

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

**Minutes for May 16, 2019**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Gideon Kracov, Los Angeles County Disposal Association  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Liz Reilly, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Craig Beck, rep by Charles Tripp, Long Beach Public Works Department  
Grace Hyde, rep by Sam Shammass, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Mark Pestrella, rep by Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jack Hadjinian, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Elijah Carder, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Bella Hernandez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle  
Julia Weissman, Los Angeles County Counsel

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2019 MINUTES AND DISCUSSION OF THE MARCH 21, 2019 MINUTES**

A motion was made by Ms. Landis and seconded by Mr. Mohajer to approve the April 18, 2019, minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

The Task Force (TF) had a discussion regarding the March 21, 2019, meeting minutes. The committee discussed whether the minutes accurately reflected the discussion and if the creation of the new Goals and Priorities Subcommittee was consistent with the Brown Act. Mr. Ruiz reported that staff contacted County Counsel to address the TF concerns based on his discussion with Counsel, the creation of the new subcommittee did not violate the Brown Act, and the minutes accurately reflected what was discussed during the March meeting. Mr. Ruiz also reported that given that the TF is an advisory body, the TF agendas provide enough information for the public and other interested parties to be aware that the TF may take action on the item. Ms. Clark specifically asked whether the agenda had enough information regarding the motion that was taken. Ms. Weissman, Senior Deputy County Counsel, explained that there is a phrase at the bottom of the agenda that says: "Brown Act Notice: The Task Force may take actions on any item appearing in the agenda," which gives sufficient notice to the public, therefore the formation of the committee was not in violation of the Brown Act.

Mr. Kracov asked Ms. Weissman if the advisory nature of the TF influences the analysis of the Brown Act requirements. Ms. Weisman responded that the advisory nature does not change the Brown Act, and that the issue is whether the public is receiving sufficient information about the nature of what is being discussed during the meetings.

A motion was made by Ms. Reilly to approve the March 21, 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Kracov. The motion passed with one objection.

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

Mr. Mohajer reported that there was discussion on the Inside Solid Waste Spring Edition and that it is tentatively scheduled for publication within the next 7 to

10 days. Mr. Mohajer also reported that the following articles were considered for the Summer Newsletter Edition:

- China Green Sword
- Senate Bill 1383
- Update on the Woolsey Fire
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill Notice of Abatement
- Lithium Batteries
- Programs being implemented by the County, residentially and commercially
- Update on the legislation
- Formation of the new TF subcommittee
- Waste characterization reports and results

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

Ms. Vazifdar reported there was a presentation by Pronita Saxena, Founder and CEO of Citizengage. Ms. Vazifdar stated that Ms. Saxena discussed Citizengage's platform to characterize existing waste streams to determine the potential amount of source-separated organic feedstock available for small-scale on-site or community-scale anaerobic digestion (AD) and biomass conversion facilities. Ms. Vazifdar also mentioned that Citizengage develops AD and biomass conversion facilities and sells the end products, including renewable natural gas, fertilizers, and biochar. Last, Ms. Vazifdar stated that Citizengage has developed several facilities in India and are hoping to develop small facilities in California processing ten ton per day.

Ms. Vazifdar mentioned that she provided an update to the ATAS on the Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) Infrastructure and Market Analysis Report. She stated that CalRecycle circulated a draft report in March 2019 and the TF submitted a comment letter asking CalRecycle to consider the shortcomings of composting for organics recycling and place additional emphasis on the development of AD and thermal conversion infrastructure. She added that none of the comments were incorporated by CalRecycle in their final report.

Ms. Vazifdar reported that the ATAS discussed an upcoming workshop hosted by the California Public Utility Commission regarding the standard renewable gas interconnection tariff and an inquiry into the standard requirements to inject and interconnect renewable methane and hydrogen projects. Ms. Vazifdar stated that the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County will attend the workshop to provide feedback on the challenges of putting biogas into the pipeline.

Last, Ms. Vazifdar reported that the ATAS received an update from Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI), who have developed an AD permitting guidance flowchart. She stated that ARI also viewed an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) webinar regarding the release of the newest version of their WARM model, which compares the greenhouse gas and energy impacts of various waste management methods.

Ms. Clark asked how the model works. Ms. Vazifdar said that the emissions from managing specified tonnage amounts of certain feedstocks can be compared to determine which methods have lower emissions.

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

Ms. Landis reported that the subcommittee received an update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints. During the month of April, a total of 12 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline and 3 were listed as “No Field Response”. Compared to March 2019, the number of complaints received in April decreased from 76 to 12. Compared to April 2018, the number of complaints for this year have increased from 9 to 12 complaints. There is a total of 122 complaints reported so far this year. As of May 8, 2019, AQMD has issued zero odor complaint Notice of Violation (NOV) to SCL for the month of April 2019. Ms. Landis mentioned that the Order of Abatement expires June 30, 2019, and there will be a hearing on June 6, 2019.

Ms. Landis also reported that there was a representative from Republic Services to discuss quarterly reports and the problems of whether they are up to date with emergency generators.

**VI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TASK FORCE PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE GOALS AND PRIORITIES, INCLUDING CREATION OF GOALS AND PRIORITIES SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a discussion regarding whether the new subcommittee will be an ad hoc or a standing committee as well as applicable to Brown Act requirements. Ms. Weissman explained that an ad hoc subcommittee is composed of less than a quorum and has a specific purpose and an end date. If this is the case, it does not have to comply with the Brown Act. A standing committee does not have an ending date and would have to comply with the Brown Act.

Ms. Landis made a motion to make the Goals and Priorities Subcommittee an ad hoc committee, seconded by Mr. Kracov. Motion passed unanimously.

## VII. LEGISLATIVE TABLE

Mr. Carder gave an update on the [legislative table](#). He reported that three bills were added since the last TF meeting. There are now 61 bills in total on the legislative table at this time. The last day for the fiscal committee to hear bills introduced to their house was on May 17, 2019, and the last day for the bills to be passed out of their house of origin is on May 31, 2019. To obtain more detailed information on the bills mentioned below, please click on the legislative table link above.

**AB 187** (Cristina Garcia and Bigelow) – Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act. Mr. Kracov made a motion to send a letter of support if amended, seconded by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed unanimously.

**AB 619** (Chiu) – Retail Food: Reusable Container: Multiuse Utensils. Mr. Kracov made a motion to send a letter of support and amend, seconded by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed unanimously.

**AB 792** (Ting) – Recycling: Plastic Beverage Containers: Minimum Recycled Content. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support, seconded by Ms. Landis. The motion passed unanimously.

**AB 815** (Aguiar-Curry) – Integrated Waste Management Plans: Source Reduction and Recycling Element and Household Hazardous Waste Element: Dual Stream Recycling Programs. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to oppose unless amended, seconded by Mr. Kracov. The motion passed unanimously.

**AB 1156** (Eduardo Garcia) – Methane: Dairy and Livestock: Pilot Financial Mechanism: Environmental Credit Insurance Program. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of opposition unless amended on the basis that when SB 1383 passed, they worked on some language with the dairy industry and the existing language that was used to get SB 1383 through by helping municipal solid waste. This motion was seconded by Ms. Reilly. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Carder mentioned that the bill is currently in Appropriations and will know tomorrow if the bill passed to the floor. He recommended to take a position as it is now, and then wait to see what the status of the bill is to issue a letter.

**AB 1228** (Calderon) – Income Taxes: Credits: Compostable Cutlery. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter opposing unless amended, seconded by Ms. Reilly. The motion passed with one abstention.

**AB 1672** (Bloom) – Solid Waste: Flushable Products. Mr. Kracov made a motion to send a letter of support, seconded by Ms. Landis. The motion passed unanimously.

**SB 68** (Galgiani) – Hazardous waste: Treated Wood Waste. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support if amended, seconded by Mr. Kracov. The motion passed unanimously.

**SB 162** (Galgiani) – California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority: Sales and Use Taxes: Exclusions. Ms. Reilly made a motion to watch this bill, seconded by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed unanimously.

**SB 424** (Jackson) – Tobacco Products: Single-Use and Multiuse Components. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support, seconded by Mr. Kracov. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Ms. Wallin, of CalRecycle, gave an update on grants and events.

- Tire-Derived Product Grant (FY 2019-2020) application due on August 1, 2019.
- Public Meeting Notice: Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship (SB 212) Informal Rulemaking Workshop on May 17, 2019, in Sacramento, CA.
- Public Meeting Notice: Overview of the 2018 California Waste Tire Market Report Workshop on May 20, 2019, in Sacramento, CA.
- Public Meeting Notice: Recycling and Disposal Reporting System (RDRS) Workshop on May 21, 2019, in Sacramento, CA.
- Public Meeting Notice: Food Service Packaging at State Facilities (SB 1335) Informal Rulemaking Workshop on June 4, 2019, in Sacramento, CA.
- Public Meeting Notice: Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship (SB 212) Informal Rulemaking Workshop in the SCAQMD facility on June 17, 2019, in Diamond Bar, CA.
- Next Monthly Public Meeting on SB 1383 on June 18, 2019, in Diamond Bar, CA.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m. The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2019, in Conference Room B of Public Works Headquarters.

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