

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

Minutes for September 20, 2018

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
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Pedroza, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Ron Saldana, California Waste and Recycling Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Craig Beck, rep by Charles Tripp, Long Beach Public Works Department
Grace Hyde, rep by Sam Shammas, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, rep by Dorcas Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jason Aspell, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Robb Cohn, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
Jack Hadjinian, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Ang, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Elijah Carder, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Dennis Montano, Republic Services
Carol Oyola, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nick Sanchez, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Vu Troung, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Ms. Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 16, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Pedroza to approve the August 16, 2018, minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Vazifdar gave an update on the ATAS meeting. She reported consultants from Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) gave a presentation on the financial analysis for a potential small-scale thermal conversion technology (CT) project for Interior Removal Specialist, Inc. (IRS), an interior commercial demolition contractor with a construction and demolition processing facility in the City of South Gate. She mentioned ARI will continue to analyze the potential project to determine how importing waste and increasing scale can affect the financial viability of the project.

Ms. Vazifdar described the development of projects by the Sanitation Districts and Waste Management (WM). The Sanitation Districts received approval from their Board of Directors to build a biogas conditioning system at their Carson Joint Water Pollution Control Plant and use digester gas to start producing vehicle fuel. Construction is expected to begin in 2020. WM will be installing a system that is expected to remove contaminants from approximately 400 tons per day of source-separated organic waste at their Sun Valley Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). She also said WM is in the design phase of a composting facility to be located at Antelope Valley Landfill in Palmdale with an expected timeframe to operate in July 2020 and they are also developing project concepts for a potential composting facility in Lancaster in partnership with Agromin.

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

Mr. Mohajer provided a report from the FPRS meeting. He gave an update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) starting with the report on the total number of complaints made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline regarding odors. During the month of August, a total of 6 complaints were made, and 4 of the 6 complaints had no field response. In comparison to July 2018, the number of complaints received in August decreased from 16 to 6 complaints. In comparison with August 2017, the number of complaints decreased from 30 to 6 complaints. The total number of complaints received by

SCAQMD since 2009 was 11,117. The total number of complaints received for year 2018 is 116. The total number of Notices of Violation (NOV) issued since 2009 is 214. No NOVs were issued in the month of August.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned there was a discussion on the intermediate cover enhancement project. Staff will be sharing an update during the next FPRS subcommittee meeting. Mr. Mohajer added the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) being used at this site is working properly and there are no issues to report.

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Department of Public Health (DPH) has been communicating with Regional Planning regarding the NOV that was recommended.

Mr. Mohajer reported that DPH requested a review of Dr. Nordella's study on Aliso Canyon and Porter Ranch methane gas discharge. He mentioned an email was received from Dr. Davis, Health Officer for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, indicating he will be looking into the matter and will be providing a response to the Task Force committee.

Mr. Mohajer also gave an update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL). He mentioned DPH has issued a draft of the Solid Waste Facility Permit and will be seeking concurrence from with CalRecycle on issuing the permit. He explained there are differences between the requirements of the Solid Waste Facility Permit and the County's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) requirements. Mr. Mohajer added that the CUP's requirements are more restrictive than the Solid Waste Facility Permit issued by DPH and CalRecycle has indicated they do not have the authority to enforce the local land use permit requirements on the facility operator, it is out of their jurisdiction.

Mr. Mohajer also mentioned staff received all the materials for Antelope Valley Landfill to consider a recommendation to the Task Force to grant the facility a revised Finding of Conformance (FOC). This topic will be discussed at the next FPRS meeting scheduled in October 18, 2018.

Lastly, Mr. Mohajer spoke about emerging conversion technology. Staff requested Waste Management for Lancaster Landfill, Waste Connection for CCL, and Republic Services for SCL, to provide a monthly report on a quarterly basis about their efforts to promote the development on emerging technology in their facilities. These three companies are in the unincorporated areas and operate under the CUP that is issued by the County.

Ms. Clark asked if other trash companies can give their input on the matter. Mr. Mohajer responded that these three companies are being asked for their input because they operate those three specific landfills and we have their legal

authority. As far as individual waste haulers, they operate under a different permit given by the DPH.

V. ADDRESSING AIR QUALITY PERMITTING AND REGULATORY ISSUES FOR EXPANDING INFRASTRUCTURE – DISCUSSION PAPER

Mr. Slythe gave a report on a recent workshop held by CalRecycle, California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), and California Air Resources Board (CARB) regarding their paper “Composting in California, Addressing Air Quality Permitting and Regulatory Issues for Expanding Infrastructure,” dated August 2018. Two workshops were held to discuss the paper, one on August 21, 2018 in Sacramento and another on August 24, 2018 in Diamond Bar. Mr. Slythe also mentioned that Mr. Mohajer from the Task Force was present during the workshop held in Diamond Bar.

Mr. Slythe stated that the purpose of the paper was to discuss the current state of composting in California as well as the regulatory issues for siting a new and expanded large-scale facilities in California.

Mr. Slythe also mentioned that the focus of the paper was air quality permitting of composting facilities. The paper describes permitting options that are infeasible to help focus future efforts on the feasible options. The paper also solicits additional insight from stakeholders.

Lastly, Mr. Slythe mentioned the paper concluded with a statement that further research is needed to better understand landfill and composting emissions. He added that staff drafted a Task Force letter, which provided many comments on the workshop and paper and will be finalizing it soon. Mr. Slythe said the deadline to submit comments is Monday, September 24, 2018, to compost@calrecycle.ca.gov.

Mr. Ruiz asked for a brief summary of the key comments on the paper. Mr. Slythe mentioned there were quite a few comments. The paper explained that the State will need additional 75 to 100 new composting facilities to meet the Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) targets. The paper analyzed two scenarios, one in which all organics will be processed and handled by each individual district and another in which some of the organics will be transferred for processing adjacent districts, but there are not enough emission reduction credits for it in Southern California.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the state is limiting the organic waste processing infrastructure mandated by SB 1383 to composting or anaerobic digestion facilities. The purpose of the workshop was to address how composting facilities can handle waste that is being processed in the state of California, in addition to the five million tons of organics that will need to be handled by the new facilities.

VI. OVERVIEW OF SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT - COMPLAIN POLICY AND REPORTING

Mr. Aspell from SCAQMD gave a [presentation](#) on complaint response and reporting by the SCAQMD. Mr. Aspell spoke about the assignment of complaints. He mentioned that complaints vary by nature and they are continuously assigned to field inspectors based on the type and location. He explained that staff contacts the complainant within two hours to assess the complaint and to confirm if the situation is ongoing. Mr. Aspell also explained that odors are verified by nose and wind speed direction. He mentioned they have standby supervisors and inspectors for afterhours activities. In regards to SCL, SCAQMD compiles monthly complaint information that is received by street, ongoing issues, violations by month, and a chart of complaints received per year.

Mr. Mohajer commented on community meetings held by SCAQMD in Granada Hills regarding the odor problems in SCL. He said the methodology that is being used today to respond to odor complaints has changed from previous years. Now SCAQMD has to receive three complaints over a specific timeframe to investigate the complaint, whereas in the past it was only one complaint. Mr. Mohajer also mentioned that their new methodology has a great impact on the NOV's that are being issued.

Mr. Aspell responded that SCAQMD understands the issues with SCL. The change in the standard procedure was based on the decrease on complaints. SCAQMD's executive manager made the decision back in December 2017. Mr. Aspell also mentioned they cannot solicit complaints and that they have to investigate them as they are reported. In June, SCAQMD conducted an inspection to recognize weather patterns.

Mr. Ruiz asked if the only time they conducted surveillance was during the months of May and June or did they conduct another extraordinary study beyond the standard protocol. He also asked how many inspectors SCAQMD has. Mr. Aspell responded that he was not involved in that process, but typically to increase surveillance, they must have ongoing complaints and have inspectors perform off duty surveillance. He also said they have at least 80 inspectors division-wide and about 15 that go to the areas in question.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Ajwani gave an update on the legislative table. He reported that all the bills passed from their house of origin on September 1, 2018, and they are currently on the Governor's desk for him to sign or veto.

AB 3178 (Rubio) – Integrated Waste Management Plans: Source Reduction and Recycling Element: Diversion requirements. This bill would require CalRecycle to consider the China’s Sword Policy on the good faith effort for jurisdictions to comply with AB 939. The Task Force sent a letter to the Governor on August 30, 2018, requesting his signature on the bill. The bill was vetoed by the Governor.

AB 3232 (Friedman) – Zero-Emissions Building and Sources of Heat Energy. This bill requires the State to consider an assessment of implementation for zero emission buildings, including existing and new residential and commercial buildings. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor. Staff sent a letter to the Governor requesting him to veto the bill on September 5, 2018.

SB 100 (De Leon) – California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program; Emissions of greenhouse gasses. This bill will increase renewable portfolio standard program for the electric utilities. It was opposed unless amended by Task Force, and it has been signed and chaptered by the Governor.

SB 212 (Jackson) – Solid Waste: Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship. This bill is strongly supported by the Task Force and the County. This bill is on the Governor’s desk for him to consider. The Task Force recently sent letters to all cities encouraging them to support.

SB 1335 (Allen) – Solid Waste: Food Service Packaging: State Agencies, Facilities, and Property. This bill will require all state facilities to utilize an allowed food service packaging. This bill is supported by Task Force and is on the Governor’s desk for him to consider.

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin gave the following information about upcoming grant due dates:

- Tire Incentive Program (FY 2018-2019) due on September 27, 2018
- Rubberized Pavement Grant Program (FY 2018-2019) due on October 3, 2018
- Tire-Derived Aggregate Grant Program (FY 2018-2019) due on November 1, 2018

Mr. Mohajer requested information about the Public Notice for the City of Maywood. Ms. Wallin said she will send that information requested via email.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2018, in Conference Room B.

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