

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

May 16, 2024

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

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
Mark Pestrella, rep by Miki Esposito, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works
Wayne Nastri, rep by Philip Crabbe III, South Coast Air Quality Management District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Wayne Nastri, rep by Philip Crabbe III, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Gabriel Arenas, Los Angeles County Public Works
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Omar Carrillo Maldonado, Los Angeles County Public Works
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Ms. Miki Esposito who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella. Ms. Esposito announced a request to modify the agenda by moving up Item XIV. Discussion on 2020 Goals & Priorities Report Comments, to Item IX. There were no objections from Task Force members.

II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2024, MINUTES

Ms. Margaret Clark made a motion to approve the April 18, 2024, minutes and Mr. Sam Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following was reported by Mr. Christopher Sheppard:

- April 26 and May 3, 2024, were the last dates for bills to move out of policy committees.
- May 16, 2024, is the day for Appropriations Hearings for all bills. If bills are not out of Appropriations by May 17, 2024, then they become dead.
- There were 43 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) of which six did not make it out of their committees, and are dead.

If a bill dies, it will be noted as such on the Legislative Table for one month and will be removed in the following month.

IV. DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION ON SENATE BILL 1359

SB 1359 (Wilk) - amended 4/24/24 – Illegal dumping.

There was discussion of amended bill language regarding certain activities moving from infraction to misdemeanor, the illegal dumping and transportation of material to be dumped, and liability.

Ms. Miki Esposito made a motion and seconded by Mr. Jordan Sisson to recommend a position of Support for SB 1359 and to request that the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch (CEO-LAIR) prepare a Memo of Findings (MOF). The motion also included sending a letter to the Board pending receipt of a consistent MOF from the CEO-LAIR. If the MOF finds that the recommendation is inconsistent with existing County policy, the MOF will be sent back to the Task Force for further

consideration. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Ms. Esposito, Mr. Sisson, Ms. Margaret Clark, Mr. Eddie De La Riva, Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo, Mr. Ron Milo, Mr. Sam Shammass, and Mr. Jim Smith) and two abstaining (Mr. Philip Crabbe III, and Ms. Erin Rowland).

V. DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION ON ASSEMBLY BILL 1426

SB 1426 (Blakespear) – amended 4/10/24 - Waste reduction: undiverted materials. No action was taken by the Task Force since the bill is dead.

VI. DISCUSS BOARD POSITION ON ASSEMBLY BILL 2514

AB 2514 (Aguiar-Curry) – amended 4/10/24 - Solid waste: organic waste: diversion: hydrogen: biomethane.

The Task Force members discussed the need for AB 2514 to be amended to allow jurisdictions that use a mixed waste organic collection system to be able to produce renewable hydrogen, as defined, and to be able to procure it as a recovered organic waste product. Last month, the Task Force recommended to the CEO-LAIR a Support if Amended recommendation for AB 2514.

There was also discussion on how the Task Force can make a motion to request the CEO-LAIR provide a Memo of findings (MOF) and upon receipt of the MOF, send a letter to the Board before the next Task Force meeting. The current two-step process of first requesting a MOF from the CEO-LAIR and then placing the bill back on the next Task Force agenda to make a second motion to send a recommendation to the Board can cause unnecessary delays. However, the CEO-LAIR must know the Task Force's recommendation before providing a MOF. When making a motion to send a recommendation to the CEO-LAIR, the Task Force can consider including in the motion or making a separate motion to send a letter to the Board if the MOF is consistent with Board policy.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens asked if the MOF was a letter and if so, would it be attached to the recommendation letter from the Task Force to the Board. Mr. Sheppard responded that the MOF would be attached as a pdf document.

Motion was made by Mr. Shammass and seconded by Ms. Clark to recommend a letter of Support if Amended for AB 2514 to the Board with MOF attached. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Mr. Shammass, Ms. Clark, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Hanson-Lugo, Mr. Ron Milo, Ms. Rowland, and Mr. Sisson) and two abstaining (Mr. Crabbe III and Mr. Smith).

VII. DISCUSS BOARD POSITION ON SENATE BILL 1143

SB 1143 – amended 4/18/24 - Household hazardous waste: producer responsibility.

At the last Task Force meeting, the Task Force voted to send CEO-LAIR a recommendation to support SB 1143. CEO-LAIR findings noted that County took a support position on the bill on March 13, 2024, based on existing policy to support proposals that accelerate the deployment and maintenance of public infrastructure that incorporates environmental services.

There was discussion of amended bill language specifying single producer responsibility organization rather than multiple producer responsibility organizations. There were concerns about multiple programs under one umbrella and how existing programs, such as the roundup program, may be impacted. The benefit of funding at the producer level was also brought up because hazardous waste roundup programs are costly for local jurisdictions.

Motion was made by Ms. Rowland and seconded by Mr. Smith to send a Support recommendation letter to the Board with MOF attached. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Ms. Rowland, Mr. Smith, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Hanson-Lugo, Mr. Milo, Mr. Shammass, and Mr. Sisson) and two abstaining (Ms. Clark and Mr. Crabbe III).

VIII. DISCUSS BOARD POSITION ON ASSEMBLY BILL 2346

AB 2346 – amended 4/10/24 - Organic waste reductions regulations: procurement of recovered organic waste products.

There was discussion regarding the Task Force's Support and Amend recommendation, as discussed at last month's meeting, to broaden the assistance of SB 1383 eligible procurement products for local jurisdictions. The County has taken a support position on the bill on March 13, 2024, based on existing policy to support proposals that expedite the deployment and maintenance of public infrastructure that incorporates environmental services.

Motion was made by Ms. Rowland and seconded by Mr. Crabbe III for Public Works (PW) staff to watch the bill and bring back updates to the Task Force. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. DISCUSSION ON 2020 GOALS & PRIORITIES REPORT COMMENTS

Mr. Sheppard provided an overview of updates made to the 2020 Goals and Priorities Report (Report). Staff incorporated comments received from members during last month's Task Force meeting into the Report. Staff prepared [redlined](#) and [clean](#) drafts of the Report as well as a [Comparison to Countywide Siting Element Goals and Policies](#). These documents were disseminated to the Task Force on May 14, 2024.

Mr. Sisson asked if there were any inconsistencies or conflicts identified between the Countywide Siting Element Goals and Policies and the Report. Mr. Sheppard responded that there were no conflicts identified.

The Task Force was asked to review the documents and provide any additional comments. An item would be included on a future meeting agenda for the Task Force to consider adopting the updated Report.

X. FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE VACANCIES

Ms. Esposito opened the floor to receive more nominations to fill the vacancy on the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) and that no vote would be taken at this meeting. She noted the existing nomination of Mr. Hunter to fill the vacancy on the FPRS. The nomination was made in January 2024.

Ms. Clark supported Mr. Hunter's nomination because he represents the public, has good knowledge of the subject matter, and attends all the meetings. She made a motion to appoint Mr. Hunter to the FPRS. Ms. Esposito noted Ms. Clark's motion and asked if there were any other nominations.

Mr. Smith inquired whether a FPRS member needed to be a member of the Task Force. Ms. Esposito responded no and asked staff to provide the background of FPRS responsibilities. Ms. Emiko Thompson informed that the FPRS is largely tasked with overseeing some of the planning documents related to disposal, waste management, finding of conformance reports submitted by facilities, as well as discussing several issues at facilities. Ms. Thompson further advised that the FPRS is more technical with discussions on landfill operations and materials recovery facilities. The time commitment of the FPRS is similar of that to the Task Force where they meet monthly at 11 a.m. for one hour but depending on topics, may go about 20 minutes beyond.

In response to Ms. Rowland's questions, Ms. Esposito confirmed that the current open position is for a member and not the Chair of the FPRS.

Ms. Carol Saucillo informed that when Ms. Betsey Landis retired, Mr. Mike Mohajer assumed the responsibility of interim Chair. She further clarified that there are five seats on the FPRS which include the Sanitation Districts, Public Health, PW, a Public Representative, and an Environmental representative. The current vacancy on the FPRS is for an Environmental representative. The Chair would be selected from those five respective seats by the Task Force.

Mr. Smith asked if the FPRS membership may be expanded on which Mr. Jonathan Brazile of County Counsel responded that the Task Force has the authority to expand the FPRS membership and decide what they want the membership makeup to be.

Mr. Sisson stated that within the last couple of years, he has appreciated Mr. Mohajer's institutional knowledge that is invaluable, and that he is much more than just a member of the public. He further noted that the FPRS does a lot of the heavy lifting because it is very technical, and believes it is very important to have a diversity of opinions with qualified and bonified perspectives, as well as members having good technical expertise on the subject matter.

Ms. Clark noted that Mr. Mohajer had nominated Mr. Hunter. She moved to appoint Mr. Hunter as a member of the FPRS today and if someone wanted to join that had the expertise, they could do so later as County Counsel confirmed the Task Force had the authority.

Subsequently, Ms. Rowland nominated Mr. Basil Cantu with the City of Long Beach to fill the vacancy on the FPRS, who has been attending Task Force meetings within the last handful of months and has been working with the solid waste industry for almost 10 years with experience on the operations side and with public education.

Ms. Esposito reminded the Task Force that there are currently two nominations on the floor and a motion to vote for Mr. Hunter today. However, she clarified that there is no pressure on the Task Force to vote today, and if the Task Force wants to vet more information or learn more about candidates, it can be done. Mr. Brazile cautioned that a vote today may be a violation of the Brown Act, as it should be properly agendaized.

Mr. Sisson asked what vacancies the Task Force had. Ms. Saucillo responded there were three vacancies on the Task Force that include the Business/Commerce representative and Environmental representative, which are both Board-appointed positions, and a City of Los Angeles appointed vacancy.

During public comment, Mr. Hunter was upset that his contributions were being questioned, that he was being treated as a nuisance, and that he was not given an opportunity to make a statement about his experience and qualifications. He added that he attends almost every meeting and listed his experience and credentials. As the public comment got heated, Ms. Esposito stepped in to move the item along.

A motion was introduced by Mr. Smith to agendaize vote of the nominees to fill FPRS vacancies. Ms. Rowland amended the motion to include credentials of nominees and if there are any additional recommendations made the day of or between now and then, that they may be included in the meeting, and to also consider expanding FPRS membership. Mr. Crabbe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. UPDATE ON SENATE BILL 54 REGULATORY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided a brief overview and [update](#) on SB 54 regulations.

Mr. Milo stated he did not see clarification on how fees are calculated in the proposed eco-modulation. Mr. Darensbourg responded that in the SB 54 law, there is mention in the Public Resource Code on how to determine calculations but was uncertain if regulations have been fully developed on how to determine them. Producers with certain packaging must do an eco-modulation that is in the statute of the law, that includes recyclability, compostability, and trying to reduce their packaging, and if they cannot, they must pay a fee. Those fees support further efforts to reduce packaging.

XII. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE (PEIS)

Ms. Vanessa Olivas reported the following from the PEIS meeting:

The Subcommittee had quorum and approved Minutes for [August 17, 2023](#), [November 16, 2023](#), and [February 15, 2024](#). The Subcommittee also reviewed and approved as amended nine articles to be published in the summer issue of the

Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2024.

Mr. Sisson asked Ms. Olivas what she felt was the highest priority for this Subcommittee. Ms. Olivas responded to get more cities and communities involved in submitting articles.

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

Mr. Fahim Rahimi reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

Tetra Tech provided a [Technical Discussion](#) on Anaerobic Digestion (AD) of Materials from the Collected Waste Stream. They also provided an overview of the following work that they recently submitted to PW for review:

- Draft Countywide Siting Evaluation for the development of AD and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facilities within the unincorporated County areas and 88 jurisdictions in the County.
- Workplan to perform a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will investigate land availability and land use compatibility.
- Draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for the Antelope Valley, in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92, which includes a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for CT facility options.

Staff provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

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

Ms. Emiko Thompson reported the following from the FPRS meeting:

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- The chemical reaction at CCL continues to generate landfill gas and leachate.
- In April 2024, the South Coast Air Quality Maintenance District (AQMD) issued 21 Notices of Violation (NOVs) related to odor.
- CCL continues to install gas and liquid extraction wells and geomembrane cover around the reaction area.

- Various regulatory agencies continue to monitor and regulate mitigation activities.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- There were 266 odor complaints made to the AQMD hotline and 6 NOVs issued in April 2024.
- Compared to March 2024, the number of complaints received in April 2024 decreased from 272 to 266 odor complaints.
- Various regulatory agencies continue to work in collaboration on addressing odor mitigation measures at SCL.
- Finding of Conformance Report was given, which included a waste characterization study at Calabasas Landfill for Fall 2023 and respective reports for the first quarter of 2024 from SCL and CCL regarding quantities of materials received.

XV. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

CalRecycle provided an [update](#) to the Task Force.

Ms. Hanson-Lugo asked if the May 23, 2024, event on recycling and reporting was a workshop. Ms. Adylene Gonzalez of CalRecycle confirmed it was a Recycling and Disposal Reporting System webinar that will be on Zoom.

XVI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 20, 2024, at 1 p.m.