

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

Minutes for November 18, 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
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, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Public Health
Bernadette Halverson, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Michelle Chambers, California League of Cities
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Keith Lilley, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass. Mr. Shammass thanked Mr. Gideon Kracov for his efforts with the Task Force as today was his last meeting with the Task Force. Mr. Kracov thanked members and the staff to the Task Force.

II. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 MINUTES

Mr. Eddie De La Riva made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected and Mr. Coby Skye seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer, PEIS Chair, reported that the Inside Solid Waste Fall Newsletter has yet to be published. Because of the ongoing slow process for publications, Mr. Mohajer suggested that if things do not get better, the Task Force may consider sending a letter to the Director of Public Works (PW) expressing its concerns. Mr. Skye commented that PW had made additional commitments for staffing to support the Subcommittee. He also noted that for the past month, staff had been inundated with additional work, particularly the outreach team that works on the newsletter, as a result of the Dominguez Channel incident. Mr. Skye expects regular staffing to resume soon, thus clearing any backlogs and publishing the next issue of newsletter shortly.

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

Mr. Charles Darensbourg reported the ATAS received a [presentation](#) by Mr. Eric Belluna of Belluno Organics on its technology, which processes food waste to produce animal feed and fertilizer. They have multiple facilities in northern California and a future project in South Gate that will process 300 tons of food waste per day.

Ms. Christine Arbogast of Tetra Tech reported that they are supporting PW in Senate Bill 1383 efforts.

There was an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

- CSAC 127th Annual Meeting/CEAC Fall Conference: November 30 – December 3, 2021, Monterey County, CA

- National Zero Waste Virtual Conference: December 8 – 9, 2021, Virtual
- Compost 2022: January 24 – 27, 2022, Austin, TX
- Global Waste Management Symposium: February 14 – 17, 2021, Indian Wells, CA

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

Ms. Landis, FPRS Chair, reported on the following discussed items at the FPRS meeting:

- Motion was passed to wait for the Task Force's decision on whether to have a December meeting, to determine if the Subcommittee has a meeting.
- Special meeting on November 9, 2021, to review the Preliminary Draft Revised Countywide Siting Element (Draft CSE) and Draft Environmental Report (Draft EIR).
 - Many comments were noted, including the original draft being prepared in 2018 before severe climate changes with drought and forest fires, the Santa Monica Pier being chosen as a potential site for an alternative technology facility, and the many concerns on how sites may affect communities.
 - Motion was passed from the FPRS to recommend to the Task Force to send a letter to PW, based on special meeting comments, to have PW address and revise the Draft CSE and Draft EIR, accordingly.
- Report on the progress of siting and building alternative technology facilities for processing solid waste.
- Update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill
 - Subsurface Landfill Gas migration report had wrong website links for maps.
 - Status of the two lawsuits; settlement discussions are ongoing with one lawsuit and the other lawsuit is scheduled to be presented to a judge.
 - Notices of Violation (NOVs) and odor complaints will be discussed at the January meeting.
- Update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill
 - There were 74 odor complaints for October 2021, 31 were classified as trash and the rest were listed as No Field Response. AQMD issued 2 NOVs. The number of complaints for 2021 is 304.
 - Discussion regarding SCL not covering trash on weekends and staff will review what is needed for potential use of an alternative daily cover.
 - Quarterly Vegetation Report will not be out until January 2022.

Mr. Mohajer commented that he was not clear on what was going to be done regarding the Draft CSE and his understanding was that staff was going to prepare a revised Draft CSE, submit to FPRS for review and comment, and send back to PW before sending to CalRecycle. Ms. Landis noted that Ms. Carol Oyola had her motion down correctly on the draft Special Meeting minutes. There was further discussion about needing clarity on what would be done and reflected in the minutes and Mr. Mohajer stated his opinion that there is no reason for sending the letter to the Director of PW. Ms. Landis responded that at the November 9, 2021 Special Meeting that Mr. Mohajer was unable to attend, Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa stated a letter had to be sent from the Task Force to PW requesting the Draft CSE be revised according to Subcommittee comments. Mr. Shammass asked Ms. Oyola to read the motion from the Special Meeting minutes. Ms. Oyola stated that she was reading from the draft minutes that were being reviewed by staff and would be forwarded to Administration for final review. Ms. Landis made a motion to request the Task Force, based on today's meeting comments, to have PW address and revise the Draft CSE and Draft EIR, accordingly.

Mr. Shammass continued to the next item, Consideration of Task Force Draft CSE and asked that either Mr. Skye or Mr. Aiyetiwa make opening remarks.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF TASK FORCE COMMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Mr. Skye commented that if appropriate, he would like to make the motion as Ms. Oyola read it and for the Task Force's consideration with the clarification that the Draft CSE will be shared with the Task Force for further review, and it would be up to the Task Force to give it back to the Subcommittee. Ms. Landis disagreed because the FPRS is the Subcommittee to the Task Force that handles such topics.

Mr. Aiyetiwa explained that once PW receives all the comments from the Task Force, cities and public, PW would compile and address all the comments that will go back to the Task Force and Subcommittee for their review before the Draft CSE is disseminated to all cities for their final review. Mr. Mohajer stated according to State Regulations after comments are received from the Task Force, cities and public, both the Task Force and PW work together in finalizing the final Draft CSE before it is submitted to the Board of Supervisors (Board) for approval. Ms. Reina Pereira commented that the cities were reviewing the existing draft. Mr. Shammass responded that the public comment period had ended. Mr. Aiyetiwa informed the Task Force that although the public comment period ended on November 15, 2021, comments are still being accepted. Mr. Skye tried to clarify at the Subcommittee meeting that every time the document goes to the

Task Force, which is governed by the Brown Act, the public and other stakeholders can comment, and that PW anticipated receiving additional comments from cities. He added that what was being voted on were the Task Force comments and that staff would compile all comments received from all stakeholders and incorporate them into the revised document. The next version of the document would address the comments received and would be reviewed by the Task Force before it is released to the cities and public. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Skye made a motion to request the Task Force to send a letter to PW to address and revise the Draft CSE and Draft EIR, with comments from the Subcommittee at the Special Meeting, as well as comments from all stakeholders. Once revisions are made, the documents will be given to the Subcommittee and Task Force for review before it goes out again to the cities. Mr. Shammas seconded the motion. Motion passed with two abstentions.

VII. UPDATE REGARDING ONGOING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Mr. Shammas gave the update provided by County Counsel. The State Legislature passed Assembly Bill 361, which replaced the Governor's Executive Order and allows legislative bodies to continue conducting virtual meetings without all of the teleconference requirements under the Ralph M. Brown Act, as long as COVID-19 continues and the health authorities recommend social distancing. Assembly Bill 361 also requires the legislative body to make findings every 30 days regarding the continuing state of emergency and the need to meet remotely. Therefore, if there is more than a 30-day lapse between regular scheduled meetings, the Task Force would need to have a special meeting to make the findings.

On November 2, 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted a motion to make the required findings, not only for itself, but also on behalf of commissions and task forces created by the Board. Thus, the Task Force can rely on findings made by the Board for as long as the Board determines that the COVID-19 emergency continues.

Mr. Mohajer wanted to verify if a commissioner's location for a meeting was outside of Los Angeles County, if they had to note the location on the meeting agenda. Mr. Skye responded that County Counsel's understanding is that the law temporarily suspends noting locations on agendas when meetings are virtual and outside of the normal location and as long as a finding had been made, it does not matter whether someone is joining a meeting outside of the jurisdiction.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Darensbourg provided the legislative update. State Legislature is scheduled to return on January 3, 2022, to begin the second year of the 2021-22 session. The last day for each house to pass bills introduced in 2021 in their respective houses is January 31, 2022.

- SB 244: Lithium-Ion Batteries Illegal Disposal Fire Prevention (vetoed by Governor). The Legislature has 60 calendar days to act upon vetoed bills. While the Legislature can override a veto by a 2/3 vote in both houses, Task Force staff is unaware of any plans to do so.
- SB 619, Organic Waste: Reduction Regulations: Local Jurisdiction Compliance: CalRecycle hosted a webinar this morning and advised that SB 619 offers an extended compliance deadline for jurisdictions that are not prepared to comply with the SB 1383 regulations by January 1, 2022. The law provides jurisdictions an opportunity to submit a notice of intent to comply with SB 1383 to CalRecycle by March 1, 2022. Penalties are not automatically imposed and will be on a case-by-case basis. CalRecycle will post the webinar, but the date is to be determined.
- Several bills did not make it through the 2021 legislative session but are expected to move along starting in January 2022.
- Staff has continued to identify a total of 49 bills related to waste management on the Legislative Table for the second year of the session.

Mr. Mohajer asked if CalRecycle would be adopting any emergency regulations for the implementation of SB 619. Mr. Darensbourg responded that staff would review CalRecycle's meeting minutes and get back to Mr. Mohajer. Mr. Mohajer commented that if they adopt emergency regulations, CalRecycle would not have to go through the process of reviews from the Office of Administrative Law and general public. Mr. Mohajer asked to be contacted after staff confirmed. Mr. Skye recommended a special presentation at the next Task Force meeting regarding SB 619 since things are still being developed.

IX. REVIEW OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION PLAN (CPUC ESJ)

Mr. Darensbourg presented on the [CPUC's Draft ESJ Action Plan Version 2.0](#) and provided an overview of the proposed Task Force comments on the draft Action Plan.

Ms. Landis was pleased to hear about the goals being worked on that she felt very strongly about.

X. STAFF REPORT ON PROGRESS OF SITING AND BUILDING ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES FOR PROCESSING SOLID WASTE

Mr. Darensbourg provided a brief update on the [Progress of Siting and Building Alternate Technology Facilities for Processing Solid Waste](#). The Task Force and PW have continued their efforts in encouraging alternative technologies. The Southern California Conversion Technology project is an initiative of the County and is spearheaded by PW Environmental Programs Division to divert organic waste and other post-recycled solid waste from landfills. Through this project, PW provides assistance to project developers regarding, but not limited to, identifying sites, conducting feasibility studies, performing cost analysis, and answering questions regarding permitting, and writing letters of support for grant applications.

Ms. Landis expressed concerns for building these facilities at locations such as the Santa Monica Pier or other areas where ocean level could rise due to climate change and would be a waste of investment. Mr. Darensbourg thanked Ms. Landis for her comment.

Mr. Shammass asked if staff had a schedule for the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Calabasas Landfill facility. Mr. Darensbourg responded that staff is currently working on the schedule and they were planning to have the RFP ready by early 2022. However, PW Administration still needs to review and noted that the RFP is prepared, but final details are being worked on in conjunction with public outreach and engaging the community.

Ms. Landis suggested a contest with architects and engineers to see who can come up with the most pleasant conversion technology facility possible and stated if a building is pleasant looking to the eye, then it could fit into neighborhoods. Ms. Landis also asked why there was not some sort of commission or group of interest with architects to work with the engineers in efforts to make a facility look like part of the community. Mr. Skye thanked Ms. Landis for her suggestion and said he would forward her recommendation.

XI. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin reported the following from CalRecycle:

- New funding opportunities related to California's comeback plan that includes \$270 million dedicated to fight climate change and transition to a circular economy. The following grants will come from the \$270 million.
 - Edible Food Recovery Grant applications due on December 16, 2021.
 - Comments on proposed grant criteria for Compliance Assistant due on November 19, 2021.

- CalRecycle will start accepting SB 619 Notice of Intent forms on December 1, 2021.
- Jurisdiction procurement targets posted on website, based on respective population.
- Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup Grant application due today, November 18, 2021.
- Tire-Derived Aggregate Grant applications due on December 8, 2021.
- Beverage Container Redemption Pilot Project Grant applications due on January 1, 2022.
- Competitive Grant applications are open until January 1, 2022.
- Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grant applications due on February 1, 2022.
- Legacy Disposal Site Abatement Grant applications due on February 1, 2022.
- Carpet Stewardship Workshop on December 16, 2021.

XII. DECEMBER TASK FORCE MEETING

Mr. Skye made a motion to not hold a December meeting unless something urgent arises, at which time staff would notify the Vice-Chair immediately with its recommendation. Ms. Landis and Mr. Mohajer simultaneously seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:42 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 1 p.m.