

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

Minutes of March 17, 2016

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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
Cynthia Harding, rep by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Grace Hyde, rep by Chris Salomon, County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
County
Wayne Nastri, rep by Mohsen Nazemi, South Coast Air Quality Management District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Ambroso, Anaergia
Rob Sherman, Republic Services
Dale Sargent, City of Santa Clarita
Wayde Hunter, NVC/SCL-CAC
John Emerson, City of Redondo
Joe Vitti, NVC/GHNNC
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Vanessa Olivas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jason Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jonathan Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Armando Aguilar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Arlene Meade, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:09 p.m., by Ms. Betsey Landis.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2016, MINUTES

The approval of the February 18, 2016, minutes was postponed until the April 21, 2016, meeting.

III. POTENTIAL HEALTH IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH ODORS GENERATED BY LANDFILL GAS

Item was not discussed.

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

Mr. Clark Ajwani provided a report from the ATAS meeting, which had two presentations. The first presentation was from Jim Ambroso on Anaergia's integrated organic waste recycling technologies. The second presentation was from Henry Hovakimian on Compo Energy's technology to extract the heat from compost and turn it into energy. Mr. Ajwani stated that Compo Energy does not have any operating facilities at this time.

Mr. Ajwani also reported that the Sanitation Districts will have a film crew at their Carson facility to highlight their demonstration project on co-digestion. Mr. Ajwani mentioned that the Southern California Waste Forum Spring Conference will be held on March 23, 2016, in Downey to discuss organic waste management and meeting the State 75 percent "recycling" goal.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis gave an update on the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) meeting. Ms. Landis reported in February 2016, a total of 188 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline relating to SCL odors. In comparison with January 2016, the number of complaints increased by 88 percent, from 100 to 188, and when compared to February of 2015, the number of complaints increased by 58 percent. Of the 188 complaints received in February 2016, 19 complaints were called in from nearby schools. As of March 17, 2016, SCAQMD issued four Notices of Violation for the month of February and two for the month of January.

The Subcommittee had extensive discussions on the odor control problem at SCL and the status of the use of alternative daily cover material. It was reported

that the alternative daily cover works well with controlling vector and litter at the site; however, it was not clear whether this material is also suitable for controlling surface gas emissions. Ms. Landis also reported that the work on the access road and tree planting at SCL is still ongoing.

Ms. Landis stated the Subcommittee received information on composting facility inspections and regulatory oversight statewide. She stated CalRecycle is not working on this issue at this time and mentioned they want a lot of compost facilities but are not regulating or inspecting them. Composting sites that are in the quarantine area are getting inspections from the Department of Food and Agriculture.

VI. “ANAERGIA” – ORGANICS EXTRACTION AND INTEGRATED ORGANICS MANAGEMENT

Mr. Jim Ambroso from Anaergia gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on Organics Extraction and Integrated Organics Management. During the discussion period, Mr. Ambroso stated that the City of Rialto facility is relatively small and is on 4 acres of land but 5 acres is ideal. In response to odor control and receipt of an AQMD permit for the Anaheim facility, Mr. Ambroso stated that all the facilities require permits and they have been working with AQMD who have been very supportive of the technology and the concept. He also stated that this is an enclosed system and takes place indoors, and the only odor issue will be bringing in the material and unloading. It was asked if the whole system is under patent or only the Organics Waste Processing (OREX) system. Mr. Ambroso stated only the OREX is under patent.

The Task Force stated this is a regional-type system, but the challenge for the cities will be at the source point. They asked how the material would be collected and what type of units would be installed to prevent vermin and odors. Mr. Ambroso stated that the OREX is best suited for a regional application. As an example, he stated Republic Services, which services 8 cities, will be changing their routing system to a wet and dry route. When the wet route truck picks up the material and delivers it to the OREX they will go to the designated wet line and the dry route truck will deliver to the designated line for dry material. The customer will not need to change anything on their end.

In response to the operations of OREX, Mr. Ambroso stated the machine can process about 300 tons per day of mixed solid waste, which on average would contain 150 tons of wet fraction. The lifespan on the OREX is about 8-10 years. It was tested in Europe and operates similar to a baler that runs every day. The OREX is fairly clean and should be washed down periodically.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Gabriel Arenas gave an update on current legislation and reviewed items on the attached [legislative table](#).

- AB 45 (Mullins) – Mr. Arenas stated this bill will most likely be heard in June. The Task Force letter, expressing their opposition, was sent to the Board of Supervisors on March 16, 2016.
- AB 1005 (Gordon) – Staff recommended to support and amend. Mr. Mike Mohajer stated it should be watched until next month.
- AB 1144 (Rendon) – Mr. Carlos Ruiz made a motion to send a letter of support seconded by Mr. Ron Saldana. The motion passed with one abstention (Mr. Mohsen Nazemi).
- AB 1669 (Hernandez) – Staff recommended to watch until next month.
- AB 1698 (Hadley) – Mr. Sam Pedroza made a motion to send a letter of support seconded Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed with one abstention (Mr. Nazemi).
- AB 2206 (Williams) – The Task Force recommended the bill be watched until next month.

Due to the loss of a quorum, the following bills will be watched until next month, except in the cases where the Task Force has taken positions in the past on similar legislation: AB 2313, SB 423, SB 778, SB 970, SB 1043, SB 1153, and SB 1229.

Mr. Pedroza updated the Task Force on AB 45. He stated the League of Cities Los Angeles County Division will be sending a letter of opposition and asked to be informed of any updates.

VIII. FUNDING FOR NEW ORGANICS RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE WHITE PAPER

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar gave an update on the White Paper on “Funding for New Organics Recycling Infrastructure While Addressing CalRecycle’s Budget Shortfall” (White Paper) prepared by the Legislative Task Force (LTF) for the California Chapters of the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) in January 2016. The White Paper states that declining revenue from landfill disposal is affecting CalRecycle’s budget and new infrastructure is needed to process and “recycle” compostable organic material that will be diverted from landfills. During the 2015-16 legislative session, AB 1063 was introduced with the goal of addressing these two funding needs. CalRecycle currently relies on the integrated waste management fee (IWWMF) of \$1.40 per ton of disposal to fund a large portion of its operations and programs. AB 1063 proposes to increase the IWWMF to \$4.00 per ton beginning January 1, 2017.

The SWANA LTF has many concerns with the bill, which were discussed in the White Paper. The White Paper states that it is inefficient to have local governments serve as the collection agency for the state. It is also mentioned that a fair and equitable redistribution formula should be part of the bill since certain areas of the state would contribute a disproportionate share to the IWMF. The White Paper further states that the funds should be placed into a restricted account to ensure that they are used for their intended purpose. In addition, the White Paper recommends that cap-and-trade funds be used for developing new organics recycling infrastructure and programs and that CARB request a multi-year set aside to implement the Waste Sector Implementation Plan of the AB 32 Scoping Plan Update. Furthermore, the White Paper states that the IWMF should be imposed on both disposal and non-disposal facilities because non-disposal facilities are still permitted and overseen by CalRecycle, whom should pay for this regulatory oversight cost.

The White Paper identified two additional challenges beyond funding in order for organics recycling infrastructure to be viable over the long term: (1) markets are needed for fertilizer produced from composting or anaerobic digestion, and (2) financially viable options are needed for utilizing the biogas generated from anaerobic digestion.

Ms. Vazifdar noted that on July 21, 2015, the Task Force sent an AB 1063 opposition letter to the California State Senate Environmental Quality Committee. The comments in this letter are very similar to many of the SWANA LTF's concerns.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF REVISED PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Joe Bartolata gave an update on the Revised Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element (CSE). Mr. Bartolata reported that Staff received comments from the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County on the latest revisions to the Preliminary Draft CSE. All comments received were considered and incorporated into the document such as the following: minor corrections such as formatting and updating references, clarifications of some definition of terms, re-organizing sections of some chapters; and updating information pertaining to the City of Los Angeles' alternative technology efforts. This item will be placed at next month's meeting agenda for consideration.

X. SUMMARY OF CALRECYCLE'S STATE OF RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL IN CALIFORNIA, UPDATED 2016 REPORT

Ms. Bereket Tadele gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) summarizing CalRecycle's State of Disposal in California Updated 2016 report. The presentation covered

legislation, statewide disposal, diversion and recycling data, statewide disposal infrastructure, waste flows, and statewide landfill capacity. The Task Force asked how many of the transfer stations have a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) component. Ms. Tadele responded the report indicates that most of the transfer stations handle recycling. It was then asked if there is a definition of MRF in the CalRecycle report. Ms. Tadele stated a MRF is defined as an intermediate processing facility that accepts source-separated recyclables from an initial collector and processes them for wholesale distribution. The recyclable material is accumulated for shipment to brokers, recycled content manufacturers, or for export out of state.

Mr. Armando Aguilar gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the State of Recycling in California. The Task Force asked if the publicly owned treatment plants could handle the 5.6 million tons of food waste each year and which treatment plant could handle such a large portion. In response it was stated that it could be a sewage plant such as Hyperion.

XI. CALRECYLCE UPDATE

Item was not discussed.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2016, in conference room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

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