

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

Minutes for April 18, 2019

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Gideon Kracov, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Liz Reilly, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Craig Beck, rep by Charles Tripp, Long Beach Public Works Department
Grace Hyde, rep by Sam Shammas, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagaw-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jason Aspell, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Robb Cohn, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Jack Hadjinian, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
David Kim, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, Los Angeles County Public Works
Elijah Carder, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeff Farano, Corporate Counsel/Governmental Relations SA Recycling
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Bella Hernandez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Vince Holguin, Tongva Tribe
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Dennis Montano, Republic Services
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tyler Pledger, City of Santa Clarita
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle
Curtis William, City of Santa Clarita

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:09 p.m. by Ms. Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 21, 2019

Approval of the March 21, 2019 meeting minutes was postponed until the next Task Force (TF) meeting to allow further discussion. Staff will seek clarification from County Counsel regarding the motion made during the March 21, 2019 TF meeting by committee members to form a new subcommittee.

III. MAKE A FINDING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954 2(B)(2) IF THERE IS A NEED TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AND THAT THE NEED FOR ACTION CAME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE BOARD SUBSEQUENT TO THE AGENDA BEING POSTED AS SPECIFIED IN SUBDIVISION (A) AND PLACE ON THIS AGENDA THE FOLLOWING ADDITION ITEM: COMMENTS TO THE ALTERNATE PROPOSED DECISION OF COMMISSIONER PICKER IN RULEMAKING 13-02-008, REGARDING PIPELINE BIOGAS REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Skye requested that the TF committee make a motion to discuss an emergency item on Comments to the Alternate Proposed Decision (Alternate Decision) of Commissioner Picker in Rulemaking 13-02-008 regarding pipeline biogas requirements, which was added to the agenda after the agenda was posted. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to discuss said Item III on the revised agenda, seconded by Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Vazifdar summarized Rulemaking 13-02-008 regarding pipeline biogas requirements. Ms. Vazifdar stated that Senate Bill 840 (2016) requested that the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) complete a study to analyze standards for the injection of biomethane gas into the natural gas pipeline. Ms. Vazifdar stated that the findings of the study were presented during a workshop by the CCST in June 2018. Following the workshop, the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) released a Scoping Memo stating that the standards under consideration were the minimum heating value and maximum siloxane concentration. Ms. Vazifdar reported that the TF submitted a comment letter to the CPUC on the Scoping Memo in July 2018. She stated that in October 2018, the CPUC publicly released the CCST report that recommended lowering the minimum heating value of pipeline-injected biomethane gas from 990 British Thermal Units per standard cubic foot (BTU/scf) to 970 BTU/cu ft. Ms. Vazifdar stated that the CCST report also recommended that the maximum siloxane concentration should not be changed until more research is conducted, but that the monitoring and reporting requirements could

potentially be lowered for biomethane gas produced from sources that are unlikely to contain siloxanes, such as diverted organic waste, agricultural waste, dairy waste, etc. processed in a stand-alone anaerobic digester. Ms. Vazifdar stated that the CCST report also recommended allowing blending of biogas of a lower heating value with biomethane of a higher heating value within the pipeline. Ms. Vazifdar also mentioned that in November 2018, the CPUC issued a ruling requesting feedback from interested parties on the definition of “renewable methane” to determine if pipeline injection standards should also apply to “renewable methane.”

In January 2019, the CPUC issued a Proposed Decision that concurred with the recommendations in the CCST report. However, earlier this month, the CPUC President issued an Alternate Decision. Ms. Vazifdar stated that both the Proposed and Alternate Decisions concur with lowering the minimum heating value and maintaining the current siloxane concentration limit; however, the Alternate Decision does not allow the reduction of monitoring requirements for biomethane from any source. Ms. Vazifdar stated that the Alternate Decision also would not allow for any blending of off-spec biogas. Furthermore, Ms. Vazifdar stated that the Alternate Decision would completely close this proceeding, preventing any future reevaluation of revised pipeline standards, incentives, or the definition of renewable gas. Finally, Ms. Vazifdar stated that comments on the Alternate Decision are due on May 2, 2019.

Ms. Clark asked how siloxane enters biomethane and which products contain siloxane. Ms. Vazifdar responded that siloxane is found in personal care products. She explained that siloxane can harm equipment or cause harmful air emissions, but that biomethane produced from diverted organic waste or other materials not containing personal care products is unlikely to contain siloxane. Ms. Vazifdar continued that the main concern with the siloxane limit is that it is difficult and costly to verify that the siloxane concentration falls below the current limit, not uncertainty about whether the biomethane produced from these wastes contains siloxanes.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the Alternate Decision would increase the cost to develop anaerobic digestion facilities in California to recycle organic waste. Mr. Mohajer made a motion for staff to send a letter to the CPUC addressing the TF concerns. The motion was seconded by Ms. Reilly and passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Vazifdar reported that there was a presentation by Clements Environmental regarding biomass conversion facilities in California. Many biomass powerplants

that used combustion technology have shut down due to competition with cheaper wind and solar energy and the expiration of long-term purchase agreements. Ms. Vazifdar reported that several new facilities using gasification technologies to process biomass and produce power or fuel are now in development or beginning operation. They are utilizing incentives and grants to become financially viable.

Ms. Vazifdar also provided an update on work being performed by Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI), who are currently developing several informational and outreach documents regarding conversion technology development, including emissions comparisons, permitting guidance, and quantification of potential feedstocks.

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

Ms. Landis reported the subcommittee received an update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints. During the month of March, a total of 76 complaints were made by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline and 29 were listed as no field response. Compared to February 2019, complaints have increased from 17 to 76 remained for the month of March 2019. Compared to March 2018, the number of complaints for this year have increased from 21 to 76 complaints. There is a total of 110 complaints reported so far this year. As of April 9, 2019, AQMD has issued 1 odor complaint Notice of Violation (NOV) to SCL for the month of March 2019.

Ms. Landis reported on a power surge at the landfill, which caused the landfill gas collection and control infrastructure, including the on-site flare and landfill gas-to-energy plant to shut down. The incident had caused an increase in odor complaints from the surrounding community.

Ms. Landis reported that Republic Services (the landfill's operator) has the order of abatement that keeps trucks from coming in early in the morning, which will expire in June 2019. This would allow the Republic Services to get their trucks earlier in the day after the abatement expires.

Ms. Landis informed the Task Force members of the ongoing issue with the elevated gas reading level of Perimeter Well 205R and stated that the gas may be either coming from the oil wells that were abandoned or from the landfill gas.

Lastly, Ms. Landis reported on a discussion of the Finding of Conformance report for Calabasas Landfill.

VI. TASK FORCE GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Mr. Ruiz mentioned that staff will consult with County Council on Item VI and agendaize the item for next month's meeting. Mr. Ruiz suggested the item should still be discussed to provide a sense of direction to the group regarding what it should focus on. Two of the things that were discussed at last month's meeting were regarding the internal/external aspects of the TF and the setting of agendas, minutes, staff reports, and other meeting documents.

Mr. Mohajer commented on the discussion that the members had regarding quorum due to members not attending the meetings and added that this issue needs to be addressed and members can identify a system that will work.

Mr. Gideon mentioned there are still three seats available on the committee. He added that ideas should come from the people who are a part of the current committee, which can be both internal and external issues. Mr. Gideon suggested each TF member speak with their respective agencies and bring ideas and suggestions back to the TF as to what they would like to see the TF work on. Mr. Gideon also suggested to have better agenda packages so that the members can make better decisions and be more prepared for the meetings. Mr. Gideon further mentioned it would be great to focus more on the external aspect that relates to policies, for example SB 1383, Sitting Element, legislation, etc.

The TF members continued to discuss and expressed their ideas and how to contribute to the committee and provide an efficient direction. Members will continue to discuss this item during the next TF meeting.

VII. LEGISLATIVE TABLE

Mr. Carder gave an update on the [legislative table](#). He reported that five bills were added since the last TF meeting and removed three bills from the list that are no longer relevant to the TF (AB 399, AB 900, SB 276). Mr. Carder also reported that there are 58 bills in total on the legislative table at this time.

AB 144 (Aguiar-Curry) – Public Resources Management. Requires the strategic growth council to prepare and submit a report to the legislature that provides a scoping plan for the state to meet its organic waste management mandates, goals, and targets including recommendations on policy and funding support for beneficial re-use of organic waste. Staff recommended to support if amended. Mr. Gideon made a motion to support if amended, seconded by Mr. Mohajer. Motion passed unanimously.

AB 729 (Chu) – Carpet Recycling: Carpet Stewardship Organizations: Succession: Procedure. This bill requires a stewardship organization to include in the carpet stewardship plan a contingency plan should the carpet stewardship plan expire without approval of a new carpet stewardship plan or should the carpet stewardship plan be revoked. Staff recommended to support and amend. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support and amend, seconded by Ms. Landis. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 1080/SB 54 (Gonzalez, Calderon, Friedman, and Ting) – California Circular Economy and Plastic Pollution Reduction Act. Requires CalRecycle to adopt regulations and establish a scoping plan to set a baseline for single-use packaging and products, to source reduce to the maximum extent feasible, and achieve 75 percent source reduction and recycling by 2030, all single-use packaging and products must be recyclable or compostable on and after 2030, and must demonstrate 20 percent recycling rate by January 1, 2022 and 40 percent by January 1, 2026 as a condition of sale. Staff recommended to support if amended. A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer to support if amended, seconded by Mr. Kracov. The motion passed with one abstention.

AB 1236 (Lackey and Flora) – Public Resources: Greenhouse Gases: Recycling: California Environmental Quality Act. This bill, no later than January 1, 2022, to develop require the state Air Resources Board for a market-based compliance mechanism applicable from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2030, to investigate the potential for a carbon offset compliance protocol for recycled product manufacturing as a market-based solution; to authorize \$200,000,000 from the annual proceeds of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to CalRecycle for the Recycled Fiber, Plastic, and Glass Grant Program; would require CalRecycle, no later than January 1, 2023, to prepare a program environmental impact report for organic waste composting facilities; to require the Office of Planning and Research, in consultation with CalRecycle, to identify and report to the Legislature on the regulatory barriers and opportunities to streamline permitting; and to establish the Recycled Materials Innovation Grant Program to award no more than 5 grants of \$20,000,000 each, with moneys made available from the General Fund. Staff recommended to support and amend. A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer to send a letter to support and amend, seconded by Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 457 (Hueso) – Biomethane: Gas Corporations. The bill would require the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to extend a 5-year monetary incentive program for the in-state production and distribution of biomethane from June 11, 2020 until December 31, 2026. Staff recommended to support bill. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support the bill, seconded by Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 667 (Hueso) – Greenhouse Gases: Recycling Infrastructure and Facilities. This bill would require CalRecycle to develop by January 1, 2021, and CalRecycle to amend, a 5-year investment strategy to drive innovation and support technological development and organics infrastructure. Staff recommended to continue to watch the bill and the members agreed.

SB 724 (Stern and Glazer) – The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act. This bill's intent is to stabilize the recycling marketplace and infrastructure by providing relief to California's retailers and grocers affected by the recycling center closures, and ensure consumers have local redemption opportunities for CRV beverage containers. Staff recommended to support and amend. Mr. Gideon made a motion to support and amend, seconded by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 726 (Caballero) – Hazardous Waste: Public Agencies: Materials Exchange Program. This bill would additionally authorize a public agency's contractor to conduct a materials exchange program as a part of its household hazardous waste collection program. Staff recommended to support bill. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, seconded by Ms. Pereira. The motion passed with two abstentions.

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Jennifer Wallin, of CalRecycle, reported that comments for Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) comments were posted on their website along with an updated Education and Outreach Resources and videos. Ms. Wallin also gave an update on grants and events.

- Local Enforcement Agency Grant Program (FY 2019-2020) application is due on April 23, 2019.
- Notice of Funds Available: Local Conservation Corps (FY 2019-2020) application due on April 30, 2019.
- Tired-Derived Product Grant (FY 2019-2020) application due on May 14, 2019.
- Public Meeting Notice; Public Rate Hearing: July 1, 2019 Recycling Program Rates

- Public Meeting Notice: Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship (SB 212) Informal Rulemaking Workshop on May 17, 2019 in Sacramento, CA.
- Overview of the 2018 California Waste Tire Market Report Workshop on May 20, 2019 in Sacramento, CA.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m. The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2019, in Conference Room B of Public Works Headquarters.

mq