

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

**August 15, 2024**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities  
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Jim Smith, Teamster Local 396, City of Los Angeles  
Jordan R. Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Wayne Nastri, rep by Phillip Crabbe III, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County  
Basil Cantu, Long Beach Public Works  
Darin Sprecher, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Siyavash Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Karlo Manalo, 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  
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Ms. Miki Esposito who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

## **II. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2024, MINUTES**

Mr. Eddie De La Riva made a motion to approve the July 18, 2024, minutes as amended, and Ms. Margaret Clark seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

## **III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The following was reported by Mr. Christopher Sheppard:

- Legislature reconvened from summer recess on August 5, 2024, and is resuming hearings in the Appropriation Committees with less than a month to review about 1,300 bills.
- The Appropriation Suspense File Hearing took place today, August 15, 2024.
- Bills that pass out of the Suspense File Hearing will move to the Senate or Assembly. Bills that are held in the Hearing will be dead for the year.
- Bills have until August 31, 2024, to get off the floor.
- The Governor has from September 1 to September 30, 2024, to sign or veto bills.

Mr. Sisson asked if there could be potential changes on bills moving forward until they get to the Governor's desk. Mr. Sheppard responded there could be because during the appropriations process, there are technical amendments received from various state agencies who purview certain policies so when agency staff submit their technical updates, they often do not make it to print before the Appropriations Committee Hearing. Therefore, the technical amendments will not be seen until after the Hearing.

There were 24 bills on the [Legislative Table](#). The following Senate and Assembly bills are in the Appropriation Suspense File:

- AB 2346 (Lee) – amended 07/03/24 - Organic waste reduction regulations: procurement of recovered organic waste products.
- AB 2514 (Aguiar-Curry) – amended 07/03/24 – Solid waste: organic waste: diversion: hydrogen: biomethane.
- SB 1143 (Allen) – amended 03/21/24 – Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility.

- SB 1234 (Allen) – amended 06/10/24 – Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.

The following bill is dead due to opposition with the California Public Defender's Association, which created issues for the bill to move forward:

- SB 1359 (Wilk) – amended 06/10/24 – Illegal dumping.

If SB 1359 does not return in the next legislative session, Mr. Sisson suggested that staff find out what could be done at a local level to improve the bill.

#### **IV. OVERVIEW OF SENATE BILL 101 BASELINE REPORT FOR THE ZERO WASTE PLAN**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided an [overview](#) of the SB 101 Baseline Report for the Zero Waste Plan (ZWP) and included updates from CalRecycle's workshop on August 14, 2024.

Mr. Ron Milo asked about CalRecycle's plan for providing financial assistance to closed facilities in order to retrofit them for compliance. Ms. Vazifdar responded that the ZWP Baseline Report indicated the need to identify sustainable funding sources to implement all the recommendations. She added that while CalRecycle may not have a solution yet, they acknowledged that funding is an issue.

Mr. Milo commented that since plastics numbered 3, 4, 6, and 7 are considered contaminants due to the lack of market demand, CalRecycle could explore marketing opportunities or conduct research and development to facilitate their recycling. Ms. Vazifdar responded that while CalRecycle is aware of the need to divert these plastics, they did not specify a plan for developing such markets.

Mr. Sisson asked whether the ZWP Baseline Report provided a specific requirement for achieving zero waste or if CalRecycle was merely soliciting feedback. Ms. Vazifdar stated that they were only soliciting feedback at this time.

Ms. Erin Rowland commented that the ZWP Baseline Report contained very broad statements, and jurisdictions are concerned about additional responsibilities that may be imposed. At CalRecycle's workshop, many people commented that the State's existing 75 percent diversion goal has not been met and that they did not believe that more ambitious goals should be established until 75 percent diversion is achieved. She also inquired about upcoming workshops. Ms. Vazifdar noted that staff can inform the Task Force of future CalRecycle workshops and provide additional presentations if needed.

Given that current landfill surcharges are around \$1.40, Ms. Rowland asked whether there have been any historical efforts to raise the surcharge. Mr. Sheppard mentioned that there have been past efforts to explore adjusting surcharges, but these efforts did not progress significantly at the State level. He suggested that staff could provide a summary of past efforts.

Ms. Esposito asked if CalRecycle will release a draft ZWP for public review and comment before it is submitted to the Legislature. Ms. Vazifdar was unsure but indicated that staff would monitor and provide updates of any potential commenting opportunities. Ms. Esposito inquired whether CalRecycle has data on textiles and if the data would be incorporated into their circular economy initiatives. Ms. Vazifdar stated that CalRecycle has conducted waste characterization studies that indicate the estimated percentage of landfill disposal which is comprised of textiles. She added that she is not aware of any additional data because the State does not currently have a comprehensive textile recovery program.

Mr. Wayne Hunter asked Mr. Milo about the increase in processing costs and the decrease in available material at materials recovery facilities (MRF). Mr. Milo responded that residents continue to place certain plastics which no longer have markets in the recycling bin, and that these plastics must be removed as contaminants at the MRF. He added that increase in contaminants increases the processing costs. Mr. Hunter noted that while the public tries to recycle, plastics do not have a label which indicates to residents whether they can be recycled. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Clark suggested that local jurisdictions provide outreach to residents, such as kitchen magnets which indicate what can be recycled. Mr. Milo responded that the City of Los Angeles provides such magnets to the public. However, Mr. Sam Shammis, noted each jurisdiction has different haulers which have different guidelines for how to separate materials for recycling. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Vazifdar asked if the Task Force would like to submit comments on the report. Ms. Esposito responded that there would not be another Task Force meeting before the commenting deadline to allow for a vote. Mr. Sisson suggested that staff prepare draft comments for the Task Force to review and/or edit and present the comments at a future meeting which could be submitted if CalRecycle provides future opportunities for the public to submit comments on ZWP documents.

**V. UPDATE ON ORGANIC WASTE CAPACITY ANALYSIS FOR THE COUNTY AS PART OF SENATE BILL 1383**

Mr. Aric Rodriguez provided an [update](#) on the final SB 1383 capacity report that was sent to CalRecycle on July 31, 2024. It was noted that the County is not

responsible for ensuring and enforcing jurisdictions to conduct the capacity planning that is required. The role is the responsibility of CalRecycle. The County is responsible for collecting, compiling, and submitting the data on behalf of all jurisdictions within the County.

Mr. Jim Smith asked which three jurisdictions did not fulfill the requirement to submit data to Public Works (PW). Mr. Rodriguez was hesitant to specifically name the jurisdictions but did note that some submitted their data after the deadline, so the issue would be between them and CalRecycle. Mr. Smith asked if the data would be public record. Mr. Sheppard indicated that PW's understanding is that CalRecycle is reviewing the information and once they have determination and have contacted those jurisdictions, then CalRecycle would make it public information.

#### **VI. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE (PEIS)**

Mr. Vigen Abramyan reported the following from the PEIS meeting:

There was no quorum so minutes will be approved at the next Subcommittee meeting on November 21, 2024. The Subcommittee reviewed eight articles to be published in the fall issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter.

Ms. Esposito asked if the Task Force had access to the draft articles and Mr. Abramyan confirmed they were public and linked in the PEIS agenda.

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

Ms. Vazifdar reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

FuelCell provided a [presentation](#) on the Tri-gen Project at the Toyota Logistic Services facility Port of Long Beach. They use fuel cells to generate low-to-zero-carbon power, including hydrogen, from biomethane. The source of this biomethane is biogas from anaerobic digesters at the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority Plant.

Tetra Tech reported that they:

- Are preparing a presentation for the next Subcommittee meeting on how jurisdictions can procure renewable natural gas to meet SB 1383 procurement requirements.

- Are preparing a presentation for the November Task Force meeting, which will provide a broad perspective on organic waste management challenges, anaerobic digestion (AD) technologies, and AD industry in California.
- Are compiling a grant application package for submittal to the Department of Energy for the Waste Analysis and Strategies for Transportation End-uses grant opportunity. This grant would be for the proposed Calabasas AD facility.
- Have submitted a first draft of an AD White Paper which provides an objective overview of AD technologies and the state of the AD industry.
- Have submitted a draft Countywide Siting Evaluation (CSE) for the development of AD and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facilities within the unincorporated County.
- Have submitted a Draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit (CUP), Condition 92, which includes the performance of a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for CT facility options.
- Are performing a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will evaluate limits of waste and surrounding utilities for the potential development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities.

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

Ms. Esposito introduced Mr. Siyavash Araumi, who will serve as Chair of the ATAS.

#### **VIII. 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.
- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issued 18 Notices of Violation (NOV) in the month of July 2024 related to air quality.
- CCL continues to install gas and liquid extraction wells and geomembrane cover around the reaction area to mitigate odors.
- Los Angeles County Regional Planning issued a [revised NOV](#) on August 14, 2024, that supersedes the NOV issued on July 1, 2024, for violations to CCL's CUP related to tonnage exceedances for 2023. The revised NOV included the reduction of the original penalty of \$92,000 to \$27,000.

### Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- Odor complaint data for the month of July 2024 is not yet available on AQMD's website. Mr. Larry Israel with AQMD, who attended the Subcommittee meeting, reported 30 odor complaints received and no NOVs issued for the month of July.

### Finding of Conformance (FOC)

- Staff provided a high level [overview](#) of the FOC, which provides a mechanism to include new facilities or expansion of existing facilities in the CSE.
- For more information on the FOC process and the Task Force's role, the information may be found in Chapter 10 of the [CSE](#).

Ms. Esposito advised the Task Force that the CCL's CUP language requires CCL to reduce waste by one million tons by January 2025 and asked Ms. Thompson about potential impacts in the waste collection system since the waste must be diverted. Ms. Thompson responded that trash generated and being disposed of in Los Angeles County is going to a combination of both in County and out of County landfills, which accounts for about 60 percent and about 40 percent of the waste, respectively, and includes CCL. CCL is seeking roughly about 12 to 17 percent of total waste disposed. If waste is not taken to CCL, then it would likely be taken to other landfills including Simi-Valley in Ventura County and Lancaster and Antelope Valley Landfills.

Ms. Esposito advised that CCL is working with the haulers and customers to notify them of the change in January 2025.

Mr. Shammass' understanding was that there is a settlement agreement amending the amount of tonnage allowed in the CUP, but the amended CUP was not yet issued, and asked if there were any updates. Ms. Thompson responded there were no updates because there are many factors largely attributed to the odor incident at CCL, but the reduction in tonnage was already established prior to the amendment. Mr. Shammass's noted the original CUP limits would still be in effect.

Mr. Hunter asked if SCL would be one of the landfills receiving trash diverted from CCL. Ms. Thompson confirmed yes, along with others. Mr. Hunter was aware that CCL exceeded their tonnage limit but did not see anything from the County informing the public. Ms. Esposito responded that there was an NOV issued by Regional Planning on the exceedance that is separate from the issue of reduction and intake in January 2025. Mr. Hunter asked if something was sent out from PW to the public on the exceedance. Ms. Thompson responded that nothing has been sent out on a widespread basis, but PW is preparing and reaching out to

counterpart agencies and contract haulers. CCL is also reaching out to its customers.

#### **IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Mr. Darin Sprecher provided an [update](#) to the Task Force, which PW staff disseminated to the Task Force prior to the meeting.

Since there is a Beverage Container Recycling Grant and a City/County Payment Program, Mr. Milo asked if a municipality is a recipient of one program could they still apply for the other. Mr. Sprecher did not know the answer, but indicated the question could be e-mailed to CalRecycle at [grantsassistance@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:grantsassistance@calrecycle.ca.gov).

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Sheppard provided an update in real time from the Appropriations Committees and informed the following bills are moving forward from the Suspense File:

- AB 2514 (Aguiar-Curry) – amended 07/03/24 – Solid waste: organic waste: diversion: hydrogen: biomethane.
- SB 1143 (Allen) – amended 03/21/24 – bill passes with significant changes and is now in the Paint products: stewardship program.
- SB 707 (Newman) – amended 06/10/24 – Responsible Textile Recovery Act 2024.

Ms. Carol Saucillo informed the Task Force that CalRecycle's update will be linked on agenda as requested at last month's Task Force meeting.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at 1 p.m.