

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

Minutes for May 19, 2022

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, League of California Cities
Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Public Health
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Patrick Holland, Los Angeles County Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass. Mr. Shammass introduced and congratulated Ms. Emiko Thompson as an Alternate to the Task Force representing Public Works.

II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 21, 2022 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 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE (PEIS)

Mr. Mohajer reported that the PEIS reviewed five articles to be published in the next issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. Articles included Return of Smart Gardening Workshops, Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) by the City of Arcadia, Los Angeles County Single Use Plastics Ordinance, Reuse Centers at Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center and EDCO Recycling and Transfer, and the Governor's 2022-23 May Revision Budget Proposal.

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

Mr. Chris Sheppard reported that the ATAS received a presentation from [Shell](#). The presentation provided information on Shell's efforts to provide renewable energy resources including renewable natural gas (RNG) and liquid natural gas created from recycled waste. Shell has a facility in Oregon which produces 736,000 MMBtu per year of RNG from dairy manure and agricultural residue and two facilities under construction in Kansas and Idaho that are expected to produce 900,000 MMBtu per year of RNG from dairy manure. Shell is also exploring energy storage and hydrogen production.

Tetra Tech continues supporting Public Works with evaluating the potential to develop organic waste processing facilities at closed landfill sites, as well as assisting with the development of the Calabasas Landfill anaerobic digestion facility Request for Proposals.

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

Ms. Landis asked if the presentation discussed the production of electricity for vehicle charging stations. Mr. Sheppard responded that there was discussion on energy storage as well as on producing RNG and converting it into electricity. Ms. Landis elaborated on the need for electricity production. Mr. Sheppard mentioned that Anaergia is working with a wastewater treatment facility to convert biogas from food waste co-digestion into electricity.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the following on the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) lawsuits are under negotiation.
- Discussion regarding the CCL air monitoring stations in relation to the surrounding communities.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) had 38 odor complaints in April 2022 and one NOV issued. Total number of odor complaints for 2022 is 338.

VI. CALRECYCLE SENATE BILL 1383 PROCUREMENT WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided a [presentation](#) on jurisdictions implementing SB 1383 procurement requirements, including how purchasing targets are calculated and the mechanisms that local jurisdictions can use to reach their targets. He also discussed the benefits and challenges associated with procuring biogas from anaerobic digestion as well as compost, and mulch that presenters shared during CalRecycle's webinar.

Ms. Landis shared her concerns about compost created from contaminated organic waste being applied to natural lands. Mr. Darensbourg responded that her points were well taken and that it may be difficult for compost and mulch to satisfy contamination standards.

Mr. Jordan Sisson noted that the presentation stated that RNG is the main product created by anaerobic digestion facilities and could be used by waste haulers to satisfy the procurement requirement. He continued that the California Air Resource Board (CARB) is developing Advanced Clean Fleet Regulations to require medium- and heavy-duty fleet electrification and that local jurisdictions such as Los Angeles County may not be able to meet the procurement requirement if such vehicles cannot use RNG. He stated that the waste hauling industry has made sizable investments to ensure that heavy-duty waste hauling vehicles do not generate significant emissions. Mr. Sisson requested that an item be placed on next month's Task Force meeting agenda regarding CARB's proposed regulations

and opportunities for waste haulers to use RNG produced from in-state organic waste processing. Mr. Mohajer concurred with Mr. Sisson and added that CARB is adopting their 2022 Climate Change Scoping Plan and is encouraging a transition from RNG to electric vehicles. He added that the State does not have adequate electricity to support this transition. Mr. Holland concurred that this item should be added to the agenda for next month's meeting.

VII. GOVERNOR'S MAY BUDGET REVISED

Mr. Sheppard reported on the Governor's budget that was released on May 13, 2022. Specific funding for waste-related activities and solid waste programs were made available in previously allocated 2021 budget that included:

- \$15.1 billion over three years to support many different climate resilience and natural resources investments.
- \$270 million for the circular economy over a two-year period.
- \$3.7 billion from the general fund over three years to support investments in climate resilience and to address the multifaceted state climate risks.
- \$3.9 billion for vehicle electrification zero emission vehicles over three years.
- \$2 billion for clean energy investment plan.
- \$8 billion to further increase the state's energy system resiliency.

The May budget revision included \$10 million for CalRecycle to implement a composting pilot program to advance organic waste diversion and \$100 million, one time spending, for the greenhouse gas reduction fund for methane satellites to collect weekly measurements of large methane emissions in the state. Mr. Sheppard noted there was not a lot of additional new funding identified, but there were also no decreases in the existing funding for waste-related items. The legislature will deliberate on the Governor's May budget revision for the next month and will vote on an initial budget package by June 15, 2022.

Ms. Landis emphasized the importance of meeting the rules and regulations set forth by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and California Department of Toxic Substances Control when handling quarantined plant material and applying compost and mulch products produced from organic waste processing. Mr. Sheppard mentioned that the Task Force received a response from the CDFA and CalRecycle to the Task Force's letter on the subject sent in February 2022. Ms. Landis stated she reviewed the letter and regulations and is still concerned.

Mr. Mohajer commented that he reviewed a 2022-23 budget summary dated May 13, 2022, from the Governor's office and did not see budget allocations for waste-related issues. However, under the California Environmental Protection Agency umbrella which includes CalRecycle, the California State Water Resources Control Board and Engineering Technical Support Center, the budget was increased by 1.15 percent compared to what was proposed in January 2022. In addition, Mr. Mohajer noted the revised budget for legislative, judicial, and executive salaries were raised by 20.46 percent and that the Natural Resources budget increased by 1.68 percent. Due to increased gas prices, the budget for transportation was reduced by 17.12 percent.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Sheppard provided the legislative update and noted the following key dates: Many appropriation hearings are today, May 19, 2022; tomorrow, May 20, 2022, is the last day for fiscal committees to report bills to the floor; and May 27, 2022, is the last day for bills to be passed out of their house of origin. There were 53 bills on the [Legislative Table](#). Mr. Sheppard highlighted three bills on the cover page:

- AB 2026 (Friedman and Ting) - Recycling: plastic packaging and carryout bags. The bill would prevent online retailers from using certain types of plastic in their shipping and would reestablish the At-Store recycling program. Noting the benefits of conversion technologies and the various obstacles within the current legislation for the development of conversion technologies, Mr. Mohajer made a motion to "Support and Amend," and Ms. Landis seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.
- SB 1046 (Eggman and Gonzalez) – Solid waste: precheckout bags. The bill would prohibit stores, after January 1, 2025, from providing single-use plastic checkout bags unless they are compostable or paper bags and meet specified compostability standards. Mr. Sisson made a motion to "Support if Amended" by striking out the section about compostable bags, and Mr. Jim Smith seconded. Motion passed with three abstentions.
- SB 1256 (Wieckowski) – Waste management: disposable propane cylinders. The bill would, on and after January 1, 2028, prohibit the sale of disposable propane cylinders. The bill is aligned with Task Force policy as it will transition from single-use propane cylinders to reusable cylinders. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to "Support," and Mr. Patrick Holland seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Jennifer Wallen reported the following from CalRecycle:

- Co-Digestion Grant application due today, May 19, 2022.
- Four EAR reporting Webinars: June 2, 2022 (City and County focus), June 3, 2022 (Regional Agency focus), June 8, 2022 (Special Districts that provide solid waste collection services focus), and June 9, 2022 (City and County focus).
- California Waste Tire Market Report Workshop on June 22, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. and a County focus workshop at 1 p.m.

CalRecycle is working on realigning their local assistance function. In the near future there will be a new local representative from CalRecycle attending Task Force meetings to provide updates. An official notice is forthcoming. Several Task Force members expressed their gratitude to Ms. Wallin and her team for the years of CalRecycle updates to the Task Force.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 1 p.m.