

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

Minutes for June 17, 2021

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

WEB CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, California League of Cities
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Gideon Kracov, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council 6th 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
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District
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:

Michelle Chambers, California League of Cities
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gabriel Esparza, 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
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Ms. Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 20, 2021 MINUTES

Ms. Landis made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected with substantive edits. Ms. Landis stated the report from the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS) had two blank spaces where information about ATAS speakers should have been printed. Mr. Coby Skye recommended the minutes be addressed and voted upon at the next meeting.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Christopher Sheppard, ATAS Chair, reported the ATAS received a presentation by Mark Paisley of [Taylor Biomass Energy](#) (Taylor) about their gasification facility in Montgomery, New York. Taylor's Montgomery facility will expand from its current capacity of 307 tons per day (tpd) of construction and demolition (C&D) waste and 100 tpd of wood waste, to accommodate a new inflow of 450 tpd of C&D waste, 100 tpd of wood waste, and 500 tpd of municipal solid waste (MSW). The facility converts the organic biomass portion of MSW to electric power, through its gasification technology. With the facility's expansion, it will generate a net 20 megawatts of clean renewable energy. The presentation will be available on the ATAS June Minutes on the Task Force website.

Tetra Tech provided the conversion technology update. They reported that they are supporting Public Works with the following:

- Preparing a report back to the Board of Supervisors, due in September, in response to a June 8, 2021 Board motion to Enhance Countywide Solid Waste Management through Expanded Programs and Infrastructure Investments which will include a discussion of conversion technology facilities.
- Developing Fact Sheets on different types of anaerobic digestion (AD).
- Analyzing environmental benefits of greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with AD.

The following conversion technology events and conferences are coming up and may be found in the Conversion Technology Newsletter and on the website (www.socalconversion.org):

- Waste EXPO: June 28 - 30, 2021, Las Vegas, NV

- The World Biogas Summit 2021: July 6 – 8, 2021, virtual
- Biomass Summit & Expo: July 13 – 15, 2021, Des Moines, IA
- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: High Diversion Facilities: July 22, 2021, virtual
- Resource Recycling Conference & Trade Show: August 4 – 5, 2021, virtual
- Waste Conversion Technology Conference & Trade Show: August 16 – 18, 2021, San Diego, CA
- California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) Conference & Trade Show: August 16 – 19, 2021, virtual
- The International Conference on Thermochemical Conversion Science: September 14 – 16, 2021, Denver, CO
- CEAC Policy Conference: September 15 – 16, 2021, virtual
- Renewable Natural Gas Works Technical Workshop & Trade Expo: September 29 – 30, 2021, Nashville, TN
- Solid Waste Management Forum: November 2021 and in person

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

Ms. Landis, FPRS Chair, provided a report on the FPRS meeting regarding Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) and Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL):

- SCL revised their proposal for clean soil importation to 2,500 per day.
- There were 4 odor complaints for SCL in May 2021; 3 were classified as No Field Response and 1 was listed as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect odor. AQMD has not issued any Notice of Violations (NOVs) related to odor complaints for the month of May 2021. The total number of odor complaints for 2021, is 46.
- The Subcommittee found out last month that SCL had modified its load checking to be visual, approved by LEA due to the pandemic and to protect the safety of employees. SCL's reports did not indicate the waste load checking program had been modified. SCL resumed physical load checking on May 25, 2021.
- The FPRS had a discussion regarding CCL, including lawsuits, NOVs, methane migration, amended orders for abatement, gas collection system, and standard operating procedures for odor and litter. CCL will provide a status update to AQMD on August 3, 2021, regarding odor control.
- The FPRS also had a discussion regarding the alternative daily cover used at CCL and whether it is biodegradable.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Sheppard noted the following bills that the Task Force took positions on that will not be moving forward through the legislature this year:

- AB 96: clean truck bus and off-road vehicle equipment technology requirements.
- AB 318: cannabis waste.
- AB 659: illegal dumping.
- AB 661: recycling materials.
- AB 734: organic waste and edible food requirements.
- AB 842: plastic pollution reduction.
- AB 1371: plastic packaging and delivery.
- SB 240: income tax credits for food banks and related to organic waste.
- SB 289: batteries.
- SB 605: the right to repair certain medical devices.

June 15, 2021 was the deadline for the budget bill to be passed and there may be several trailer bills. Staff will keep the Task Force informed. July 14, 2021 is the last day for Policy Committees to meet and report on bills. July 16, 2021 is the start of the summer recess. The legislature will reconvene on August 16, 2021.

There were 82 bills on the [Legislative Table](#). Mr. Sheppard highlighted 4 bills on the cover page and the Task Force took a position on three of the four:

- AB 363 (Medina) - Amended on May 25, 2021, related to Carl Moyer Memorial Air Quality Standards Attainment Program. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to support if amended, and Ms. Landis seconded. The motion passed with 2 abstentions.
- AB 478 (Ting, Lorena Gonzalez, and Irwin) - Amended on April 21, 2021, related to Solid Waste: Thermoform Plastic Containers: Postconsumer Recycled Plastic. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Mr. Skye seconded. The motion passed with 1 abstention.
- AB 707 (Quirk) – Amended on May 28, 2021, Mercury Thermostat Collection Act of 2021, related to Medical Device Right to Repair Act. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Mr. Skye seconded. The motion passed with 2 abstentions.
- SB 38 (Wieckowski) – Amended on May 26, 2021, related to Beverage Containers. Mr. Skye made a motion to support if amended, and Ms. Landis seconded. Motion did not pass due to 5 voting yes, 5 voting no, and

3 abstentions. The bill will be revisited and voted on again next month to allow the Task Force time to review the bill in more detail.

Mr. Skye spoke briefly of SB 38, stating that the bill addresses two items that the Task Force has long supported which is producer responsibility and making certain that the manufacturers have a stake in making sure that their products do not have a negative impact at their end of life and in recycling; and in the current bottle bill program in which people are getting money back for turning items in. Discussion among the Task Force about concerns with the bill ensued, including needing additional information to make an informed decision. Mr. Skye also commented that staff can put together a brief fact sheet on other bills related to the bottle bill that are currently being considered and will present at the next Task Force meeting.

Before moving on to the Statewide Commission on Recycling update, Mr. Skye asked Ms. Clark if it would be worthwhile to reconsider the draft minutes and asked Ms. Carol Oyola to share the minutes to make certain there were no areas on the minutes that were missing. After further review it appeared that several hyperlinks that were included in the minutes were not showing up properly for Ms. Landis. Mr. Skye asked Ms. Oyola to work with Ms. Landis to try and resolve the issue.

Mr. Wayde Hunter with the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens commented that the minutes seemed complete and he saw no missing text or links.

VI. UPDATE ON STATEWIDE COMMISSION ON RECYCLING

Mr. Skye was appointed to the Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling last year and they have been working through a number of recommendations. At the end of 2020, the Commission submitted an interim report to the legislature that included 19 policy recommendations, primarily addressing the state meeting the 75 percent recycling goal and the 75 percent organic waste reduction goal to improve recycling in California. After 6 months, the Commission finalized the report yesterday that included an additional 11 policy recommendations that will be sent to the state legislature. One of the new recommendations is to develop a clearer labeling system for what is recyclable and what is compostable in California that should be based on actual market conditions, what the processors are actually recovering and selling as a commodity to markets, rather than just what is potentially labeled as recyclable or collected in a curbside bin. The intent is to provide more transparency for the consumer when they purchase a product and assisting them to determine whether they place the product in the curbside bin to turn it into a commodity and not just processed through a material recovery facility or to be simply disposed of.

Mr. Skye mentioned the Commission having some very good policies related to counterproductive incentives that encourage more waste generation and disposal and turning those around by promoting conversion technologies, particularly to recover organic waste and produce renewable energy and other marketable products. They also had several proposals related to producer responsibility. Mr. Skye also noted that several of the 19 recommendations that were submitted last year by the Commission were introduced to legislation and continue to make their way through the legislature this year. He mentioned there will be a summary table in the report that summarizes all the bills and their status. He will be happy to share with the Task Force once the report is finalized.

Ms. Landis voiced her concern about recycling things defined by CalRecycle as organic because some items may be contaminated or toxic. She brought up composting taking a lot of space and the end result may not be marketed because of toxicity or other problems and will have to be placed somewhere, which would be in any open acreage available. Mr. Skye responded that the Commission shared the same concerns and that several proposals specifically addressed potential contamination, whether through land application or processing through composting of materials that are not properly source separated and have contaminants removed. The Commission also addressed contamination from pathogens or other diseases that may be spread by organic waste if not properly managed.

Ms. Landis' other concern is that the Lancaster Landfill is taking its organics to the Antelope Valley Landfill, which in turn has a deal with a farmer in the Central Valley to compost the organics. Mr. Skye shared Ms. Landis' concern and noted that the Commission makes a distinction between organic materials which are subject to SB 1383 requirements and required to be diverted from disposal and what is labeled as compostable, which is a much smaller subset of materials. The Commission's recommendation is to have a very high threshold, including meeting the standards of the Food and Drug Administration, for composting of organic waste. Discussion ensued.

VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin reported the following from CalRecycle:

- Documents released on CalRecycle' website include calculator tools related to capacity planning, edible recovery, and organic waste recycling capacity.
- Shared the 2016-19 jurisdiction review findings at May's public meeting.
- The 2020 Annual Report was released.

- Applications are due on July 29, 2021, for Tire Incentive Reimbursement Program.

Ms. Clark asked if the information on jurisdiction review findings is public record, and if anyone could go onto CalRecycle's website to see what cities have done and how they met their goals. Ms. Wallen replied the item was a high-level request for approval so there would be a listing of jurisdictions that were in each of the requests for approval, including the City of Rosemead.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hunter thanked Public Works staff and the FPRS for their work and support regarding Republic Services soil importation request in addressing community concerns. Mr. Mohajer commended staff on their efforts and hard work for as long as he has been on the Task Force. Ms. Landis also thanked staff for addressing all the Task Force's concerns and requests.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held remotely on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 1 p.m.