

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

October 17, 2024

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
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 Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Ken Habaradas, 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:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
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
Siyavash Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Shawntelle Phillips, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, 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
Kim Yapp, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Mr. Cid Tesoro who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

II. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, MINUTES

Mr. Eddie De La Riva made a motion to approve the September 19, 2024, minutes and Mr. Jim Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following was reported by Mr. Siyavash Araumi:

- The 2023-24 Legislative Session ended on September 30, 2024, and Legislature is on recess until December 2024.
- The Governor was assertive in his priorities which entailed homelessness, housing, mental health services, and energy policy.
- The Governor vetoed close to 200 bills out of nearly 1,200 that Legislature passed.
- There were 16 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) of which 13 were approved by the Governor and go into effect on January 1, 2025. Three bills were vetoed:

Mr. Jordan Sisson suggested that staff provide information on chaptered bills regarding how they will be implemented, best practices, and troubleshooting areas. Mr. Smith supported the suggestion.

The following key bills signed by the Governor were highlighted:

- AB 863 (Aguiar-Curry, Dodd) – Carpet recycling: producer responsibility organizations: fines: succession: training.
- AB 2346 (Lee) – Organic waste reduction regulations: procurement of recovered organic waste products.
- SB 707 (Newman) - Responsible Textile Recovery Act 2024.
- SB 1053 (Blakespear, Allen) – Solid waste: recycled paper bags: standards: carryout bag prohibition.
- SB 1143 (Allen) – Paint products: stewardship program.

The following bills are dead:

- SB 615 (Allen, Min) – Vehicle traction batteries.

- SB 972 (Min) – Methane emission: organic waste: landfills.
- SB 1066 (Blakespear) – Hazardous waste: marine flares: manufacturer responsibility.

Staff will continue to work with the Chief Executive Office on bills and will keep the Task Force apprised.

Ms. Erin Roland commented that the Legislative Table noted some legislation regarding extended producer responsibility policy that will impact other organizations. She asked if staff could perhaps add timelines. Mr. Sisson concurred with Ms. Rowland's suggestion but did not want to burden staff with additional work so suggested a simple chart be created noting respective bills, the dates they go into effect, the regulatory rulemaking process, and deadlines if applicable. Mr. Tesoro confirmed the requested suggestions could be presented at the next Task Force meeting for review.

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

Mr. Araumi reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

Astera and Carbon Conversion Group provided a [presentation](#) on their technology for converting plastic waste into graphene using a microwave process. They emphasized how this technology could serve as an alternative to landfilling industrial plastics, contributing to sustainability and waste management goals.

Tetra Tech reported that they:

- Have presented to the October Infrastructure LA Sustainable Waste and Recycling Management Committee (SWARM) on Senate Bill (SB) 1383 Renewable Natural Gas Procurement. This presentation was previously given to the September ATAS Subcommittee.
- Have submitted a Countywide Siting Evaluation Report for the development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facilities within Los Angeles County. This initial site assessment identified parcels throughout the County that met screening criteria based on State and local siting and permitting guidelines. The next steps include further evaluation of the feasibility of developing infrastructure at parcels identified in the initial site assessment.
- Are preparing a presentation for the November Task Force meeting, which will provide a broad perspective on regional organic waste management challenges, AD, and CTs.

- Are performing further evaluation of three closed landfill sites to assess the 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](#).

V. 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.
- During the month of September 2024, there were 19 Notices of Violation (NOV) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) related to air quality.
- CCL is under a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) from AQMD that was modified in August 2024. The next AQMD Hearing for the SOA is scheduled for November 13, 2024.
- Various regulatory agencies continue to monitor the chemical reaction at CCL and take actions to mitigate the reaction and the impacts to nearby communities.
- Staff is currently gathering information on changes in hauling and facility operations to get a better understanding of impacts. Details are anticipated to be discussed at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- During the month of September 2024, there were 179 odor complaints made to the AQMD hotline, and 5 NOVs were issued.
- Compared to August 2024, the number of complaints received in September 2024 increased from 65 odor complaints to 179.
- Irrigation at SCL was discussed.

Finding of Conformance

- Waste Characterizations were conducted for one week in mid-September 2024 for Antelope Valley and Lancaster Landfills. Except for the increase in plastics at the Lancaster Landfill, there were no significant changes in the waste stream.

Mr. Ron Milo commented that one of their contractors was instructed to stop dumping at CCL and asked how long the temporary hold on dumping would be. Ms. Thomson commented that it was difficult to tell how long the duration would be as Waste Connections, who operates CCL, is making business decisions internally on how much reduction there will be at any given time. She further informed that there are requirements that are in motion from regulatory agencies such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board Water Board, Los Angeles County Regional Planning, and the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). Ms. Thompson informed that there are available disposal facilities inside and outside of the County. Her understanding is that haulers are negotiating and making business agreements with respective disposal facilities regarding capacity.

Mr. Milo asked if there was a list of disposal facilities with their capacities. Ms. Thompson responded there was available capacity space on average tonnages that are disposed at various landfills, but there are business decisions that are being made.

Mr. Sisson noted that haulers are already seeing the shock of increased rates. His understanding is that Orange County will be significantly reducing what they are accepting from in-County and out of County next month. He believed the concerns about capacity, and its effects on the market are things this Subcommittee should start thinking about.

Mr. Milo asked what measures were being taken to mitigate odors at CCL and if there were any updates on the effectiveness of those mitigation efforts. Ms. Thompson responded that the two primary factors at CCL are managing the gas and leachate. Some problems have been solved including landfill gas collection capacity to keep it from spreading. The temperature probes installed in the vicinity of the reaction area are suggesting that it is not spreading. Regulatory agencies and the LEA are monitoring the situation.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens shared his concerns of the rising odors at SCL, stating they have had 1,656 odor complaints so far this year through October and that the next three months will be very bad. He further noted there were nearly 150 odor complaints in October, with 65 reported in one day, and that the reason given for the increase was because Southern California Edison cut off SCL's power without notification.

Mr. Hunter stated that SCL should have backup generators available and that he has pleaded with County to enforce the Conditional Use Permit that SCL must

comply with because the odors are affecting the community and impacting children at nearby schools because they cannot play outside.

VI. UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE

Ms. Rowland reported that the Ad Hoc had their meeting on October 15, 2024, and began to review an initial draft of Task Force Bylaws. The process is moving forward, and the next Ad Hoc meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2024.

VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Adylene Gonzalez provided an [update](#) to the Task Force.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 1 p.m.