions, in a Frequently Asked Questions section, and they will be able to read the questions depending on the sector they want.

- 2015 - 2016 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Grant and Loan Programs – the Governor's revised proposed budget for 2015 - 2016 included \$60 million for CalRecycle to administer. However, the Legislature did not take action on most of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction funding allocations prior to the end of the legislative session; CalRecycle will not have funding available for grants but the previously approved loans are still available.
- CalRecycle will be setting up a series of public workshops along with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment to describe plans that require synthetic turf that have been requested by stakeholders. Workshops are scheduled in San Diego, Berkley, and one by webinar. They are looking to have a workshop in Southern California around December 3, 2015.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the CalRecycle letter to businesses that Mr. Nuñez referred to will be helpful to business owners and to the cities because the cities will have to start the public outreach program for the mandatory commercial organics recycling programs effective January 2016. The letter is a good letter except for the definition of organic waste, which is open-ended. The letter will help substantiate that what cities are saying is correct, that AB 1826 is an unfunded mandate.

XI. LA COUNTY PHARMACEUTICAL ORDINANCE/PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Coby Skye gave an update on the LA County Pharmaceutical Ordinance/Program. Mr. Skye stated that in August the Board directed the County to draft an ordinance for a take-back program for pharmaceuticals and sharps. On September 28, 2015, the first public stakeholders meetings were held. A technical advisory group was established, which is made up of manufacturers, retailers, and consumer and environmental advocates. The next

public stakeholder meeting is November 13, 2015. At that meeting we will be sharing a draft of the ordinance. The information will be posted on our website, for Public Health, the website is <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/pharma.htm> and if you have any questions or comments you can email them to epr@lacounty.gov.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Landis would like the Composting Operations Biosecurity Problems on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Benjamin Lucha, from the City of Palmdale, asked; In the Antelope Valley we are encountering drought related problems and we were wondering if the Task Force has addressed this issue, or maybe many are choosing to remove their lawns and to pursue more drought tolerant options, such as xeriscaping, artificial turf, etc. However, when they are doing these projects, they are met with a large expense that often practically eclipses the other expenses with doing so, since the local landfills aren't even charging the greenwaste rate for accepting the removed sod, which is really heavy, and instead are charging regular tipping fees of about \$600 to \$800". Mr. Mohajer stated they are both Waste Management and suggested to have Supervisor Anotovich hold a community meeting and invite Waste Management. Mr. Lucha stated that they have done that and Waste Management is not being responsive.

Mr. Mohjer mentioned that on November 18, 2015, Southern California Waste Management Board will be holding a conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Pomona. They will be discussing AB 1826, pharmaceuticals, possible alternative to composting, and there will be a round table on zero waste and what it means. Ms. Betsey Landis and Coby Skye will be panelists and the keynote speaker will be Scott Smithline, which is the head of CalRecycle. Mr. Mohajer would like staff to send out the link for registration.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2015, in Conference Room C.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

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