

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

Minutes of April 19, 2018

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Robb Cohn, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
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
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Doug Kramer, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Milewski, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carlos Slythe, 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
Tranette Sanders, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Benjamin Cortez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Suk Chong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Morena Guardado, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:11 p.m. by Ms. Margaret Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 15, 2018

Mr. Mike Mohajer mentioned a minor detail he wants changed on Page 6, Items Nos. VIII, IX, and X. He would like the word “no update was presented” removed and replaced with “postpone”. A motion was made by Ms. Betsey Landis and seconded by Mr. Phil Doudar to approve the March 15, 2018, minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

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

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided a report from the ATAS meeting. She informed the Task Force members that consultants from Arizona Engineered Fuel (AEF) gave a presentation on a company that processes post-consumer material such as wood, plastic, and paper, and converts them into fuel that can be used to heat cement kilns. The company plans to develop facilities in Victorville or Apple Valley and are currently operating in Arizona. Ms. Vazifdar also provided a summary of upcoming conferences and events:

- Waste Expo at the end of April, in Las Vegas, Nevada
- CalRecycle SB 1383 workshops on May 7 and May 8
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Business Meeting in May in Buena Park
- California Resource Recovery Conference in July in Oakland
- WASTECON in August in Nashville

During the meeting, ARI gave an update on conversion technology (CT) project development. They are compiling results from the CT stake holder survey that is being circulated. ARI is scheduling a meeting with the Sheriff's Department to discuss options for in-vessel composting technologies. ARI is also expanding a list of small-scale technologies that they prepared, to include liquefiers. Mr. Mark McDannel mentioned that a DODA bio-separator at the Sanitation District's Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) will begin processing food waste in mid-May.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked if AEF was scheduled to present at the Task Force meeting. Mr. Patrick Holland answered that they were not, but the presentation would be included in the ATAS minutes and that a link would be provided for access.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis provided a report from the FPRS meeting. She gave an update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) starting with the report on the total number of complaints made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline regarding odors. During the month of March, a total of 21 complaints were made, and 13 of the 21 complaints did not have field response. In comparison to February 2018, the number of complaints received in March increased by 17 percent from 18 to 21 complaints. In comparison with March 2017, the number of complaints decreased by 92 percent from 274 to 21 complaints. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD since 2009 is 11,072. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD in 2018 is 71. The total number of Notice of Violations (NOV) issued since 2009 is 214. As of April 16, 2018, SCAQMD issued no NOVs for the month of March. It was also mentioned that AQMD only respond to calls if the same issue is reported three times within one hour. Staff will verify if that procedure has been followed for previous years.

Ms. Landis reported the Water Board stated the general procedures for spills, as with the 10-gallons and 100-gallons leachate spills at SCL, is to cover with dirt and bury in the landfill or to dispose through the waste water system. Staff will follow up to clarify what procedures should be used to clear spills.

Ms. Landis mentioned confusion between what constitutes extreme and strong winds. Staff will follow up on clarification of regulations.

Ms. Landis reported that the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning has not issued an NOV to SCL, that was recommended by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, as the issue is being monitored by both Departments.

Lastly, Ms. Landis reported that the FOC applications for Chiquita Canyon Landfill and Antelope Valley Landfill have not been completed.

VI. FLARE MANAGEMENT – US BIOGAS

Mr. Mark Bragg provided the attached [PowerPoint presentation](#) on U.S Flare Management. There are 3,500 burning gas flares being wasted per day throughout the world and their job was to find a solution to capture the gas and convert it into a useful product. One solution was to turn the gas into a liquified gas and use it as a power source. Mr. Bragg spoke of how the demand of natural gas has increased because not many places know how to obtain gas from the flares and transport it. He stated what U.S Flare Management offers and their environmental impact. Lastly, noting that one flare captured, is equivalent to removing 800 cars from the road.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked if Governor Brown was not supporting alternative fuel projects. Mr. Bragg responded there being many issues going on in Sacramento and it being difficult to understand after all the successes they have had, which includes 25,000 trucks converted to natural gas, that the government eliminated all funding from the budget for the alternative fuels for purposes of converting diesel trucks. Ms. Clark also asked if diesel trucks emit more greenhouse gas. Mr. Bragg responded that by a factor of 25, diesel trucks emit nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide, which is what environmental people who live near freeways complain about.

Mr. Ron Saldana asked if Flare Management was working on any landfills in California and if they charge anything to the landfills owners. Mr. Bragg stated they are negotiating a total of four in California, two located in Southern California. He explained that Flare Management invests their own money to clean the gas and then they sell it. With those sales, they pay the landfill owner.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz asked how the landfill operator benefits from an arrangement with U.S. Management Flare. Mr. Bragg stated their process benefits the landfill operator because their company pays the operator for their gas without them making any investments.

Mr. Patrick Holland commented it is possible the State is taking away funding from projects like the one presented by Mr. Bragg because people are more focused on the emissions coming out from the vehicles tailpipe instead of the total life cycle of the fuel that is generated. He mentioned that electric vehicles have zero ignition and people might not know or understand how that is beneficial to our environment.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Ben Cortez gave an update on current legislation and reviewed items on the attached [legislative table](#).

AB 3178 (Rubio) – Integrated waste management plans: Source reduction and recycling element: Diversion requirements. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter supporting and amending and work with author, seconded by Mr. Sam Pedroza. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 3232 (Friedman) – Zero-emissions building and sources of heat energy. A motion was made to send a letter stating the Task Force's suggestions and concerns, and requesting a meeting with the bill's author.

AB 2411 (McCarty) – Solid Waste: Use of compost: Planning. Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to send a letter of support if amended and oppose unless amended, seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer. The motion passed with one abstention.

AB 3036 (Cooley) – Solid waste: definition. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter opposing the bill, seconded by Mr. Ron Saldana. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 2908 (Berman) – Tire recycling: California tire regulatory fee and waste tire program. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter opposing the bill unless amended, seconded by Mr. Ron Saldana. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 1970 (Eduardo Garcia) – Low-carbon fuels. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter supporting the bill, seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 1981 (Limon) – Organic waste: Composting. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support if amended and opposing unless amended, seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 71 (Wiener) – Solid waste: Disposal. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support the bill, seconded by Ms. Margaret Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 2407 (Ting) – Recycling: Lithium-ion vehicle batteries: Advisory group. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support if amended, seconded by Ms. Betsey Clark. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LOW CARBON STANDARD REGULATION

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar gave a [PowerPoint](#) presentation on the California Air Resources Board's Proposed Amendments to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Regulation and to the Regulation on Commercialization of Alternative Diesel Fuels. The presentation explained the purpose of the LCFS regulations and how credits and deficits are calculated and traded. Ms. Vazifdar explained that fuel above the standard are deficits and fuels below are credits. Ms. Vazifdar also provided some brief information on the history of the LCFS development.

Mr. Ron Saldana asked if the alternative fuels compressed natural gas (CNG) and liquefied natural gas (LNG) fall below the standard. Ms. Vazifdar confirmed they did, but reported that the staff report is proposing to remove the opt-in status of fossil CNG. She explained that opt-in status for a fuel means that it is qualified to generate LCFS credits and only CNG produced from renewable sources will qualify.

Mr. Mark Bragg asked if the Low Carbon Fuel Regulation was related to SB 1440. Mr. Mike Mohajer explained that SB 1440 is a very confusing bill that has been amended twice, and that getting both subjects mixed will create more confusion.

IX. SB 1383 UPDATE (ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING)

Mr. Suk Chong provided the attached "[SB 1383 Update \(Organic Waste Recycling\)](#)" to the Task Force. The presentation included an overview of CalRecycle tasks to develop and adopt regulations and follow organic waste reduction. He also provided information about the County's expected role and responsibilities, current planning and programs, and anticipated impact to businesses. He mentioned two CalRecycle upcoming workshops:

- May 7, 2018 in Carlsbad
- May 8, 2018 in Sacramento

Additional information can be found at <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/climate/slcp/>.

X. AB 901 RULEMAKING PROCESS UPDATE

Mr. Carlos Slythe provided an update on AB 901 for regulations on recycling and disposal. In accordance with CalRecycle, the proposed regulations for recycling and disposal facility reporting aimed to streamline and approve how organics, recycled material, and solid waste are reported to and tracked by the State to better assist the various stakeholders and the public. At the February 15, 2018, Task Force meeting, staff provided an update on AB 901. A notice of the

proposed regulation was published in the California Regulatory Notice Register by the Office of the Administrative Law on January 26. That notice began a formal 45-day public comment period of the ruling in process. CalRecycle held a Public Hearing in Sacramento on March 14, at 2:00 p.m., to receive public comments on proposed regulations for recycling and disposal facility reporting. Public Hearing was also available through a webinar. The written comment period ended for this on March 14, at 11:59 p.m. The staff completed its review of the latest draft regulation and sent a letter with the transport's comments on March 14, to CalRecycle. CalRecycle stated that the responses to public comments and regulatory changes will be released at a later date. The adoption of regulations is anticipated to be completed by mid-2018. Further reporting will be in early 2019.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz asked Mr. Carlos Sylthe to briefly summarize the main concerns we have. Mr. Slythe stated that regulations did not clearly state how the information was going to be available to local jurisdictions.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated that Los Angeles County has been relying on the Disposal Reporting System to annually update projections of Countywide regeneration, disposal, and plan for disposal capacity. With the new system, the law provides under the new structure, the haulers and facility operators report directly to CalRecycle and upstream to the facility they utilize. Then the local governments have access to some of the information, upon request. The question is, will information be made available and will CalRecycle indicate what information they will share?

Mr. Ron Saldana asked if the County could mandate everyone who works under a franchise agreement, copy the County on the reports sent to CalRecycle? Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated the authority we had before was because State written law and regulation required haulers and everybody in the chain to provide information. The new system necessitates several things including retooling computer system so with the new system we can "ask" that they provide us information and if it requires too much effort on their part, they may decide not to continue to provide the information. Mr. Mike Mohajer stated AB 901 was developed due to haulers and facility operators complaining about the 89 jurisdictions and having to comply with them. They worked with Assembly Member Gordon from San Francisco and got the legislation passed. Some of the information is not being identified by jurisdiction of origin. CalRecycle is under pressure from haulers and waste industry. Mr. Ruiz states we are seeking CalRecycle to develop a system that could generate reports; making information available to local governments so they can do their planning.

Mr. Mohajer stated comment period has closed, but comments were submitted to Office of Administrative Law.

Ms. Betsey Landis reminded everybody that at the last meeting, Ms. Karen Coca stated Recycla went around the City of Los Angeles and discovered there were many haulers that people in private were utilizing. Those haulers are no longer in the city.

XI. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin stated the Local Conservation Corps funding has been released and is now available. The last day to file is May 1, 2018. Ms. Wallin gave an update on the public items for their public meeting. They will follow up with jurisdictions who previously indicated they would implement a recycling program after the 12-month mark. For April's public meeting, a group of jurisdictions which includes Azusa, Compton, and Commerce, submitted a plan for the organics programs. CalRecycle will be monitoring their progress for the next 12 months.

Ms. Wallin stated two upcoming workshops for SB 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) will be held in Carlsbad on May 7, 2018, and in Sacramento on May 8, 2018.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz asked how the LCC funding is supporting the local conservation and how is it being allocated. Ms. Wallin stated there is \$22,000,000 that is distributed to different areas (i.e., e-waste, tires, and used beverage containers).

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2018, in Conference Room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

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