

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

**Minutes for November 19, 2020**

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

**WEB CONFERENCE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Gideon Kracov, Los Angeles County Disposal Association  
Jack Hadjinian, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Liz Reilly, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council 6<sup>th</sup> District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Craig Beck, rep by Charles Tripp, Long Beach Department of Energy  
Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Mark Pestrella, rep by Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shari Afshari, Los Angeles Public Works  
Joe Bartalota, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Gerald Ley, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Chris Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Ms. Clark.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 15, 2020 MINUTES**

Ms. Liz Riley made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Landis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Due to time constraints with Vice Chair's schedule, the sequence of Agenda Items was changed.

**III. DECEMBER TASK FORCE MEETING**

Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to cancel the December Task Force meeting, and Ms. Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The Subcommittee is recommending the Task Force send a letter to Republic Services stating that the proposed importation of 5,000 tons per day of soil to Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) would exceed the Landfill's current Finding of Conformance (FOC) and will require a new FOC. Ms. Reilly motioned to send the letter and Ms. Landis seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

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

Mr. Sheppard reported that there was a presentation by Mr. William Chen of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. The presentation provided an update on the food waste program at the Puente Hills Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Joint Water Pollution Control Plant. The Districts' program continues to process food waste at the MRF and convert food waste into electricity, vehicle fuel, and pipeline natural gas through anaerobic digestion (AD).

Ms. Tracey Anthony of Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) stated that ARI has prepared information on various potential conversion technology (CT) sites in the County. Clements Environmental provided more information on ammonia regulations and best available control technologies for anaerobic digestion facilities. Clements Environmental also prepared an assessment of the existing compost and mulch producers in the County to satisfy the Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) procurement requirements.

An update on upcoming events was provided at the ATAS meeting:

- National Zero Waste Conference, December 1 - 3, 2020, now virtual.
- WASTECON 2020, rescheduled for November, Dallas, TX.
- RNG 2020 Conference, rescheduled for December 2021, Dana Point, CA.
- COMPOST 2021, January 26 - 27, 2021, now virtual.
- International Biomass Conference & Expo, March 15 - 17, 2021, now virtual.

Mr. Sheppard stated there will be an ATAS meeting in December. Waste Management and Anaergia will provide a virtual tour of their Sun Valley facility that processes municipal solid waste and organics.

Ms. Clark requested that links for all virtual tours be provided to the Task Force Members. Mr. Sheppard responded that the Zoom link for the virtual tour can be found on the ATAS agenda and that the meeting is open to the public.

## **VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Sheppard provided the legislative update and noted key dates:

- Legislation is currently between sessions and will reconvene January 4, 2021.
- The last day to submit bills to the Office of Legislative Council is January 22, 2021.
- The last day to introduce bills is February 19, 2021.

Mr. Gideon Kracov asked if there was anything from the County in terms of potential for SB 1383 related legislation that the County will be sponsoring next year. Mr. Coby Skye responded there have been no discussions about the County sponsoring legislation, but that there is a lot of discussion among other local government representatives including the League of Cities and the California State Association of Counties to sponsor that legislation. Mr. Skye expects the County to be part of the discussions.

Mr. Mike Mohajer mentioned hearing a rumor that the Speaker of the Assembly may limit Assembly Members to introduce not more than 12 bills. He commented that this limit would still allow the introduction of about 960 bills. Ms. Clark asked what they usually do, and Mr. Mohajer answered they submit as many as they want. Mr. Sheppard believed there were approximately 2,000 bills last session.

## **VII. OVERVIEW/SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL 1383 DRAFT REGULATIONS DATED OCTOBER 2020**

Mr. Sheppard gave a [presentation](#) on the SB 1383 regulations.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the SB 1383 regulations require jurisdictions to start formulating and adopting ordinances and amending franchise agreements before regulations go into effect on January 1, 2022.

Ms. Landis commented that the State legislature should pass legislation to divert organic waste without imposing strict requirements that are costly for local jurisdictions to implement. Ms. Clark agreed. Ms. Landis added that applying contaminated compost created from food waste to agricultural lands may result in crops being contaminated with bacteria such as E. Coli.

Mr. Coby Skye mentioned that Mr. Sheppard would be giving a presentation on the statewide recycling commission that had some recommendations for organic waste management and SB 1383 compliance.

## **VIII. CALRECYCLE SENATE BILL 1383 LOCAL SERVICES RATE ANALYSIS REPORT**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar gave a [presentation](#) on the local service rates analysis report that was released on October 7, 2020. The purpose of the report was to show the cost impacts of SB 1383 to local jurisdictions.

Ms. Clark asked how the City of Half Moon Bay collects organic waste. Ms. Vazifdar responded that they use a three-container system and that residents put their food waste into the green yard waste bin. Ms. Clark commented that she heard that the Sanitation Districts organics recycling program cannot accept food waste if it is mixed with yard waste, which require a fourth waste collection bin and additional waste hauling vehicles, causing adverse environmental impacts.

Mr. Sam Shammass commented that the Sanitation Districts' wastewater treatment plant can only accept food waste but that a composting facility may be able to accept mixed organic waste including yard waste. Mr. Charles Tripp mentioned that yard waste mixed with food waste can be processed through dry AD, which is the process used by the CR&R AD facility in Perris.

Ms. Landis commented that the Department of Food and Agriculture has strict rules about handling compost. A motion was made by Ms. Clark for Staff to send a letter to the Department of Food and Agriculture about their plans to mitigate the

potential adverse impacts of using composted organic waste for land application as required by SB 1383. The motion was seconded by Ms. Landis. The motion passed with one abstention.

Mr. Skye briefly mentioned that a challenge of SB 1383 is that it focuses only on one type of organic waste when there are really three broad categories of organic waste that include dry woody material that is suitable for chipping and grinding or biomass conversion, green waste material such as leaves and grass that is suitable for composting, and food waste and wet organic material that is suitable for AD. A perfect system would allow each type of organic waste to be collected separately and sent to the appropriate facility.

Ms. Clark announced she had to leave the Task Force meeting, so Ms. Landis filled in as Chair. Ms. Jennifer Wallin of CalRecycle was asked to provide comments in reference to the different ways to separate organics. Ms. Wallin responded that one option is to use split trucks or split containers to allow for additional separation of organic waste without increasing truck traffic.

Ms. Landis commented that in addition to customers and local jurisdictions, the solid waste industry would also experience cost increases resulting from the collection and transport of organic waste. Ms. Wallin acknowledged the difficulty in implementing SB 1383 during the COVID-19 emergency. Discussion ensued regarding CalRecycle working with jurisdictions to implement AB 341, AB 1826, and SB 1383 programs.

#### **IX. OVERVIEW/UPDATE ON ASSEMBLY BILL 1583 STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON RECYCLING MARKETS AND CURBSIDE RECYCLING ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Sheppard gave a [presentation](#) which provided an overview of Assembly Bill 1583 (AB 1583) Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling Activities (Commission) often referred to as the California Recycling Market Development Act and signed into law in 2019. It requires CalRecycle to convene a statewide commission on recycling markets and curbside recycling programs, which includes representation from public agencies, solid waste enterprises and environmental organizations. AB 1583 also requires the Commission to issue policy recommendations to help achieve market development goals, waste reduction goals, and to provide regular feedback to CalRecycle on public messaging that can be used to encourage proper recycling and minimize contamination and curbside programs.

Ms. Landis commented she assumes recyclables includes organics and stated grocers cannot be paid to take back food that is being recycled. Mr. Sheppard's

understanding was this would not be related to organics, but to packaging such as beverage container recycling at grocery stores.

Mr. Mohajer wanted to confirm Mr. Sitts said the three-part test included source separation and not solid waste. Mr. Sheppard responded yes. Mr. Mohajer asked if it does not include solid waste, then why have the discussion. Mr. Skye mentioned an example that Mr. Sitts provided, a bale of mixed plastics that does not have market value and MRFs that were previously creating mixed plastic bales are no longer able to sell them to recycling markets overseas. However, taking that same bale and sending it to a gasification facility that would make fuel from the material that would have less than 10 percent residual and less than 1 percent putrescible, that would be considered a recycling facility. Mr. Mohajer commented that CalRecycle is playing with words when ultimately, we want to get involved with CTs and Mr. Sitts has only picked up one section of the Public Resources Code (PRC) and is completely ignoring the health and safety codes and the other requirement of the PRC that stipulates zero emissions. Mr. Mohajer stated it creates confusion for the audience and CalRecycle needs to be clear in their intent regarding what they are trying to establish.

Mr. Sheppard noted that the Task Force submitted a letter to the Commission, which was received this past week and the Commission was very receptive of the recommendations. The letter contained policy recommendations including extending SB 1383 regulatory deadlines, consolidating facility permitting processes, expanding EPR, supporting reused and repair markets, and increasing several funds. Mr. Sheppard commented the Commission is looking forward to hearing more from the Task Force.

Mr. Skye gave credit to Chair, Ms. Heidi Sanborn, who is very positive in talking about the Task Force's letter and went through the recommendations to ensure that all of the recommendations were assigned to committees to work on them. Mr. Skye believed the final recommendations coming from the Commission will have a lot of alignment with the Task Force's recommendations. Mr. Gideon Kracov commented that it was an excellent letter. Mr. Skye also gave credit to Mr. Sheppard and his team for being incredibly helpful to him in keeping him apprised on all four committees and the Commission. Mr. Mohajer also gave credit to Mr. Sheppard and his team for the wonderful work they do and their responsiveness.

**X. 2019 COUNTYWIDE ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Ms. Trishena Robinson provided an overview of the [2019 Countywide Organic Waste Management Plan Annual Report](#) (Report). The Report was compiled with the intention to primarily address Article 11 of SB 1383 regulations, which requires counties and jurisdictions to estimate the amount of organic waste that will be disposed by the county and jurisdictions within the county; identify the amount of existing organic waste capacity that is verifiably available to the county and jurisdictions located within the county; and estimate the amount of new or expanded organic waste capacity that will be needed to process the organic waste.

The initial reporting date for the data required under Article 11 of the SB 1383 regulations is August 1, 2022. The reporting period will then continue in 2024 with a 3-year planning period, and 2029 and 2034, both with 10-year planning periods. The materials that counties are required to analyze for capacity planning purposes under the bill include food, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, digestate and biosolids. The percentage of organic waste in the disposal stream, based on these materials, is about 51 percent based on 2018 Statewide Waste Characterization study values.

A breakdown of the amount of organic waste that was estimated to have been generated, disposed and diverted by the County in 2019 was presented. Organic waste disposal was significantly greater than diversion, at approximately 5.4 million tons. The diversion was calculated by deducting the disposal from the calculated generation and the value is meant to represent the organic waste that was diverted via both source reduction and recycling.

Ms. Robinson displayed two charts. The In-County pie chart detailed the available organic waste recycling facility capacity located within the County. Approximately three percent of the potentially available capacity came from AD/Co-Digestion facilities or operations. Composting capacity represented the largest amount of potentially available capacity within the County with approximately 50 percent of the total potentially available capacity coming from those types of facilities. Chip and grind facilities made up approximately 47 percent.

The Out-of-County chart detailed potentially available organic waste recycling facility capacity located outside of the County in 2019. Kern, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties were analyzed. Composting capacity represented the largest amount of potentially available capacity, with approximately 86 percent of the total potentially available capacity. Chipping and

grinding facilities made up approximately 13 percent, while the remaining one percent came from AD/Co-Digestion capacity.

Two scenarios from the report were reviewed during the presentation. Both scenarios assume that 100 percent of the organic waste disposed will be diverted from disposal in order to be in alignment with Article 11 of SB 1383 regulations. Both scenarios also assume that all the available in-County capacity will be utilized throughout the planning period. The first scenario assumes that 25 percent of the out-of-County capacity will be available to Los Angeles County, while the second scenario assumes 50 percent will be available. The results of the analysis reveal that the County will need millions of tons of capacity for 2020, 2025, and 2034.

Ms. Robinson also presented estimates of landfill organic waste, processed or diverted organic waste, and potentially known available organic waste capacity, broken down by material type in 2019. Based on analysis, if organic waste was to be handled at only composting facilities, the overall deficit would be approximately 5.15 million tons. If all green, landscape and pruning and wood waste were handled at only chipping and grinding facilities, the overall deficit would be approximately 1.64 million tons.

Staff also performed a similar analysis for AD/Co-Digestion facilities and found that the overall deficit was approximately 1.93 million tons. The Report demonstrated that the County will require a significant tonnage of organic waste recycling facility capacity to manage the large amount of organic waste that is projected to be generated over the next 15 years.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the intent of SB 1383 is to reduce methane and greenhouse gas emissions and that there is a problem with chipping and grinding because they emit greenhouse gases. It is a known fact, based on a study in San Francisco, that composting facilities generate greenhouse gases. Mr. Mohajer added it was essential for CalRecycle and the Air Resources Board to look at the alternatives to composting and chipping and grinding and provide tools for the development of alternative technologies. He was glad to hear that the AB 1583 Commission is receptive to the idea and stated continuing pursuit.

Ms. Landis mentioned an excellent presentation at the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee meeting about NASA doing flyovers of methane-producing areas like SCL. They are also planning on looking at composting operations and mentioned that CalRecycle needs to understand that they are not curing the problem. Ms. Landis also voiced concerns about the compost being produced and not being saleable and she does not want it dumped on natural areas or local parks or anywhere it may cause problems for wildlife and the human population.



Mr. Skye commented there is definitely a need for more studies. What the NASA findings show is that the way composting facilities are operated has a lot to do with whether there are net emissions, particularly methane emission which can undo the greenhouse gas benefits of composting. He shared the effort to have additional evaluation by NASA and by others of what these large-scale composting facilities are emitting. Ms. Landis added that the problem is that the input at the facilities could be thousands of tons. Mr. Skye stated in reference to Ms. Landis' and Mr. Mohajer's comments regarding what is done with wood waste, rather than chipping and grinding, the other alternative for that material is biomass conversion, which is eligible as diversion and as renewable energy. Currently, there are no facilities in the County nor in adjacent counties. Discussion ensued.

#### **XI. 2019 COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. Joe Bartolata gave a presentation on the [2019 Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Annual Report](#) (Annual Report). The Annual Report provided an annual update to the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and consists of two parts. The first part is the Summary Plan assessment. Since there have been no significant changes or updates to the Summary Plan since its approval in 1999, an update was not necessary.

The second part to the Annual Report was the Siting Element Assessment. Since there have been numerous new laws and changes on disposal capacity since the Siting Element was approved in 1998, the Annual Report provides an opportunity to assess those changes. The Annual Report contained disposal data and information updated to the 2019 calendar year, as well as any pertinent information to date.

The historical amount of waste disposed and exported each year from 2008 to 2019, as well as a combined total of each year was shown. The In-County disposal tonnage had increased slightly from 2018 to 2019. There was also an increase in the amount of waste exported out of the County over the last five years. Exports had nearly doubled between 2014 to 2019. During the 2019 calendar year, County residents and businesses disposed approximately 10.5 million tons of solid waste at In-County disposal facilities or exported out of County facilities. Of that amount, 51 percent or approximately 5.6 million tons were disposed at permitted In-County Class III landfills and waste to energy facilities, and 49 percent were exported to other counties, such as Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties.

The top 10 jurisdictions in terms of the amount of solid waste disposed in the County in 2019 included: Los Angeles, Unincorporated Los Angeles County,

Long Beach, Malibu, Glendale, Carson, Pasadena, Santa Clarita, Pomona, and Torrance.

A few Scenarios were highlighted. The first scenario is reliance on existing in-County disposal capacity alone. As a result, a disposal capacity shortfall would be expected during the planning period.

The second scenario, the Status-Quo, assumed diversion rate of 65 percent and continued exports and operations of the waste-to-energy facility. Therefore, relying on the current permitted In-County landfill capacity coupled with export capacity, no shortfall is expected to occur during the planning period.

The next scenario satisfied the SB 1383 requirements that would reduce the disposal of organic waste by 50 percent in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste in 2014 levels by 2020 and 75 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2025. Jurisdictions would meet the requirements of SB 1383 and will result in a diversion rate of 76 percent by 2020. Therefore, no disposal capacity shortfall would be expected to occur during the planning period.

The last scenario considered all solid waste management options become available throughout the planning period, which included additional disposal capacity of 4,000 tons per day from the waste by rail system. As a result of the various efforts by jurisdictions and the County meeting the requirements of state law which resulted to a 75 percent diversion, no disposal capacity shortfall would be expected to occur during the planning period.

In order to avert a disposal shortfall, jurisdictions and County must continue to pursue the following strategies: continue to expand, and maximize diversion, promoting and developing alternative technology facilities, developing additional In-County solid waste management infrastructure, assisting jurisdictions in achieving higher diversion rates, and facilitating the transport to out-of-County facilities.

The future looks good for the County in terms of its ability to provide for the disposal needs for some jurisdictions. Both jurisdictions and the County are encouraged to continue to implement programs in compliance with recent state law. However, the County acknowledges the challenges. Therefore, maintaining adequate reserve (excess) capacity will be essential in ensuring the disposal needs of the County are met throughout the 15-year planning period. Discussion ensued.

## **XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mohajer commented that at last month's Task Force meeting there was discussion about SB 68 that was vetoed by Governor Newsom that eliminated the disposal of treated wood waste at Class III landfills. He brought up the Task Force's concerns about where the material would go come January 1, 2021, since the material is designated as hazardous waste, which would potentially be illegal disposal. Mr. Mohajer is currently working with a group to bring up the issue with the Department of Toxic Substances Control, CalRecycle, and possibly the state with the Governor's staff in an effort to possibly come up with a legislative mechanism to address the dilemma that the veto caused. Mr. Mohajer added that if the Task Force decided to send a letter out between now and the first of the year, he would like to review it because based on what he heard at the last Task Force meeting, the Task Force would be supportive to the efforts. Ms. Clark concurred.

Mr. Mohajer brought up that on November 10, 2020, Mr. Mohajer raised the issue to SCL after reviewing their Waste Characterization Report that reported a six-day period last June in which they disposed almost 5,000 tons of wood waste. He asked what their plans were, come January 1, 2020, when they can no longer accept treated wood waste. SCL responded they would display signage stating treated wood waste is no longer accepted and would probably monitor as they do for any other hazardous waste. Mr. Mohajer could not get a definitive response from the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) regarding what they will do, but that it was something that the LEA, City, County of Los Angeles and SCL must recognize. Discussion of concerns ensued regarding potentially illegal disposal.

Mr. Mohajer announced Mr. Tripps' retirement and that today's Task Force meeting would be his last. Mr. Tripp thanked the Task Force.

Ms. Reilly announced that today's Task Force meeting would be her last since she was not re-elected to the City of Duarte's City Council. Ms. Reilly thanked the Task Force.

Mr. Jack Hadjinian also announced that today's Task Force meeting would be his last. He is no longer sitting on the Montebello City Council. Mr. Hadjinian thanked the Task Force.

Well wishes were given to Mr. Tripp, Ms. Reilly, and Mr. Hadjinian.

**XIII. ADJOURMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled remotely on Thursday, January 21, 2020.