

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

**Minutes for March 18, 2021**

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

**WEB CONFERENCE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Chambers, California League of Cities  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
Gideon Kracov, Los Angeles County Disposal Association  
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities  
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles  
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council 6<sup>th</sup> District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

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 Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Elijah Carder, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Patrick Holland, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Gerald Ley, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Keith Lilley, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Adrian Perea, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, 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  
Jennifer Wallin, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Eillen Hatrick  
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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Ms. Clark.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2021 MINUTES**

Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Mike Mohajer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Christopher Sheppard, ATAS Chair, reported the ATAS received a presentation from Hitachi Zosen INOVA (HZI) which has a number of operating anaerobic digestion (AD) facilities in California. The high solids facility in San Luis Obispo processes about 35,000 to 40,000 tons per year (tpy) of organic waste. They have a facility in Escondido that is currently undergoing commissioning that will initially process 90,000 tpy of material and will expand to 180,000 tpy in Phase 2. HZI is also in the preliminary design phase for a facility in partnership with the Lancaster Landfill, which is owned and operated by Waste Management. The facility would process 180,000 tpy, comprised of 90 percent green waste and 10 percent food waste. The facility will produce renewable natural gas for pipeline injection and vehicle fuel as well as compost. It is expected to be operational by 2024.

Ms. Clark asked if green waste, such as leaves and branches, must be separated from food waste for the HZI technology. Mr. Sheppard responded they can accept mixed food and green waste but prefer as few branches as possible. He added that HZI uses front-end preprocessing that they use to remove contaminants such as large branches.

Ms. Landis asked if the preprocessing can remove gravel and powdered cement from organic waste. Mr. Sheppard responded it could to a certain extent. Ms. Landis asked if it can process animal droppings. Mr. Sheppard responded that animal droppings would pass through to the AD, which operates at about 131 degrees for 14 days and will kill all pathogens and bacteria. He added that the pre-sorting and AD process may not remove heavy metals, so the finished compost is tested for heavy metals. Ms. Landis asked if HZI can process organic waste such as carpets. Mr. Sheppard answered they cannot.

Ms. Clark asked if residents will have to separate leaves and branches in the green waste or if the material will need to be processed at a materials recovery facility before it can be digested. Mr. Coby Skye responded that HZI uses high solids AD which can accept green waste and that there are several other companies that use a similar technology. He explained that standard AD facilities process wet material such as food waste, but high solids AD can accept up to 90 percent green waste including some larger twigs and smaller branches and simply produce more compost and less biogas as a result.

Ms. Clark asked if residents will be asked to separate green waste from food waste. Mr. Skye responded that residents in most jurisdictions will be instructed to add food waste and other biodegradable materials to their green waste bins. Mr. Skye continued that some pre-processing will be needed to remove contaminants. Ms. Landis asked what happens to the contaminants that are removed. Mr. Skye responded that the contaminants are disposed as waste. Ms. Landis asked if grinders are used for the green waste. Mr. Sheppard responded that HZI uses grinders as part of their preprocessing. Mr. Skye added that HZI is capable of producing organic-certified compost due to their extensive pre- and postprocessing.

Mr. Sheppard provided an update on the following events, which were also included in the mailout:

- SoCal Waste Management Forum Spring Conference – virtual on March 24, 2021. Keynote speaker will be Director of CalRecycle, Ms. Rachel Wagoner. There will be a 60-minute session on legislation including environmental bills.
- VerdeXchange – virtual on March 30, 2021
- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: Legislative Updates – virtual on April 8, 2021
- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: Safety Summit – virtual on May 13, 2021
- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: Disaster Recovery – virtual on June 10, 2021
- Waste Expo – June 28 – 30, 2021, in Las Vegas, NV

Public Works released a Request for Information (RFI) this week to gather information on existing and planned organic waste infrastructure in the region. The RFI will be open through April 6, 2021. The RFI was also distributed through the CT newsletter listserv.

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

Ms. Landis, FPRS Chair, provided a report on the FPRS meeting:

- A motion was made for staff to send a letter to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) noting errors in their vegetation quarterly report, as well as the lack of a timeline in their vegetation reports regarding when work will commence in the County Sage Mitigation Area.
- A motion was made to send a letter to Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) identifying their violation of the Finding of Conformance (FOC), Conditions 9, 19, and 22. If CCL does not comply, the Task Force will be making a referral to the DRP for enforcement action for violating Condition 100 of the CUP.
- SCL odor complaints – For the month of February 2021, 10 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Maintenance District (AQMD) hotline. Of those, 6 were classified as Trash and 4 were listed as No Field Response. Compared to January 2021, the number of complaints received in February 2021 increased from 7 to 10 complaints. Compared to February 2020, the number of complaints for February 2021 decreased from 17 to 10 complaints. As of March 5, 2021, AQMD issued no NOVs related to odor for the month of February 2021. The complaints received by AQMD for 2021 is 17.

Ms. Landis then made a motion to send CCL a letter from the Task Force identifying their violations with the FOC and if CCL does not comply, the Task Force will be making a referral to the DRP for enforcement action for violating Condition 100 of the CUP. Mr. Mohajer seconded. The motion passed with 1 abstention.

#### **V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Sheppard provided an update on the [Legislative Table](#), which includes current Assembly and Senate Bills. There are currently 79 bills on the table and 9 on the cover page. Mr. Sheppard announced that the Legislature will be on recess from March 25 to April 4, 2021, and that the Assembly and Senate are currently starting all their committee hearings. There will also be fewer committee hearings because of COVID-19, causing a compressed schedule. It is likely that some bills may end up getting postponed until the next session because of the limited time span and reduced availability of the committee hearings.

- AB 659 (Mathis) – Illegal Dumping Fine Increase. This Bill is similar to last session's SB 409. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Landis seconded. Motioned passed unanimously.

- AB 818 (Bloom) – Solid Waste: Premoistened Nonwoven Disposable Wipes. This Bill is similar to last year’s AB 1672, and would require labelling as not flushable to ensure proper disposal of materials. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Chambers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- AB 843 (Aguiar-Curry) – California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: Renewable Feed-In Tariff. This Bill would allow Community Choice Aggregators to participate in the BioMAT program. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Landis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- AB 881 (Lorena Gonzalez) – Plastic Waste: Diversion: Recycling: Export. This Bill would provide that export of plastic waste outside of California does not count as diversion unless it is consistent with the requirements of the Basel Convention. Mr. Kracov suggested the bill be added to the cover page for discussion and be voted on at the next Task Force meeting in April.
- AB 1086 (Aguiar-Curry) – Organic Waste: Implementation Strategy. This Bill would establish an implementation strategy for organics recycling. The Bill would be better aligned if it included local governments in list of stakeholders to be consulted. Ms. Landis suggested amendments to include State departments such as Department of Toxic Substance Control and Food and Agriculture. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support if amended and Mr. Skye seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- AB 1201 (Ting) – Solid Waste: Plastic Products: Labeling: Compostability and Biodegradability. Would prohibit sale of plastic products labeled as compostable and gives CalRecycle authority to develop regulations for labeling standards to ensure compostability. Mr. Kracov made a motion to support, and Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- AB 1276 (Carrillo Coauthors: Senators Allen and Wiener) – Single-Use Food Accessories. Accessories upon request only. This Bill would prohibit food facilities and third-party delivery platforms from providing single-use food accessories unless requested. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to oppose unless amended to have the state reimburse local governments for the enforcement of the program, Ms. Landis seconded. Motion passed with 3 no’s and 1 abstention.
- SB 240 (Eggman) (Coauthors: Senators Archuleta, Dodd and McGuire) (Coauthors: Assembly Members Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Lackey, Mathis, Patterson, Robert Rivas, Salas, and Seyarto) – Income Tax: Credits: Food Banks. This Bill would extend existing tax credits for food donations to Jan. 1, 2022. It is similar to last year’s AB 614, which the TF supported. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Landis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- SB 289 (Senator Newman) (Principal Coauthors: Assembly Members Berman and Mullin) (Coauthor: Senator Becker) – Recycling: Batteries and Battery-Embedded products. This Extended Producer Responsibility bill would

require the creation of a stewardship program for batteries and battery embedded products. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Chambers seconded. Motion passed with 1 abstention.

Ms. Chambers requested a copy of the legislation being discussed with the overall votes.

Ms. Clark asked when the letter of opposition was sent regarding AB 33 (Ting), banning natural gas connections. Mr. Sheppard responded he believed it was sent this week and could get confirmation that it had been registered with the author's office. Ms. Clark mentioned hearing at a Council of Governments Committee meeting that Assembly Member Ting amended the bill to give local governments more funding. Mr. Mohajer stated he had not read about that in the legislation.

Mr. Kracov made some observations: there are some other bills that he is hoping to see next month, such as SB 619 which has to do with potentially pushing back deadlines on the SB 1383 rules and that there are many other things on plastics. He believes there will be some interesting and noteworthy legislative items that he hopes staff can bring to the Task Force. Mr. Kracov stated that perhaps he can also give staff a list. He commended Mr. Sheppard on his legislative update and noted the importance of prioritizing bills for the Task Force. Mr. Kracov's final observation was that a year and a half ago, the Task Force was having difficulties making quorum and now there is excellent participation from respective members and organizations. He also thanked staff.

Mr. Mohajer commented that SB 619 may increase landfill tipping fees possibly from \$1.45 to \$5. Their justification for the increase is to help local governments implement SB 1383. However, Mr. Mohajer expressed two concerns. First, he is concerned that the increased funding will be used by CalRecycle to create more bureaucracy. His other concern is that the State is moving towards zero waste, by reducing landfill disposal, and then using landfill disposal as a funding mechanism. He added that the League of Cities and waste haulers are also involved. Ms. Clark agreed with Mr. Mohajer and stated she is on the League of Cities Environmental Quality Committee and Derek Dolfie reached out to her regarding the issue and she conveyed that she is not in favor of raising the tipping fees because waste haulers will pass it on to residents. Mr. Kracov's understanding is that big landfill companies, Waste Management and Republic, do not support the increase of tipping fees. He indicated the Task Force can discuss the issue when it is on the agenda.

Mr. Sheppard commented that staff is reviewing many bills and that language is still a bit spotty. However, as bills get amended, staff will elevate them. He asked Task Force Members to forward any suggestions for other bills that they may have to staff. Mr. Sheppard indicated that the development of Task Force legislative platform and procedures, as mentioned by Mr. Ruiz at last month's meeting, is currently being worked on by staff and a draft should be ready for discussion at next month's Task Force meeting.

Ms. Landis asked for an update on AB 318, green waste. Mr. Sheppard responded an oppose unless amended letter was submitted to the authors of the bill and a follow up call with the authors' office is the next step and that Mr. Mohajer would assist in setting up the call. Mr. Mohajer commended that the meeting is scheduled for next Monday and an update will be provided.

Mr. Skye briefly commented he was pleased with the 13 active Task Force Members participating at today's meeting and reiterated if there are any bills that Members are interested in, to notify Mr. Sheppard.

## **VI. BASEL CONVENTION**

Mr. Sheppard gave an update on the Basel Convention (Basel) and stated there has not been a lot of movement at the national level. New amendments to the Basel went into effect on January 1, 2021. There is an Assembly Joint Resolution in California urging the Biden Administration to approve or ratify the Basel at the national level. It is scheduled to be heard in the House Committee of National Resources on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

Mr. Sheppard stated the discussion on the Legislative Table regarding AB 881, which is related to plastic export and ties into this issue so staff will listen to the hearings on that as well. Mr. Sheppard mentioned there have been articles recently published surrounding this issue that can be sent to the Task Force, more particularly in the New York Times where it shows that plastic exports have not decreased since the amendments went into effect. In fact, they have increased, from about 45 million tons to 48 million tons. The question now is how effective amendments are and if things are legal according to the provisions of the treaty. There are a number of articles about the impacts of plastic waste pollution worldwide and an underground market springing up for plastic waste, similar to the recent past with e-waste becoming a black-market commodity that can be worth a lot provided places can receive it. Mr. Sheppard commented that the articles will be shared with the Task Force.

Mr. Mohajer commented he had requested that the Basel update be placed on the agenda because Basel is not limited to plastic pollution and covers various items. In fact, the Basel Convention was formed to manage hazardous waste and in recent years has evolved to plastic pollution. Mr. Mohajer wants to know what various items the Basel Convention includes and what is being addressed by the treaty so that the Task Force can support it. He requested that Staff provide a more detailed presentation about the specific of the Basel at next month's Task Force Meeting. Mr. Sheppard responded that staff would update the previous Basel presentation to the Task Force in January 2021 and will provide more detail about the different types of material.

Mr. Jeff Farano commented that the Scrap Recycling Association has opposed the Basel Convention ever since it was brought up. Under Basel, scrap is considered hazardous waste and this has had an impact on regular scrap as well as electronics and that is why they opposed it and in order to address the issue they would have to open the United States code to deal with those definitions, which will not happen. The scrap industry has been able to freely sell their scrap and export it around the country because the United States is not tied to Basel. The concern is that Basel will define scrap incorrectly as hazardous waste. Mr. Farano asked if Mr. Sheppard could address these concerns. Mr. Sheppard responded that staff will review the Basel and address those concerns in the presentation next month.

Ms. Landis asked how the pandemic has affected the amount of plastic being recycled considering many people have disposable items and the grocery store has everything wrapped in plastic. She wondered if plastic waste had increased. Mr. Mohajer commented that the waste generation from the residential sector has increased while the waste generation from the commercial sector has decreased.

## **VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Mr. Jennifer Wallin reported the following from CalRecycle:

- The formal SB 1383 rulemaking comments and responses have been posted on their CalRecycle website.
- Local Government Waste Tire Amnesty Grant Program. Application is due on April 6, 2021.
- Beverage Container Redemption Pilot Project Grant Program. Application is due on January 1, 2022.
- There will be two SB 1383 Regional Webinars:
  - Central Coast: March 25, 2021, from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
  - Northern California: March 30, 2021, from 9 a.m. – noon.

- Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship Plan Workshop will be held on March 24, 2021, from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- Overview of the 2020 California Waste Tire Market Report Workshop will be held on June 9, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Mr. Mohajer reiterated that CalRecycle Director Rachel Wagoner will be the keynote speaker at the SoCal Waste Management Forum Spring Conference that will be held virtually on Zoom. Registration is \$25 for members of the SoCal Waste Management and will be \$40 for non-members.

#### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Chambers stated she is honored to participate in the Task Force. She also requested that staff provide the legislative bills that were discussed and were voted upon. She would like to keep her community and colleagues updated on the legislation.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled remotely on Thursday, April 15, 2021, at 1 p.m.