

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

Minutes of November 19, 2015

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Pedroza, League of California Cities

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Gail Farber, rep by Carlos Ruiz County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works Enrique
Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation Jeffrey
Gunzenhauser, rep by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Grace Hyde, rep by Chris Salomon, County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
County
Cathy Warner, rep by Judy Nelson, League of California Cities

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Dr. Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
David Thornburg, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
Jim Kuhl, Long Beach Public Works Department
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kathy Salama, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Benjamin Lucha, City of Palmdale
Dale Sargent, City of Santa Clarita
Jason Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rob Sherman, Republic Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:13 p.m., by Ms. Margaret Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 15, 2015 MINUTES

The approval of the October 15, 2015, minutes was postponed until the January 21, 2016, meeting.

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that the Public Education and Information Submitted met and considered a number of articles for the next Inside Solid Waste Newsletter, which will be going out in two weeks. The articles for the winter 2016 issue of ISW:

- Food Waste Program at Puente Hills MRF
- Southern CA Waste Management FORUM Summary
- Update on EPR Ordinance
- City/Hauler Survey on holiday tree collection
- Sharps and AB 45/AB 1153
- AB 1063 – CalRecycle workshop
- Update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill – preliminary results from alternative cover
- AB 1045 and AB 901
- Existing composting/disposal capacity in LA County
- Update Green Waste Management Guide
- City of Santa Monica – Commercial and Residential Organics Management programs

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

Mr. Clark Ajwani gave an update on the ATAS. Mr. Ajwani reported there was a presentation from Dan Goodwin from Oberon Fuels on converting organic waste to dimethyl ether known as DME. DME is a molecule generated from methane (which can be collected from anaerobic digesters) that can be converted into a clean burning, non-toxic renewable alternative fuel. Ajwani stated that the Conversion Technology (CT) White Paper will be provided to the ATAS after it is finalized. The ATAS plans to host a CT Conference after the White Paper is finalized, approved and released. Mr. Ajwani reported that staff attended the Southern California Waste Management Forum earlier this month. He also

stated that staff will attend the Global Waste Management Symposium in California later this year and will also have a booth at VerdeXchange in January. Mr. Ajwani reported that the ATAS discussed the update on CT projects, including Waste Management's project at Landcaster Landfill and the co-digestion project at the Sanitation Districts' Carson plant. Mr. Ajwani stated that Public Works is exploring the feasibility of installing a small scale food waste digester at Public Works headquarters. He stated that Public Works and ARI are finalizing comments on a Request for Qualifications and Proposals for an anaerobic digestion project at Pitchess Detention Center.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis gave her report from the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS). She reported that the FPRS discussed the odor complaints for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) made in October 2015: a total of 370 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline. In comparison with September 2015, the number of complaints increased by 10 percent from 337 to 370. Compared to October 2014, the number of complaints increased by 66 percent. Of the 370 complaints received in October 2015, 49 complaints were called in from nearby schools or complainants' that identified themselves as parents of students. There were seven notices of violation issued by AQMD to the Landfill for the month of October. An update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill's revised Finding of Conformance was discussed as well.

Ms. Landis stated that there was a Sunshine Canyon Landfill vegetation status report given by Mr. Russell Bukoff. Things are going well with the pilot area as well as the Coastal Sage scrub, and more animals are moving into the area. The water irrigation has been shut off and the consultant will evaluate the pilot area at the end of spring 2016 to assess if any irrigation will be needed for future reseeded areas or container plantings.

Ms. Landis reported that the FPRS also discussed the landfill odor problem report prepared by Yazdani Consulting for SCAQMD and that there were no definite results at this time. The neighborhood assessment survey by Public Health Toxic Epidemiology Group is still in progress, so there is no report at this time. There was a short review on the Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element; and comments should be provided by end of December 2015. There was a status update on the application for the Finding of Conformance for the Azusa Land Reclamation Landfill (ALR). ALR is involved in complicated entitlement procedures and should revise their Finding of Conformance application appropriately.

VI. COMPOSTING OPERATIONS BIOSECURITY PROBLEMS

Ms. Betsey Landis gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on Composting Operations Biosecurity Problems. Ms. Margaret Clark asked, how is the quarantine enforced? Ms. Betsey Landis answered, to enforce the quarantine everyone involved in the composting business needs to have a certificate saying they are following the proper quarantine procedures. The State and the U.S. Department of Agriculture work together on quarantine enforcement. Ms. Clark asked, what is CalRecycle doing about this problem? Ms. Landis responded with “nothing at the moment”. Ms. Landis stated how important this is. It is a major problem and it will affect big business in California. Ms. Reina Pereira asked, “How long has the quarantine program been going on?” It was her understanding that it has been around for decades. Ms. Landis responded with, yes it has been decades but they are constantly updated, making inspections, and the boundaries will change. If something is under control it will be taken off the list. Mr. Carlos Ruiz asked, is there any tonnage or volume criteria in terms of when the requirements are applied? Ms. Landis responded with no, as long as you meet all of the qualifications.

Mr. Mike Mohajer moved that the Task Force send a letter to CalRecycle, California Food and Agriculture, Air Board, and the Water Board expressing our concern for Composting Operations and Biosecurity Problems, Ms. Landis seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposition (Ron Saldana).

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Mike Mohajer gave an update on current legislation. The legislation is not in session until December, so there is no new legislation being proposed. However, various legislative committees are moving throughout the State addressing some of the bills that they are going to be pursuing to be enacted in 2016. One of the bills is Assembly Bill (AB) 1063; AB 1063 is the legislation that the Task Force opposes. The legislation will increase landfill tipping fees from \$1.40 to almost \$5.00 per ton and in addition it imposes a solid waste generation service charge on every generator of solid waste. It will require the cities and counties to impose the service charge on their customers whether they are commercial or residential and collect the money and send it to the State Board of Equalization and they will give it to CalRecycle. This legislation was introduced early in 2015 and created a lot of opposition from stakeholders and jurisdictions. Mr. Mohajer stated that in order to raise a charge, fee, or a tax on a residence or commercial business within your jurisdiction always is at least subject to requirement of compliance of Prop. 218, which means you need to notify the residents for approval, or it may go one step further and you will need 2/3rd approval depending on how it is all put together. As a result of this the author

pulled the legislation back and decided they will be conducting a number of workshops throughout the state to see what kind of input they get from local residents and then revisit the legislation in January 2016. Mr. Pedroza motioned that a letter be sent to Mayors, Council Members, Board of Supervisors, City Managers, and the League of Cities to alert them of the CalRecycle Workshop on December 8, 2015, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mr. Ron Saldana seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL REVISED FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Item was not discussed.

IX. 2014 DISPOSAL-FACILITY-BASED CHARACTERIZATION OF SOLID WASTE IN CALIFORNIA

Ms. Bereket Tadele gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the summary of the 2014 Disposal-Facility-Based Characterization of Solid Waste in California Report. The presentation covered objectives of the 2014 statewide waste characterization study, the 2014 waste characterization study methodology and waste characterization results, and comparison between the 2008 and 2014 waste characterization data. Mr. Mike Mohajer asked, AB 1826 states we have to divert a certain amount of organic waste, looking at the chart where does the organic waste described in AB1826 fall on the chart? Ms. Jennifer Wallin responded, it falls under other organic material class. Following the presentation there was an extensive question and answer period. During the discussion, definitions of organic material types, and the various organic material classes listed in the report were discussed. . Mr. Mohajer motioned that the Task Force send a letter to CalRecycle and ask them to prepare a similar pie chart, to the one on their website, which identifies organic waste that is subject to AB 1826, seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis. The motion carried unanimously.

X. 2014 COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Trishena Robinson gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan 2014 Annual Report. Mr. Sam Pedroza asked where EPR legislation falls into this. Mr. Carlos Ruiz responded that EPR tends to focus on difficult to handle materials, materials we are trying to keep out of the landfills. In terms of would it make a huge difference in tonnages, Mr. Ruiz would say it is considered in the assumptions as part of the diversion that will be achieved, although the efforts are still needed to manage certain types of material. For example, if there is a ban on landfill disposal of sharps, then there is a need for cities or local governments to provide a service to residents so they can properly dispose of these items. The County also is currently undertaking an

effort to develop an ordinance to require manufactures to develop stewardship programs for pharmaceuticals and sharps, for public health reasons and because it is not sustainable for these items to end up in the landfills, in the trash or to be thrown down the drain. Mr. Mike Mohajer added to Mr. Ruiz's comments, stating that we are assuming 75% diversion and in order to achieve this, one of the tools that we need is the EPR. Mr. Pedroza asked who approves the report. Mr. Ruiz responded, every jurisdiction is required to submit an annual report to the State on their source reduction and recycling element. For counties that are required to develop and administer a Siting Element and Summary Plan, they also have to submit an annual report.

XI. ASM COMMITTEE ON WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING IN 21ST CENTURY CALIFORNIA

Mr. Gabriel Arenas gave a summary of the Assembly Select Committee on Waste Reduction and Recycling in 21st Century California's hearing on Household Hazardous Waste Management and "Cradle to Grave" Producer Responsibility, which took place in Sacramento on November 4, 2015. He reported that Elizabeth Wagner from CalRecycle made a presentation on the overall scope of the issue, legislative checklist, state mandates. Current efforts place a burden on local governments, which must use resources that could otherwise be used for other programs. EPR has the potential to reduce some of the burden on locals.

Mr. Arenas then summarized each of the three panels of the hearing:

First Panel: Local Government Perspective, Major Issues, Challenges, Opportunities w/ HHW/EPR Programs

- Debbie Raphael, former head of DTSC and current Director of SF Dept. of Environment
- Waymond Wong, Hazardous Materials Supervisor, San Mateo County
- Kristina Miller, Landfill Agency Manager, Tehama County

A highlight of the panel was when Ms. Raphael directly addressed Assembly Member Mullin's proposal for door-to-door services as proposed under AB 45, and said that it is a good option but it only should be an element of a program, it is not sufficient. Manufacturers need to be part of the program, locals cannot do it alone.

Second Panel: Industry Perspective: Major Issue, Challenges, Voluntary vs. Mandatory Approach

- Carl Smith, CEO, Call2Recycle, which is a product stewardship organization for batteries.
- Jeremy Jones, West Coast Program Manager for PaintCare
- Marissa Watkins, Director of State Advocacy, PhRMA (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America)

Highlight of the second panel was PhRMA's portion of the panel which stated that:

- PhRMA Opposes any mandates on the Pharma industry which requires them to fund and administer programs to collect and dispose of unused pharmaceuticals.
- They do not anticipate robust collection of at pharmaceuticals at pharmacies and thus not convenient to residents.
- They support AB 45 for collection of pharmaceutical waste because it uses existing infrastructure.
- Industry's role should be limited to education
- Any approach should include all stakeholders, not just manufacturers.

Third Panel: Waste Haulers Perspective: Major Issues, Health & Safety

- Steve Jones, Garden City Sanitation
- Rich Thompson, Senior Director, Safety & Environment. Compliance, Republic Services
- Michael Gross, Director of Sustainability, Green Waste/Zanker Recycling

Mr. Arenas stated that he believed the most compelling testimony from all three panels was from the Representative from Green Waste/Zanker Recycling which hauls waste from Palo Alto, San Jose, and Santa Cruz County who had video footage of MRFs sorters sorting trash pulling large pieces of materials which sorters pull to avoid getting caught in their machinery. He showed pictures of sharps being pulled out from the sorting line and actually brought in water bottles filled with sharps to show the committee members.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked for an email summarization, agenda, and the link to the YouTube video. Mr. Mike Mohajer moved to, send a letter to the Assembly Select Committee stating our support for EPR, needles and sharps and our opposition of curbside recycling of household hazardous waste, Mr. Sam Pedroza seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. CARB DRAFT SHORT LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANT REDUCTION STRATEGY

Mr. Mike Mohajer gave an update on the CARB draft Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy. The plan being put together by CalRecycle and the Air Resources Board requires the reduction of organics going to the landfill by 90% by 2025. Mr. Mike Mohajer moved to, send a letter to CARB opposing the reducing of organics going to the landfills by 90% by 2025, Mr. Carlos Ruiz seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

XIII. CALRECYLCE UPDATE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin reported the following:

Grants:

2015–16 Rubberized Pavement Grant Program - The California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) provides the Rubberized Pavement (Pavement) Grant Program, formerly called the Rubberized Asphalt Concrete (RAC) Grant Program (<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Tires/Grants/RAC/default.htm>), to promote markets for recycled-content surfacing products derived from waste tires generated in California and decrease the adverse environmental impacts created by unlawful disposal and stockpiling of waste tires. RAC (<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Tires/RAC/default.htm>) is a proven road paving material that has been used in California since the 1970s. It is made by blending ground tire rubber with asphalt binder which is then mixed with conventional aggregate materials. Under the Pavement Grant Program, the Targeted RAC Incentive Grant and RAC Chip Seal Grant have been consolidated into one grant with two project types--RAC and Chip Seal projects.

The program provides competitive grants to encourage first-time or limited users of RAC. It is available to public entities which include: California cities, counties, regional park districts, special districts, Joint Powers Authorities, state agencies (including offices, departments, bureaus, and boards) and Qualifying Indian Tribes. Applicants that have been previously awarded Pavement Grants are not eligible to apply in the following fiscal year.

Listserv

Join the Pavement Listserv (<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Listservs/Subscribe.aspx?ListID=91>) to be notified by email for program updates and when funding becomes available.

Model Projects

Model Projects: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Funding/ModelProject/default.htm>

Cycle-Specific Information

Next Cycle

Eligibility Criteria, Evaluation Process and Award Amounts for the Rubberized Pavement Grant Program (Tire Recycling Management Fund, FYs 2015-16 and 2016-17) approved at September 15, 2015 Public Meeting Application materials for fiscal year (FY) 2015/16 available at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Tires/Grants/Pavement/default.htm>.

Application due date: December 10, 2015

Two additional tire grants should be posted before end of year.

Events:

Synthetic Turf Study Workshop

December 3, 2015 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Valley College

This Southern California workshop is the second in a set of public workshops organized by CalRecycle and OEHHA staff to describe the planned study to the public and to solicit input. These workshops will provide a forum to allow the public to ask questions, provide comments, and provide critical information to the project team. The workshops will be in the form of a "World Café" with small groups discussing topics that have been identified either by the project team or by members of the public. Transparency and public participation is critically important to a study such as this and so there will be many opportunities for public participation as the project progresses. Please sign up for the listserv to be notified when these opportunities arise at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Actions/PublicNoticeDetail.aspx?id=1592&aiid=1444>

California's Environmental Goals and Funding Waste Management Infrastructure

CalRecycle is hosting two public workshops, one in Southern California and one in Northern California, titled: *California's Environmental Goals and Funding Waste Management Infrastructure*. Details and location information for each workshop is below. Additionally, please subscribe to the [California's Environmental Goals and Funding Waste Management Infrastructure Listserv](#) for updates and information about future workshops on this topic.

These workshops will focus on the state investment and partnerships needed to achieve California's 75 percent recycling goal while sustaining CalRecycle's ability to manage the handling of solid waste in California. Staff will present and seek feedback on potential funding mechanisms that support achieving the 75 percent recycling goal and provide sustainable funding as disposal fee revenue decreases.

One workshop will be held in Sacramento at the California Environmental Protection Agency in the Byron Sher Hearing Room.

Date: December 8, 2015

Timeframe: 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Location: SCAQMD HEADQUARTERS 21865 Copley Drive - Diamond Bar, CA 91765 - Auditorium

Date: December, 15, 2015

Timeframe: 1:00PM – 5:00 PM

Location: 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Please click [here](#) for an agenda and additional information about this workshop.

The Sacramento workshop will be webcast.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

XV. NEXT MEETING DATE

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to cancel the December Task Force meeting if there were not any major issues, Mr. Chris Solomon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2016, in conference room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

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