

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

**Minutes of February 16, 2017**

County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles  
1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601

**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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Craig Beck, rep by Charlie Tripp, Long Beach Public Works Department  
Mark Pestrella, 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  
Cynthia Harding, rep by Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of  
Public Health  
Grace Hyde, rep by Sam Shammas, County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles  
County

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles  
Jack Hadijinian, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Dale Sargent, City of Santa Clarita  
Joe Vitti, SCL-CAC  
Wayde Hunter, NVC/SCL-CAC/GHNNC  
Steve Milewski, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Caren Alvarez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Ben Cortez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Tranette Sanders, County of Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:12 p.m. by Ms. Margaret Clark.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2017**

A motion was made by Ms. Betsey Landis and seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer to approve the January 26, 2017, minutes, as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that the Public Education and Information Subcommittee met and are putting articles together for the Winter 2016-2017 edition of Inside Solid Waste (ISW). It should come out in a few weeks. Below is a list of articles that will be considered for the Spring issue of the ISW Newsletter:

- Update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill
- Earth Day Events
- Status of Chiquita Canyon Landfill
- County of Los Angeles Roadmap Initiative for Food Waste and Organic Management Department of Public Works Roadmap
- Update on AB 901
- Update on SB 1383
- Update on CalRecycle Packaging Workshop, March 22, 2017
- Update on California Beverage Container Recycling Program
- Update on Legislation

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

Ms. Clark Ajwani provided a report from the ATAS meeting. Mr. Ajwani stated that the ATAS approved that Mr. Patrick Holland will replace Mr. Coby Skye as chair of the ATAS. Mr. Ajwani also stated that the upcoming Conversion Technology Legislative and Regulatory Workshop will be held, tentatively, on Wednesday, May 3, 2017. Staff is currently in the planning stages and in the process of developing an agenda and discussion points for the ATAS members review.

Mr. Ajwani also reported that Mr. Ray Anderson from Kore Infrastructure attended the ATAS meeting to discuss some lessons learned from permitting his Biosolids Pyrolysis Facility in Rialto, Mr. Anderson received an Engineered

Municipal Solid Waste permit for his facility. Mr. Ajwani stated that Mr. Anderson's lessons learned discussion will be continued at the Conversion Technology Workshop.

Finally, Mr. Ajwani also mentioned the Rethink Methane Conference will be held in Sacramento on February 21-22, 2017, which will discuss and promote renewable natural gas.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis provided an update on the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) meeting. Ms. Landis stated that the total number of odor complaints made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) increased 239 percent (59 to 200 complaints) from December 2016 to January 2017. In comparison with January 2016, the number of complaints increased by 100 percent, from 100 to 200. The total number of Notices of Violation (NOV) received from SCAQMD since 2009 is 198. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD since 2009 is 10,173, and the total number of complaints received in 2017 is 200. As of February 16, 2017, SCAQMD has issued six NOVs to SCL for the month of January.

Ms. Landis also stated that they had received a revegetation update from Mr. Russell Bukoff. Ms. Landis stated that the Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub pilot revegetation project is doing well on Deck C on the closed South City Landfill. Ms. Landis stated Republic Services, the landfill operator, is developing the next pilot project located on, Deck B of the South City Landfill.

Ms. Landis also stated that there was discussion on the Alternative Daily Cover and Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project as it pertains to the predicted heavy storms. SCL is having issues with flooding and swamping on San Fernando Road outside their gate.

Ms. Landis made a motion to send a letter to Republic Services asking what actions have been taken to correct erosion, bulging retaining walls, and trees in danger of falling along the frontage road. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mohajer and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Landis also reported that the FPRS received an update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill. The Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) has been completed and the Regional Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on the FEIR on March 7, 2017, and in April 2017.

Finally, Ms. Landis stated that the FPRS discussed the Finding of Conformance reports for various landfill in the County. The FPRS discussed if the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) or other agencies have the authority to close down SCL in emergency events such as heavy rains. Mr. Maurcie Pantoja commented that he will find out what authority the SCL-LEA has in such situations and report back to the FPRS.

Mr. Ron Saldana asked if Ms. Landis knew why the complaints at SCL had doubled in one month. Ms. Landis stated that it could have been due to the combined effects of rainy weather producing more leachate at SCL and the large amounts of organic waste received at SCL. Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated that staff will be reviewing data to see if there is a correlation between the increased number in odor complaints in rain events, or other occurrences. Mr. Pantoja stated that he does not believe there has been anything different at the site, and that the complaints have been pretty consistent the past few months, except in December, when the number dropped to 59 complaints.

## **VI. 2017 CLIMATE CHANGE SCOPING PLAN UPDATE**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update, which establishes a framework of action for California to meet a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. Ms. Vazifdar stated that comments are due on the Proposed 2030 Scoping Plan on March 6, 2017 and that CARB will consider adopting the Final 2030 Scoping Plan in Spring 2017. She also stated that at the Scoping Plan workshop on February 9, 2017, CARB mentioned that the Scoping Plan is not intended to address funding issues, such as the lack of funding for waste diversion and organics processing facilities.

Ms. Betsey Landis commented that CARB, in their goal to increase organics markets, should consider the generation of organic material throughout the year and the types of material (woody, green, or other). She also commented that CARB should consider where this organic material can be stored and how much space will be needed for storage of this material if it cannot be put on the market immediately, because organic material stored in piles can generate heat that could potentially cause fires and can also release GHGs. Ms. Landis commented that the discussion should also consider how the storage of organic materials will comply with regulations by other agencies besides CalRecycle, such as the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a comment letter on the Proposed 2030 Scoping Plan incorporating Ms. Landis' comments along with Task Force

comments on previous versions of the 2030 Scoping Plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Landis and passed unanimously.

## **VII. CALRECYCLE SB 1383 SHORT LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS WORKSHOP**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on CalRecycle's SB 1383 Short Lived Climate Pollutants Organic Waste Methane Emissions Reductions Stakeholder Workshop.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked about which organic waste generators would be impacted by the upcoming regulations. Mr. Ron Saldana made a comment that although current rules and regulations such as those under AB 1826 apply specifically to commercial generators, these new regulations do not make a distinction between residential and commercial generators, meaning that all generators will be impacted.

Ms. Betsey Landis brought up concerns on the definition of edible food waste. Mr. Charlie Tripp mentioned concerns that the new regulations would lead to green waste being shipped to and disposed of at a low cost in other states instead of being recycled at a higher cost within the state. After an extensive conversation, Ms. Landis made a motion to send a comment letter to CalRecycle asking for a clarification on the definition of edible food waste and incorporating Task Force comments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ron Saldana and passed unanimously.

## **VIII. UPDATE ON THE REVISED PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**

Mr. Joe Bartolata provided an update on the Revised Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element. Mr. Bartolata stated that the Task Force concurred with the last revision to the Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element (Draft Siting Element) on April 21, 2016. That version was based on a 2014 base year (2014 - 2029 planning period). However, since staff anticipates releasing the Draft Siting Element and its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for public review by mid-2017, staff has updated the base year from 2014 to 2015 (this corresponds to a 15-year planning period from 2015 - 2030) in order to avoid releasing a document with information that is more than two years old. This update did not have a major impact on the DEIR.

Once the DEIR and Draft Siting Element are completed, staff intends to seek authorization to release the documents for the public to review. Staff will provide further updates on public hearings and community meetings as we get closer in the process.

## **IX. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL EXPANSION STATUS**

Mr. Saied Shirzadegan provided an update on the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion Status. Mr. Shirzadegan stated that the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) is to be published on February 16, 2017. The Regional Planning Commission will be holding public hearings on March 1, 2017, in Stevenson's Ranch and in April 2017.

## **X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ms. Caren Alvarez gave an update on current legislation and reviewed items on the attached [legislative table](#).

**AB 18** (Garcia) – California Clean Water, Climate, and Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018: Ms. Alvarez stated that AB 18 is with the Committee on Appropriations and staff recommended a support position. Mr. Mike Mohajer recommended that the Task Force continue to watch the bill at this time.

**AB 302** (Gipson) – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, 3-year Investment Plan: Ms. Alvarez stated that it is a spot bill and staff recommended to watch the bill at this time.

**AB 311** (Mathis) – Methane from Dairy and Livestock: Ms. Alvarez stated that this bill relates to the newly adopted SB 1383, a spot bill, and staff recommended to watch bill at this time.

**AB 319** (Stone) – Recycling Single-use Plastic Beverage Caps: Staff recommended a support position. Task Force members recommended to watch the bill at this time.

**AB 378** (Garcia, Holden, and Garcia) – California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2016 Regulations: Ms. Alvarez stated this appears to be a spot bill, and staff recommended to watch the bill at this time.

**AB 444** (Ting and Gray) – Medical Waste, Home Generated Sharps and Waste: Ms. Alvarez stated this appears to be a spot bill and staff recommended to watch the bill at this time.

**AB 509** (Frazier) – Tire Recycling, California Regulator Fee and Waste Tire Program: Ms. Alvarez stated that the language of this bill mirrors AB 1239 (2015) and the Task Force opposed AB 1239. Task Force members recommended to watch the bill at this time.

**AB 514** (Salas) – Surplus Household Consumer Product Waste Management: Ms. Alvarez stated this appears to be a spot bill and staff recommended to watch the bill at this time.

**SB 53** (Hueso) – Natural Gas Vehicles: this bill would adopt a vehicle weight exception for natural gas vehicles up to 2,000 pounds. Staff recommended a support position. Mr. Ron Saldana made a motion to send a letter of support. The motion was seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis and the motion passed unanimously.

**SB 212** (Jackson) – Medical Waste: Ms. Alvarez stated this appears to be a spot bill and staff recommended to watch the bill at this time.

**XI. MANAGEMENT OF GREEN WASTE IN BASSET/HACIENDA HEIGHTS/ROWLAND HEIGHTS QUARANTINED AREAS**

Mr. Ben Cortez provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the Management of Green Waste in Basset/Hacienda Heights/Rowland Heights Quarantined Areas. Mr. Cortez stated that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has designated interior statewide quarantine areas to limit the spread of the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), Huanglongbing (HLB), and the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). The restrictions under the quarantine program regulate the movement of green waste and this impacts directly waste collection in Los Angeles County franchise and GDD areas

Mr. Cortez stated that the quarantine area for the ACP comprises the entire County of Los Angeles, the quarantine area for the HLB encompasses the San Gabriel Valley, which includes our Hacienda Heights, Bassett, and Rowland Heights franchise areas, and staff is currently working on determining, which franchise areas are within or in proximity to the LBAM quarantine area.

Mr. Cortez also stated that the Department of Public Works (DPW) staff will meet regularly with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Department of Agricultural Commissioners/Weights and Measures staff to determine what steps should be taken locally. Mr. Cortez stated that the CDFA requires that all parties involved in transporting and receiving unprocessed/some types of processed green waste from a quarantine area, have a CDFA issued compliance agreement.

Mr. Cortez stated that the agreement signatories agree to abide by specific rules and regulations regarding the proper management of green waste. He stated that while the CDFA is the enforcement agency, the DPW and DPH will work with waste haulers and facilities, respectively, to assist them in becoming compliant. The current Los Angeles County Franchise/GDD contracts contain language that

require waste haulers to comply with all applicable laws. California Code of Regulations sections 3434, 3435, and 3439 provide the legal framework for DPW to require contract waste hauler become compliant.

Mr. Ron Saldana asked about the franchise agreement and if the green waste collected in a quarantine area needs to stay in the quarantine area. Mr. Cortez stated that the processor and receiver will need to have a certificate, to take out of and receive from a quarantine area, for mulch and unprocessed green waste. Ms. Landis stated she attended a recent UC Cooperative Extension “Green Waste – Wood Waste Management System Symposium” (February 9, 2017), which included presentations about different types of pests and pathogens and the many ways they are spread. She gave the Task Force members brochures on ACP and on not transporting firewood offsite.

## **XII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Item was not discussed.

## **XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

## **XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2017, in conference room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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