

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

Minutes for May 20, 2021

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

WEB CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Gideon Kracov, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council 6th District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Los Angeles County Public Health
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Michelle Chambers, California League of Cities
Eddie De La Riva, California League of Cities
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Elijah Carder, Los Angeles County Public Works
David Fahrion, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Patrick Holland, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Keith Lilley, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Chris Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Ms. Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 15, 2021 MINUTES

Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Mike Mohajer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer, PEIS Chair, reported the PEIS reviewed 6 articles to be published in the next issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. Articles included Update on Los Angeles County Green Zones Ordinance, Los Angeles County Partners with Businesses to Promote Recycled-Content Products, California Climate Action Corps Fellows Working on Los Angeles County's Edible Food Recovery Project, CarbonLITE recycling, Easy Ways to Exchange Goods, and Extended Producer Responsibility Legislative Initiatives 2021. There will be two more items published; a lengthy Legislative Table and in the following Newsletter issue, there will be an article summarizing the Governor's proposed revision to the State budget, which is still being discussed in Sacramento.

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

Mr. Christopher Sheppard, ATAS Chair, reported the ATAS received a presentation by Brandon Moffatt of [StormFisher](#). They are a conversion technology developer who specialize in anaerobic digestion (AD) and composting facilities. They are technology neutral so they use multiple different technologies, depending on project locations and jurisdictions they are working in. They presented on a composting and high-solids AD facility that they have in Ontario, Canada. The facility can process about 100,000 tons per year of comingled, source-separated municipal organic waste, including leaf and yard waste plus food waste, and generates over 225,000 BTU per year of pipeline-quality renewable natural gas. The presentation link will also be available on the May 2021 ATAS Minutes on the Task Force website.

Mr. Sheppard also reported that Tetra Tech provided an update on their analysis of the environmental benefits of greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with AD. They are also preparing responses to the Subcommittee's comments on a Fact Sheet comparing AD development in Europe vs. the United States.

There was a brief update from Eugene Tseng about recent efforts being made by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), the waste management industry, and CalRecycle to develop alternative measures to comply with high diversion facility requirements to comply with Senate Bill 1383. Mr. Tseng and his team will provide a presentation at July's ATAS meeting.

The following conversion technology events and conferences are coming up and may be found in the Conversion Technology Newsletter and on the website (www.socalconversion.org):

- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: Disaster Recovery: June 10, 2021, virtual
- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: Sustainable Materials Management Summit: June 15, 2021, virtual
- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: Landfill Challenges Summit: June 14, 2021, virtual
- Waste EXPO: June 28 - 30, 2021, Las Vegas, NV
- Biomass Summit & Expo: July 13 – 15, 2021, Des Moines, IA
- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: High Diversion Facilities: July 22, 2021, virtual
- Resource Recycling Conference & Trade Show: August 4 – 5, 2021, Austin, TX
- Waste Conversion Technology Conference & Trade Show: August 16 – 18, 2021, San Diego, CA
- California Resource Recovery Association (CRRRA) Conference & Trade Show: August 16 – 19, 2021, virtual
- SoCal Waste Management Forum: June 9, 2021, virtual
- SoCal Waste Management Annual Conference: Tentatively scheduled for November 10, 2021, Ontario, CA

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

Ms. Landis, FPRS Chair, provided a report on the FPRS meeting:

- Received the Quarterly Vegetation Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) update. Overall, the native plants are doing well and many plants that were planted by consultants are being kept up to date in protecting the native areas.
- SCL odor complaints – There were 22 odor complaints for April 2021, 7 were classified as trash, 4 were listed as landfill gas, 5 were no field response, and 6 were listed as none, meaning the inspectors visited the site, but did not detect any odor. As of May 5, 2021, AQMD issued 1 Notice of Violation (NOV) related

- to odor complaints for the month of April 2021. The total number of odor complaints for 2021, is 42.
- Discussion on load checks at SCL – It is required that loads be checked to make certain there are no contaminants or things that should not be there. The Task Force was never notified that due to the pandemic and safety measures, the LEA allowed SCL to only perform visual load checks. Subcommittee members had a long discussion with the Republic Services representative and the County Public Health representative on the FPRS on how reports were being noted.
 - SCL Soil Importation – SCL has stated they would submit a new proposal for soil importation. At this time, Republic has not resubmitted the revised proposal.
 - Discussion on Finding of Conformance (FOC) reports for landfills – Staff provided information from the Waste Characterization Studies conducted at the Calabasas Landfill, Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) and SCL.
 - Update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill – To date, CCL has received 27 NOVs issued by AQMD. CCL will be using ADC plastic film covering for the waste, which can be left in place and degrade. This is the same type of daily cover being utilized at SCL.

Ms. Margaret Clark discussed the HLB (huanglongbing) citrus tree issue that ruins the orange trees and asked if trash companies are careful when picking up green waste and disposing and potentially spreading disease by mixing it with trash at landfills.

Ms. Landis responded that trash companies cannot move that waste out of a city's jurisdiction and that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has many rules to confine diseases to a certain area so they do not spread throughout the state. She commented that there should be many more inspectors because they are understaffed.

Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota commented that the LEA has not worked with the CDFA in a few years on evasive test quarantine zones and how waste facilities are handling. She concurred that the CDFA is short staffed but that they have the authority to enforce their master agreement. If a waste facility is handling green waste outside of the quarantine zone, they must have a master agreement approved by CDFA and must comply with the stipulations. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota informed that the CDFA inspector is the one who checks for compliance and there are some County facilities with master agreements.

Mr. Mohajer suggested that staff invite a representative from the CDFA to attend a future Task Force meeting. He also recalled that the Task Force had sent the

CDFA a letter a few months ago to address the issue regarding the handling of contaminated solid waste and that the Task Force did not receive a response.

A motion was made to send a letter to the CDFA to follow up on the previous Task Force letter and to invite a representative from the CDFA to participate at the next Task Force meeting to speak on the issue. The motion passed with 2 abstentions.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Sheppard gave a brief overview of the Governor's May revised budget.

There is currently a budget revision that is quite extensive, which is over \$260 billion and includes a \$75 billion surplus, in addition to \$25 billion in federal funding available to states through the American Rescue Plan. The proposal is for \$196 billion in general fund appropriations, which include \$55 million for grants and loans for new composting and AD facilities and to expand capacity at existing wastewater facilities to increase organic waste recycling capacity. Also included is \$50 million for the climate catalyst fund which provides low interest revolving loans to attract recycling and reuse businesses to California, \$15 million for recycling technology feasibility grants that would provide grants to companies that are in research and development and a pilot phase for recycling projects for those interested in relocating to California, \$5 million for food waste prevention and rescue grants to establish new or expand existing food waste prevention projects, and \$5 million to create and expand community composting opportunities that create jobs in underserved and disadvantaged communities.

There is also a Senate Budget proposal that includes \$200 million for organic waste grant funding to cities and counties for developing and implementing organic waste recycling programs required by SB 1383. More details are expected to come about the State Assembly budget proposal. A number of coalition letters have been submitted requesting funding for recycling and organic waste-related funding during the budget process.

Key dates noted:

- May 21, 2021 - Last day for fiscal committees to meet and report to the floor their respective bills introduced in their house.
- June 1 – 4, 2021 – Floor sessions only.
- June 4, 2021 - Deadline for bills to be voted on and passed out of their house of origin in order to continue through the process.
- June 7, 2021 - Committee hearings will resume in the various houses.

- June 15, 2021, at midnight - Last day for the budget bill to be passed.

Staff will monitor hearings on bills that the Task Force has taken positions on, and a final budget summary will be provided to the Task Force to highlight potential funding.

There are 78 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and Mr. Sheppard highlighted the following 3 bills for possible positions by the Task Force:

- AB 652 (Friedman) - Amended on May 13, 2021: Product Safety: Juvenile Products: Chemicals: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Landis seconded. The motion passed with 1 abstention.
- AB 1200 (Ting) - Amended on March 29, 2021: Plant-based Food Packaging: Cookware: Hazardous Chemicals. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Landis seconded. The motion passed with 1 abstention.
- SB 605 (Eggman) – Amended on April 29, 2021: Medical Device Right to Repair Act. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Landis seconded. The motion passed with 1 abstention. Ms. Landis asked if the entire device, instead of just parts, must be shipped back to the maker if something is not working. Mr. Sheppard responded that currently only the manufacturer is able to make the repairs. Mr. Skye suggested support to amend since the bill is just limited to medical devices and that perhaps the author may consider broadening the bill to others. Mr. Mohajer responded that he did not know the impact on other products so would rather leave as is. Ms. Landis concurred with Mr. Mohajer.

Mr. Sheppard gave an update on correspondence from the Task Force regarding support for bills, which included 19 letters on Assembly Bills, 5 on Senate Bills, 1 on Joint Resolution, and 2 Floor Alerts. Staff is continuing to look at bills that are going through the process in order to prepare updated letters.

VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin was unable to provide an update due to having to attend a 2 p.m. meeting. She will provide her update to Ms. Carol Oyola for distribution to the Task Force.

Mr. Mohajer announced that SB 619, which is a bill that will delay SB 1383 penalties, was approved by the Senate this morning and moved to the Assembly. He is hoping that they can expand the legislation and give credit to those jurisdictions that are making a good faith effort to comply with SB 1383 regulations.

Ms. Clark asked staff if there was a way to find out what the recycling percentages are for different trash haulers that work within the cities and what the reports say that are sent to CalRecycle. Mr. Skye responded that they have really great information regarding the Puente Hills Materials Recycling and Recovery Facility that is broken down by jurisdiction but does not know if that information is given out widely. Most facilities do not want to share the information at the jurisdiction level. Ms. Clark asked if it was public record at the state level and if anyone would know what the recycling percentages are. Mr. Shammass responded the information on recycling rates for cities should be on CalRecycle's website.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled remotely on Thursday, June 17, 2021, at 1 p.m.