

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

**Unofficial Minutes of August 17, 2017**

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  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, California Waste and Recycling Association

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Mark Pestrella, rep by Bahman Hajjaliakbar, 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 Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of  
Public Health  
Grace Hyde, rep by Sam Shammas, County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles  
County

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles  
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Jack Hadijinian, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Craig Beck, Long Beach Public Works Department  
Sam Pedroza, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dale Sargent, City of Santa Clarita  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Monica Shuler, City of Palmdale  
Primitivo Nuñez, CalRecycle  
Bonitto Housen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jalaine Madrid, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, 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  
Gerald Ley, County of Angeles Department of Public Works  
Caren Alvarez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jason Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Tranette Sanders, County of Angeles Department of Public Works  
Morena Guardado, County of Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:13 p.m. by Ms. Betsey Landis. There was no quorum.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 20, 2017**

Approval of the July 20, minutes postponed until the next meeting due to the lack of a quorum, and acceptance of August 17, 2017 minutes.

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

Mr. Clark Ajwani reported that the 2017 Conversion Technology Workshop was presented and discussed with the County of Los Angeles Public Works Administration, the plan has been postponed until Spring 2018. Meanwhile, staff will research and gather information on past conversion technology legislative efforts and discuss with legislative committee staff regarding conversion technology.

Mr. Ajwani also provided an update on the following upcoming events:

- August 21-23, 2017: Waste Conversion Technology Conference (San Diego)
- August 21-23, 2017: CRRRA (San Diego, CA)
- September 25-27, 2017: WasteCon 2017 (Baltimore, MD)
- November 8, 2017: Southern California Waste Management Forum (Pomona)
- August 31, 2017: Organic Regulations Workshop SB 1383 (Riverside)

Lastly, Mr. Ajwani conveyed that the Department of Public Works is working on revising the countywide Siting Element by soliciting information from the waste industry on potential locations for future conversion technology facilities, once the locations are identified by the waste industry, meetings will be scheduled with their corresponding jurisdiction.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the total number of complaints made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline regarding odors at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) from June 2017 to July 2017 increased by 40 percent from 10 to 14 complaints. In comparison with June 2016, the number

of complaints decreased by 73 percent from 52 to 14 complaints. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD since 2009 was 10,860. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD in 2017 was 887. The total number of Notices of Violation (NOV) issued to SCL by SCAQMD since 2009 is 215. As of August 16, 2017, SCAQMD had issued no NOVs to SCL in the month of July.

Ms. Landis provided an update on the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) meeting. She commented on the condition of the revegetation project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL), and indicated that work will start on decks C and D by this Fall.

Ms. Landis reported on the Calabasas Landfill Finding of Conformance (FOC). She commended staff for preparing a report showing the chronological history of the FOC. In addition, Ms. Landis reported staff's request for the County Sanitation Districts (CSD) to submit all pending documents by August 21, 2017.

Ms. Landis stated that Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's (DPH) has referred a Notice of Violation (NOV) against Sunshine Canyon Landfill to the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP), which is currently under review.

Lastly, Ms. Landis informed that Calabasas Landfill takes in dead trees caused by beetle infestation. These trees were processed through chipping, which is later used as alternative daily cover at the landfill. She also spoke about installation of closure turf at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. This is part of a five-year experiment that will show whether the applied material would survive.

## **V. REPORT FROM PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported on the Public Education and Information Subcommittee meeting. He shared about the Inside Solid Waste (ISW) edition for Spring and Summer 2017 release, and the articles for the Fall edition were discussed. Below is a list of articles that are being considered for the next edition:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill
- EDCO operations
- Legislative update
- CalRecycle – Recycling data and disposal rate
- Market for recyclable materials (China)
- Food waste programs

Mr. Mohajer mentioned the Department of Public Works' (DPW) upcoming food waste collection program. Mr. Clark Ajwani commented on the post-consumer food waste collected at the DPW's cafeteria will be sent to the Puente Hills Material Recovery Facility (MRF) for processing. After processing, it will be sent to a Waste Management facility to produce slurry. The slurry is then transported to the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant for co-digestion. Mr. Mohajer suggested this process and the data collected could help to predict whether this process is increasing or decreasing greenhouse gasses. Mr. Ajwani also mentioned the pre-consumer food collection program at DPW is placed in worm bins, and the fertilizer produced is used for the garden on site. He also mentioned the Smart Gardening Program and its benefits to the community.

#### **VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

NO UPDATE

#### **VII. CALRECYCLE PROPOSED STATE MATTRESS RECYCLING BASELINE AND GOALS WORKSHOP**

Mr. Mike Mohajer encouraged staff to send a letter notifying CalRecycle that they are in the process to recommend the new appointee to the Mattress Recycling Council since Frank Chin is no longer participating in the program.

Mr. Bonitto Housen reported on CalRecycle's proposed state mattress recycling baseline and goals workshop. He recapped on the purpose of SB 254 (which established the California Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act), to reduce illegal dumping, increase recycling, and reduce public costs. Thus, CalRecycle is required to establish mattress recycling baseline amounts and mattress recycling goals by January 1, 2018. These will be updated every four years beginning July 1, 2020. Cal Recycle conducted this workshop to get feedback on the proposed baseline amounts and recycling goals. These goals are based on actual and projected reports from 2016 by mattress organizations, mattress recyclers, and mattress renovators. The proposed mattress recycling baseline amounts and recycling goals are as follows:

- Renovation: 150,000. The goal is to maintain this amount through 2020.
- Recycling: 955,059. The goal is to increase recycled mattresses by 30% in 2017, 15% by 2018, 9% by 2019, and 9% by 2020.
- Convenience: The ratio is 43/58, County to Facilities respectively. The goal is to increase the number of Counties to 49/58 in 2017, and 58/58 in 2018.

Mr. Housen stated that the dates projected for each goal are based on the best information available, since not all data is reported. For example, out of 13 recyclers, 56 renovators, and 509 solid waste facilities identified as potential reporters, only 11 recyclers, 6 renovators, and 332 solid waste facilities submitted their annual reports. The mattress recycling baseline amount and goals will be effective on January 1, 2018.

Mr. Housen shared the following key points discussed in the workshop:

1. CalRecycle will propose baseline and goals for illegal dumping, source reduction, and C&D Construction and Demolition Debris during the 2020 update.
2. Based on historical values and statistical analysis, the year-over-year percentage increase for the proposed baseline and goals are reasonable
3. The convenience goal should be based on the number of facilities near populated areas rather than allocating facilities per county
4. Goals for education and outreach have not been established

Lastly, Mr. Housen provided an update on the California Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling 2018 Program (MRRP) Budget. The proposed 2018 Budget is based on the actual revenue and expenses from 2016, and year to date 2017 expenses, including anticipated changes in 2018. The MRRP 2018 Budget is \$39,973,452; the budget will be used to fund the MRRP and contribute to the reserves as required by law. \$250,000 of the budget will be generated from earned interest income, and the remaining \$39,723,452 will be revenue from the \$11-unit charge on the sale of mattresses and foundations.

Mr. Mohajer requested staff to send a letter to CalRecycle by September 1, 2017, to comment on the following issues: (1) enforcement of the annual reporting requirement for mattress organization, recyclers, and renovators, (2) lack of secondary facilities and markets for latex foam, memory foam and wood from box springs, (3) unregulated waste haulers, (4) lack of reimbursement to local jurisdictions for the full cost of illegally dumped mattresses/box springs collection and delivery to an authorized collection facility. Ms. Pereira commented about the City of Los Angeles' Mattress Recycling and Collection Program, which has dedicated trucks to pick up illegally dumped mattresses throughout the City. The City of Los Angeles is not reimbursed by CalRecycle for the cost of the program. Therefore, the City of Los Angeles will provide a letter to CalRecycle commenting on the recurring cost of illegal dumping and the need to reimburse local jurisdictions for costs associated with collecting illegally dumped mattresses and box springs and delivering them to an authorized collection facility.

#### **VIII. SB 1383 INFORMAL RULEMAKING STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar reported on CalRecycle's SB 1383 Informal Rulemaking Stakeholder Workshop. During this workshop, CalRecycle presented regulatory concepts related to reporting, compliance, and enforcement. Ms. Vazifdar provided the attached [SB1383 SLCP August Workshop](#).

Ms. Betsey Landis asked whether the California Department of Food and Agriculture has a role in the enforcement of the regulations. Ms. Landis also asked about who determines whether the food is edible or not and requested a definition of edible food. Ms. Vazifdar provided CalRecycle's proposed draft definition of edible food, which is food generated for human consumption that meets all public health and safety regulations. There was a discussion among the Task Force members regarding edible food recovery. Ms. Landis and Mr. Mohajer requested staff to send a comment letter to CalRecycle expressing their concerns with the regulatory concepts.

#### **IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Mr. Primitivo Nuñez provided an update from CalRecycle. He informed staff about the 2016 Electronic Annual Report, which is due every year on August 1, as required by AB 939. To date (Aug 17), CalRecycle has received 399 of 419 annual reports from jurisdictions statewide. Countywide, only three reports remain outstanding. CalRecycle staff will be reviewing the reports and focus particularly on the mandatory commercial recycling (MCR) and mandatory commercial organics recycling (MORe) sections to ensure the information required is obtained, and provide feedback to the jurisdictions within the 120-day period as required by law. Mr. Nuñez also informed about the continuous CalRecycle annual conference calls and site visits to all LA County jurisdictions to confirm their waste diversion program implementation. Lastly, Mr. Nuñez encouraged all jurisdiction representatives to attend the AB 1383 workshops in Southern California to ensure the viewpoints are conveyed to the Task Force.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Ron Saldana commented on the Task Force member's attendance and the need to reach quorum, he reiterated the importance of member representation in addressing important issues.

Ms. Landis requested staff to send letters to those members who are presently not attending the meetings explaining the high cost, and challenges faced by local jurisdictions. Thus, their contribution in decision making is essential.

**XI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2017, in conference room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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