

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

April 18, 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

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, 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
Ken Habaradas, Los Angeles County Public Health
Gabriel Arenas, Los Angeles County Public Works
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Fitchmun, 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
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 MARCH 21, 2024, MINUTES

Mr. Sam Shammass made a motion to approve the March 21, 2024, and Mr. Jim Smith seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following was reported by Mr. Christopher Sheppard:

- April 26, 2024, is the last day for policy committees to hear fiscal bills.
- May 3, 2024, is the last day for policy committees to hear nonfiscal bills.
- The Appropriations Suspense File Hearing will likely take place on May 16, 2024.
- May 17, 2024, is the last day for fiscal bills to pass onto the floor.
- May 20 – 24, 2024, there will be floor sessions only to vote on bills.
- May 24, 2024, is the last day for bills to pass out of their house of origin.

There were 43 bills on the [Legislative Table](#), with 5 on the Cover Page that were presented on from the agenda for the Task Force to make recommendations on to the Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR). Mr. Sheppard explained that future Cover Pages may include bills to be discussed for recommendation by the Task Force to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) and that bill recommendations are a two-step process with recommendations first going to the CEO-LAIR for a memo of findings and then formal recommendations going to the Board. He detailed the process for recommendations on legislation from the Task Force.

Ms. Erin Rowland asked if a recommendation could be a support or oppose. Ms. Esposito and Mr. Sheppard confirmed yes and that recommendations may also be neutral or more nuanced with a support if amended or support and amend.

Ms. Clark voiced her disapproval of the new legislation policy process that the Task Force must comply with and noted that nobody had responded to her inquiry on why the process had changed or how the change was made in the County Code legally. Her concern with the new process is the delay it would cause with bills having to be reviewed by the Task Force and then by the CEO-LAIR, and asked if

Public Works (PW) staff could review the bills and forward them to the CEO-LAIR prior to Task Force meetings in an effort to speed up the process, so Task Force members know which bills have been approved. Mr. Sheppard responded that the CEO needs a recommendation from a commission in order to determine the full findings of County alignment of bills and the next steps, as explained in [Guidelines for County Commissions and Advisory Bodies](#). Discussion ensued.

Ms. Esposito asked that a Legislative Schedule be provided to the Task Force. Mr. Sheppard responded a copy would be provided.

IV. DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION ON ASSEMBLY BILL 2346

AB 2346 (Lee) - amended on April 10, 2024: Organic waste reduction regulations: procurement of recovered organic waste products. Mr. Jordan Sisson made a motion to send CEO-LAIR a recommendation to support AB 2346 and to amend AB 2346 to expand the SB 1383 eligible procurement products that a local jurisdiction may claim procurement credits. Ms. Rowland seconded. Motion passed with nine voting yes (Mr. Sisson, Ms. Rowland, Ms. Clark, Mr. Eddie De La Riva, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo, Mr. Ron Milo, Mr. Jim Smith, and Mr. Sam Shammas).

V. DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION ON SENATE BILL 1143

SB 1143 (Allen) – amended on March 18, 2024: Household hazardous waste: producer responsibility. Mr. Shammas made a motion to send CEO-LAIR a recommendation to support SB 1143, and Mr. Ron Milo seconded. Motion passed with nine voting yes (Mr. Shammas, Mr. Milo, Ms. Clark, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Hanson-Lugo, Ms. Rowland, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Smith).

VI. DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION ON ASSEMBLY BILL 2514

AB 2514 (Aguiar-Curry) – amended on April 10, 2024: Solid waste: organic waste. Ms. Clark made a motion to send CEO-LAIR a recommendation to support if amended. The recommended amendment is to add mixed waste organics collection system as an eligible feedstock for renewable hydrogen which can be procured by jurisdictions as an eligible SB 1383 recovered organic waste product. Ms. Clark emphasized to consider strong advocacy for the recommended amendments to avoid the unintended consequences from the original bill language. Mr. Shammas seconded. Motion passed with eight voting yes

(Ms. Clark, Mr. Shammass, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Esposito, Ms. Hanson-Lugo, Mr. Milo, Ms. Rowland, and Mr. Sisson) and one abstaining (Mr. Smith).

Mr. Hunter pointed out that the current legislation process for the Task Force is not as effective as the previous system due to the many steps now taken with recommendations to CEO-LAIR and then to the Board. Bills can change where the Task Force may not have time to react since legislation moves so quickly. To see how successful this new process is, Mr. Hunter suggested tracking the bills with the noted recommendations to determine the outcome and time involved.

VII. DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION ON SENATE BILL 1359

SB 1359 (Wilk) – amended on March 18, 2024: Illegal dumping. Task Force discussed waste concerns and the issue of accountability with owners and local agencies. There was discussion regarding accountability by property owners and agents, law enforcement discretions, and concerns regarding penalties to property owners for illegal dumping when someone dumps on their property without permission. No vote was taken due to loss of quorum with Mr. De La Riva leaving.

Mr. Sisson recommended the bills that could not be voted on, be expedited at the next Task Force meeting, and to try limiting the number of bills discussed, or to be timelier. He was pleased with the extra lead time given to review the bills, which induced a robust discussion.

Mr. Milo asked if there were any education or outreach with language that could be given before enforcement because many residents do not know if items are illegal to dispose. Mr. Sheppard responded that this bill was brand new so changes could be incorporated into existing illegal dumping campaigns and that the County has an illegal dumping campaign that is targeted more towards dumpers to make certain they know what they are doing is not legal.

Ms. Hanson-Lugo attended CalRecycle's technical training in Long Beach where attendees were strongly encouraged to submit comments on SB 54, single-use packaging. Mr. Sheppard responded that SB 54 is currently undergoing the regulatory development process to outline all the specifics and that the item could be placed in the May Task Force agenda.

VIII. DISCUSS RECOMMENDATION ON ASSEMBLY BILL 1426

SB 1426 (Blakespear) – amended on April 10, 2024: Waste reduction: undiverted materials. This bill was requested by the Task Force at last month's meeting. Members raised their concerns on the bill including its impact on the current waste collection system by undermining the franchise system and issues with validity of material being diverted, no action was taken due to loss of quorum.

IX. COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided an [overview](#) of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan (CIWMP) Draft Five-Year Review Report.

Ms. Clark asked if there were any states that have implemented conversion technologies (CTs) since the China National Sword Policy went into effect. Mr. Darensbourg was uncertain on the number of states, but stated there were at least four states implementing CTs. Ms. Carol Saucillo confirmed that a [Fact Sheet](#) was disseminated to the Task Force on March 26, 2024, regarding CTs and she would resend.

Mr. Sisson asked how much disposal capacity relies on out-of-County export and if tracking is being done on out-of-County capacity. Being that out of county export can only last for so long, Mr. Sisson also asked if the current process is sustainable for the next five years given that some of Orange County's landfills are closing within the next five years. Mr. Sisson asked how many landfills were scheduled to close within the next five years. Ms. Thompson responded she did not recall, but that there were other counties including Ventura, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Kern counties. Mr. Sisson does not believe the County can wait five years considering what other counties and landfills are facing. He suggested this topic be included in a future meeting.

Mr. Milo asked for the timeline on the next steps for the Task Force to provide any final comments on the Five-Year Review. Mr. Darensbourg requested comments be provided within the next month so there would be time to finalize comments by the June 20, 2024, Task Force meeting.

Returning to the conversation on disposal capacity, Mr. Shammass commented that there was an option for truck hauling to Mesquite, Nevada, which would also be expensive but can potentially start sooner, and stated they are permitted up to 4,000 tons per day by truck and can go up to 20,000 tons per day by train.

Ms. Clark commented that the California Air Resources Board is mandating electric trains and trucks, which will make it very expensive. Mr. Shammas added the distance to Mesquite is 200 miles, which would be too difficult for a battery-operated truck to make that distance.

Ms. Esposito asked if there would be a vote from the Task Force for approval or was it just a review. Mr. Darenbourg responded that at this point, comments are being solicited. The signature of approval would be from PW, but PW wants input from the Task Force.

Mr. Milo commented that a carbon emissions footprint should be added in the CIWMP, which would be useful.

As a key performance indicator measure, Ms. Esposito asked if staff could translate any reductions of greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Darenbourg responded that the additional information could be included.

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

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

Northeast – Western Energy Systems USA provided a [presentation](#) on their use of biogas to generate hydrogen fuel and electrical power.

Tetra Tech provided an overview of the following work performed:

- Completed a Draft Countywide Siting Evaluation for the development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal CT facilities within the unincorporated County areas and 88 jurisdictions in the County.
- Prepared a workplan to perform a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will investigate land availability and land use compatibility.
- Submitted for review a 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](#).

Ms. Esposito requested to be added as a subscriber to the newsletter. Ms. Clark asked for staff to confirm if she is a subscriber.

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

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

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- Within the waste mass, there is a chemical reaction causing large volumes of leachate and landfill gas generated.
- In March 2024, the South Coast Air Quality Maintenance District (AQMD) issued 16 Notices of Violation (NOVs) related to odor.
- CCL continues to install new gas and liquid extraction wells around the reaction area and are improving the existing wells, as well as installing a geomembrane cover over the reaction area.
- Various regulatory agencies continue to meet routinely regarding odor mitigation activities and management.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In March 2024, 272 complaints were made to the AQMD. Of those 88, were classified as Trash, 13 were listed as Landfill Gas Odors, 75 were classified as None, which meant inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor, and 96 were listed as No Field Response.
- AQMD issued 9 NOVs related to odor for the month of March 2024.
- On April 9, 2024, the Board adopted a motion directing Regional Planning, Public Works, and Public Health to engage with independent technical expert to provide an assessment of the odor issue and to make recommendations to mitigate odors.
- Various regulatory agencies continue to work in collaboration on addressing odor mitigation measures.

With over 75 inspections noted in a 30-day period, Ms. Rowland asked if there were situations in which inspectors visited the site multiple times a day. Ms. Thompson responded yes. It is AQMD's process to respond to all the complaints and inspectors make determinations based on field response to the complaint calls.

Mr. Hunter asked if the 75 complaints included no field response. Ms. Thompson responded that 75 complaints were identified as no odors detected during field response and 96 calls were listed as no field response.

XII. UPDATE ON 2020 GOALS & PRIORITIES REPORT COMMENTS

Mr. Sheppard provided an overview of the compiled [comments](#) received from Task Force members regarding the 2020 Goals & Priorities Report (Report) for discussion and further comment from Task Force members.

Mr. Sisson provided comments on the order of the statutory roles, the statutory responsibility concerning the preparation and recommendation of model ordinances, and ad hoc subcommittees.

Ms. Clark asked staff to clarify if the responsibility concerning monitoring, analyzing, and reviewing legislation would be removed, and staff could clarify the process for how the Task Force could take positions on legislation. Ms. Esposito responded that the Task Force continues to have the authority to propose legislation and positions on legislation to the Board through the process provided by the CEO. Mr. Sheppard responded that the process is outlined in the [Guidelines for County Commissions and Advisory Bodies \(Guidelines\)](#). Ms. Esposito stated that following the Guidelines allow the Task Force to align statutory responsibilities with County policy.

Ms. Rowland provided comments on tying the Task Force goals, objectives, and responsibilities with the CIWMP and the Board's priorities. She would also like to better understand the structure of the document, purpose of some of the sections, and how it will be used as a guiding document.

Mr. Sheppard stated that a draft of the Report updated with all comments received would be sent to members of the Task Force for further redlining. A clean copy of the Report will be presented at the May Task Force meeting for further review and discussion.

XIII. TAKE NOMINATIONS TO FILL FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE VACANCIES

Ms. Esposito opened the floor for nominations to fill Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee vacancies. There were no nominations other than that of Mr. Wayne Hunter that was made at the January 2024 Task Force meeting.

XIV. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

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

XV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hunter commented the difficulty in hearing speakers with the sound system utilized at Task Force meetings and asked when better equipment will be available. Ms. Esposito thanked Mr. Hunter for his comment.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 1 p.m.