

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

Minutes of July 20, 2017

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
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Ron Saldana, California Waste and Recycling Association
Sam Pedroza, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

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 Charles Boehmke, 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
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Jack Hadijinian, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Craig Beck, Long Beach Public Works Department
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Caren Alvarez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gerald Ley, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bonitto Housen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kimberly Lyman, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kristin Keating, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jason Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Morena Guardado, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:18 p.m. by Ms. Margaret Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2017, MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Betsey Landis and seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer to approve the June 15, 2017 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

CARRY OVER ITEM FROM JUNE 15, 2017: IX - UPDATE ON THE REGIONAL/COUNTYWIDE ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the June 15, 2017, meeting, Mr. Mohajer made a motion to add a new chapter to the Organic Waste Plan to discuss the concerns about the land application of raw organic waste and health issues. He would like the definition of organic waste to be consistent with the definition in AB 1826. The item was tabled due to a lack of quorum. The Task Force reintroduced the item with a motion by Mr. Mohajer seconded by Mr. Ron Saldana. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Gerald Ley reported that the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS) meeting was held on July 19, 2017 at the Puente Hills Material Recovery Facility (MRF). A tour of the facility was hosted by Mr. Habib Karrat on their food waste recycling program and their plans to expand that program. Following the tour there was an informative presentation by Interstate Waste Technology on their gasification process. Mr. Karrat shared that this technology transforms various types of solid waste into other usable products (however the waste that they are targeting is the solid waste that is currently going to landfills not recyclables or other recovered products), and has been used around the world including a facility in Italy, and multiple facilities currently operating in Japan. Mr. Ley also mentioned that the gases extracted from the process are captured and then used to produce ethanol, and that they have a strong interest in constructing a facility in Los Angeles County or the surrounding region.

Mr. Ley also stated that ATAS has been working closely in connecting them with regulators and others that can help facilitate their project, and as part of the County's Conversion Technology Program, they would like to see an operation of this type built in the region. Additionally, staff updated the Task Force on the

Legislative Workshop Plan relaying that the plan has been submitted to Public Works Administration and updates will be coming soon.

Mr. Ley provided an update on the following upcoming events:

- August 21-23, 2017: Waste Conversion Technology Conference (San Diego)
- September 25-27, 2017: WasteCon 2017 (Baltimore, MD)
- November 8, 2017: Southern California Waste Management Forum (Pomona)
- August 16, 2017: CalRecycle stakeholder workshop related to SB 1383 (Sacramento)
- August 31, 2017: CalRecycle stakeholder workshop related to SB 1383 (Riverside)

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the total number of complaints made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline regarding odors at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) from May 2017 to June 2017 decreased by 47 percent from 19 to 10 complaints. In comparison with June 2016, the number of complaints decreased by 86 percent from 74 to 10 complaints. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD since 2009 was 10,846. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD in 2017 was 873. The total number of Notices of Violation (NOV) issued to SCL by SCAQMD since 2009 is 215. As of July 20, 2017, SCAQMD issued zero NOVs to SCL in the month of June.

Ms. Landis reported on the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's (DPH) letter of May 30, 2017, to the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) requesting DRP to issue an NOV to the Landfill based on non-compliance with the Notice of Abatement issued by DPH on November 9, 2016. She reported that DRP is waiting to see if the number of odor complaints continue to decrease before deciding whether to issue an NOV to the Landfill.

Ms. Landis also provided the Task Force with an update on the Chiquita Canyon Landfill expansion project. She reported that the Board of Supervisors certified the EIR, modified CUP conditions, and will consider the final findings on July 25, 2017.

Ms. Landis also reported that the Subcommittee requested staff work with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to obtain additional information

from them on the Calabasas Landfill Finding of Conformance (FOC) for their consideration at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

Finally, Ms. Landis reported on information regarding FOC reports submitted by various landfills. She commented that the agreements between the CSD, Southern California Edison and the California Independent System Operator for power purchase from the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility, and the Southeast Recovery Reuse Facility, may be ending by the end of 2018. If the agreements are not renegotiated, the facilities will shut down and refuse will be sent to a landfill in 2019.

Mr. Ron Saldana inquired if the time of year has an impact on the number on complaints received by the SCAQMD. Ms. Landis stated that odor complaints decrease in hot weather. Republic has also installed water pumps to improve their gas collection system. Mr. Mike Mohajer added that since waste intake has been restricted between the hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., the number of complaints have also decreased. Mr. Carlos Ruiz commented that the number of complaints have decreased in the last three months, and even though it is difficult to establish whether the decrease in the number of complaints is due to a seasonal change, the trend is in fact geared in the right direction.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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

AB 398 (Eduardo Garcia) – Californian Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Market-based Compliance Mechanisms: Fire Prevention Fees: Sales and Use Tax Manufacturing Exemption. Staff recommended to watch the bill for now.

AB 509 (Frazier) – Tire Recycling: California Tire Regulatory Fee and Waste Tire Program. Staff recommended to continue to oppose the bill as the previous version has not been amended.

AB 617 (Cristina Garcia) – Nonvehicular Air Pollution: Criteria Air Pollutants and Toxic Air Contaminants. Staff is not recommending a position in this bill.

AB 920 (Aguiar-Curry) – Electricity: Procurement Plans: Criteria Air Pollutants and Toxic Air Contaminants. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support if amended, seconded by Ms. Landis. Motion passed unanimously.

AB 1036 (McCarty) – Organic Waste: Composting. After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Ron Saldana made a motion to continue watch the bill for now, seconded by Mr. Sam Pedroza. Motion passed unanimously.

AB 1158 (Chu) – Carpet Recycling. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to continue support, seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz. Motion passed unanimously.

AB 1180 (Holden) – Los Angeles County Flood Control District: Taxes, Fees, and Charges. Staff recommended to watch the bill for now.

AB 1594 (Bloom) – Ocean Protection: Plastic Pollution. Staff recommended to watch the bill for now.

SB 35 (Wiener) – Planning and Zoning: Affordable Housing: Streamlined Approval Process. Ms. Clark made a motion to send a letter of opposition, seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer. Motion passed with one abstention.

SB 231 (Hertzberg) – Local Government: Fees and Charges. Staff recommended to watch the bill for now.

HR 2853 (Kind) – Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Act of 2017. Ms. Margaret Clark made a motion to send a letter of support, seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. OVERVIEW OF THE CALRECYCLE JUNE 21 & 26, 2017 WORKSHOPS ON SB 1383

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar summarized the latest in a series of workshops hosted by CalRecycle to solicit stakeholder input on the creation of regulations related to SB 1383. The latest workshops were held in Sacramento on June 21, 2017, and in Lakewood on June 26, 2017, to discuss local organic waste collection systems, solid waste facilities, and edible food recovery. Ms. Vazifdar stated that staff would be submitting a comment letter on these regulatory concepts on behalf of the Task Force. She also shared that the next set of workshops will be held in Sacramento on August 16, 2017, and in Riverside on August 31, 2017. During these workshops, CalRecycle will introduce regulatory concepts related to reporting and enforcement. Staff will provide an update at the Task Force meeting on August 17. Ms. Vazifdar reported that staff will also prepare a comment letter on the regulatory concepts discussed during these workshops, as well as any future regulatory concepts or draft regulations prepared by CalRecycle. Lastly, Ms. Vazifdar reported that, during the June workshops, CalRecycle stated that they will release draft regulatory language in late

October 2017, initiate formal rulemaking in late 2017 or early 2018, and adopt the regulations in late 2018.

Mr. Mike Mohajer asked Ms. Vazifdar to read the draft definition of organic waste proposed by CalRecycle for the regulations. Ms. Vazifdar read, "Organic waste means solid wastes containing material originated from living organisms and their metabolic waste products, including but not limited to food, green waste, landscape and pruning waste, applicable textiles and carpets, wood, lumber, fiber, manure, biosolids, digestate and sludges." Mr. Mohajer added that the definition of organic waste as written would include petroleum products since they originate from living organisms and should not be included in regulations pertaining to landfill disposal reduction.

VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin gave information about two upcoming workshops, to be held in Sacramento on August 16, 2017, and in Riverside on August 31, 2017. She encouraged the review of CalRecycle's 2018 Waste Characterization Study focused on materials destined for landfill disposal. She also mentioned the Food Waste Prevention and Rescue Grant Program closed July 18; the 2017–18 Tire-Derived Aggregate Grant Program application is due August 1, 2017, and the 2017–18 Solid Waste Cleanup Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grant Program, and the 2017–18 Solid Waste Cleanup Legacy Disposal Site Abatement Partial Grant Program are both due on August 2, 2017.

Ms. Wallin also shared the following events: Proposed State Mattress Recycling Baseline & Goals Workshop on August 15, 2017; Informal Rulemaking Stakeholder Workshop for SB 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) on August 16, 2017; Workshop on the Flow of Used and Waste Tires in California Mexico Border Region on August 28, 2017; and CalRecycle Packaging Reform Workshop on September 19, 2017.

VIII. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided an update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Mr. Shirzadegan stated that The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on the appeals on June 27, 2017. After the hearing, the Board certified the EIR, adopted the CEQA findings and indicated its intent to deny the appeals. The Board also instructed County Counsel to prepare final findings and modified conditions for the Board's consideration on July 25, 2017. The modifications addressed concerns about tonnage intake, air quality monitoring, parks and open

space plans for closed portions of the landfill, and other mitigation fees and measures.

IX. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided an update regarding the Notice of Violation (NOV) issued by the Department of Regional Planning to Republic Services on October 25, 2016, based on a referral made by Public Works due to Republic Services lack of response to odor mitigation requirements imposed by Public Works. Republic's request for appeal of the NOV was considered before a Hearing Officer; the Hearing Officer made her determination and denied the appeal. Republic paid the penalty fee of \$174,000 under protest. Public Works' staff was notified that a judicial lawsuit had been filed by BFI/Republic against the County of Los Angeles seeking to vacate the NOV.

X. CALRECYCLE PROPOSED STATE MATTRESS RECYCLING BASELINE & GOALS WORKSHOP

Mr. Bonitto Housen announced the upcoming Mattress and Recycling Baseline & Goals workshop scheduled on August 15, 2017. Mr. Housen stated he will attend the workshop and later provide a full review of the key issues discussed in the workshop.

XI. CALRECYCLE PACKAGING POLICY/REFORM MARCH 22, 2017 WORKSHOP

Ms. Caren Alvarez provided an update stating that on March 22 CalRecycle started a new set of workshops on Packaging Reform following three plus years of public engagement; Director Smithline approved the development of this policy model in September of last year. She stated that the purpose of the workshop was to generate discussion and gather stakeholder ideas that will contribute to the development of a comprehensive, mandatory approach for the management of packaging materials, this was a facilitated panel discussion on existing EPR models abroad and potential policy models to consider for California.

She also stated that CalRecycle continues to identify EPR, minimum recycled content requirements, and landfill ban on recyclables as examples of potential mandatory approaches. Among the panelists there was consensus on the topics such: Packaging is complicated, and Enforcement is key/necessary. Some organizations made recommendations to CalRecycle, for example:

The Ocean Protection Counsel wants to move away from clean up and focus on prevention and reduction, the Association of Plastic Recyclers would like to incentivize the communities to keep recyclables in-state, California Against Waste would like product labeling to be considered not recyclable or incompatible with recycling system, California Product Stewardship Council argument is that local governments don't have funds; they have done everything and producers need to also participate for Circular Economy to exist. She also reiterated that CalRecycle has summarized all the input provided during the workshop and it is available on their website, they have estimated that it could take approximately 18 months to develop a policy but made it clear that the result would not necessarily be legislation. The workshop will continue September 19 to start the development of a mandatory policy.

XII. UPDATE ON DPH NOV REFERRAL REGARDING SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Maurice Pantoja stated that Department of Public Health (DPH) issued an abatement order against Republic in November 2016 with a compliance date of March 30, 2017. DPH determined that Republic was not in compliance due to the high number of odor complaints, DPH made a referral on May 30, 2017 to County Department of Regional Planning asking violations be issued against Republic for non-compliance; however, no updates have been received from County Department of Regional Planning, perhaps due to the decrease in number of odor complaints, and a determination could be in the works depending on the seasonal number of complaints.

XIII. DISCUSSION OF LETTER RECEIVED FROM ATTORNEY REPRESENTING AQMD

Ms. Betsey Landis reported receiving an e-mail from Mr. Wayde Hunter in May 2017, inquiring about timely reports from South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the e-mail was forwarded to Staff and Mr. Carlos Ruiz. She also mentioned receiving a letter from the Acting Assistant Chief Deputy Counsel, representing Mr. Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer SCAQMD; she shared that the letter stated that reports will be done within SCAQMD timeline and available on the District's website. Ms. Landis stated that SCAQMD sits in the Task Force committee, where odor reports are constantly addressed; yet, there isn't a representative from SCAQMD present at the Task Force meetings. Ms. Keating informed the committee that she contacted Mr. Nastri's office in July 13, 2017. She spoke to Mr. Nastri's secretary, who

stated that Mr. Nastri most likely will not attend the Task Force meetings due to a schedule conflict with another committee; however, SCAQMD is in the process of assigning a representative to attend the Task Force meetings. Ms. Landis made a motion to send a letter to Mr. Wayne Nastri stating that their presence is urgently needed, the motion was seconded by Mr. Sam Pedroza. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments

XV. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2017, in conference room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

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