

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

Minutes for August 19, 2021

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

WEB CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, California League of Cities
Gideon Kracov, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council 6th District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Stan Pegadiotes, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Public Health
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, 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:

Michelle Chambers, California League of Cities
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gabriel Esparza, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Ms. Margaret Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 15, 2021 MINUTES

Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Carlos Ruiz seconded. The motion passed with 1 no vote.

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 Smart Gardening Webinars, Fulcrum BioEnergy, Recycling Market Development Zone, CalRecycle Senate Bill 1383 Implementation Tools, CalRecycle Plastic Beverage Container Minimum Content (Assembly Bill 793) Workshop, and the Governor's Budget Revision. Suggested articles to be published in the following Newsletter issue include Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element, new Extended Producer Responsibility laws in the states of Maine and Oregon, and an Update on Legislative Bills.

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

Mr. Christopher Sheppard, ATAS Chair, reported the ATAS received a presentation by Craig Pichach of [CleanCarbonEnergy](#), who provided information about their pyrolysis technology to convert biomass and fuels into electricity. They are proposing to create a pilot facility in Imperial Valley where they have selected a site but have not started construction. They are working on a bench scale facility in Alberta, Canada, which will be an initial test case for their process. This project will use a scalable technology where they will process 100 tons per day to start, but then will be able to scale up to 500 tons per day, primarily processing wood waste, but then adding municipal solid waste. In the future, they would like to offer a tour of their demonstration facility in Alberta and may consider virtual tours.

Tetra Tech is assisting Public Works (PW) in developing a report due to the Board of Supervisors by September 2021, which is in response to a June 2021 Board Motion that directed PW to develop a strategy for addressing solid waste management challenges including identifying infrastructure needs and providing recommendations for potential locations for new or expanded facilities.

There was an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#). The link to the website was disseminated to the Task Force.

- CEAC Policy Conference: September 15 – 16, 2021, virtual
- Renewable Natural Gas Works Technical Workshop & Trade Expo: September 29 – 30, 2021, Nashville, TN
- WasteCon 2021: November 1 – 4, 2021, Kissimmee, FL
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference & Exhibit: November 10, 2021, Ontario, CA

Ms. Clark asked about the product(s) created from the food waste processed by CleanCarbon Energy at their pilot facility. Mr. Sheppard responded they can take in food waste but are primarily focusing on wood waste. They are producing a "drop-in" fuel as a gasoline and diesel substitute, which is their main focus. Their process also generates hydrogen and methane that can be used to put back into their process or used to run a generator to make electricity. Ms. Clark asked what "drop-in" meant. Mr. Sheppard responded it meant the fuel they make can be put into a regular car without any modifications or additional upgrading. Ms. Clark asked since the process produces methane, would it still be considered clean technology. Mr. Sheppard responded yes because it captures the methane and eliminates the need for "fossil fuels" in their processes.

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

Ms. Landis, FPRS Chair, reported on the following discussed items at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill
 - Mr. Mike Mohajer requested for additional specific details in the report from staff regarding subsurface methane gas migration.
 - Status of South Coast Air Quality Maintenance District's (AQMD) Stipulated Order of Abatement.
 - Two lawsuits filed due to noncompliance with Notices of Violation (NOVs). Settlement discussions are taking place.
 - Report on odor complaints. Large fans being placed to abate odors.
 - Finding of Conformance (FOC) Report. Disposed of 498,000 tons in the second quarter of 2021.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill
 - Report on odor complaints. There were 27 odor complaints for July 2021; 8 classified as trash, 3 were listed as "no field response" and 16 as "none" which meant inspector visited site but did not detect odor. AQMD issued

no NOV's for July 2021. The total number of odor complaints received in 2021 is 104.

- Vegetation meeting revealed very good results from native plants growing with the seeding on both the County and City sides. Seeding will continue on other slopes, including on Decks A, B, and C.
- SCL disposed of approximately 676,000 tons in the second quarter of 2021.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Sheppard noted the following key dates:

- August 16, 2021, Legislature returned from summer recess.
- August 27, 2021 will be the last day for fiscal committees to meet and report bills to the floor.
- August 30 – September 10, 2021, will be floor sessions only, no committee hearings.
- September 3, 2021 will be the last day to amend bills on the floor.
- September 6, 2021 is Labor Day.
- September 10, 2021 will be the last day for each house to pass bills and send them to the Governor.
- September 14, 2021 is the recall election, and the Governor will be able to sign bills into legislation between September 10 and October 10, 2021.

There was a total of 82 bills related to waste management on the [Legislative Table](#). Due to Legislature being on recess, no bills were on the cover page. Many bills are currently undergoing minor amendments on the floor in their various appropriations committees. Updated letters are being sent, as well as floor alerts on bills, reiterating the Task Force positions. As a reminder, the following bills supported by the Task Force were signed by the Governor in July 2021:

- Assembly Bill 246 related to illegal dumping.
- Assembly Bill 504 related to commercial organic waste recycling bins.
- Assembly Joint Resolution related to the Basil Convention.

Staff will continue monitoring the bills and track amendments on the floor and will continue working with the Task Force legislative advocate to make any necessary changes and submit updated letters to the floor. Once bills reach the Governor, staff will work to send letters to the Governor urging signature or veto, in accordance with the position of the Task Force.

At last month's meeting, the Task Force passed a motion to draft a letter of concern regarding Senate Bill 38 (related to the Bottle Bill) and to send to the Task Force

members for comment. After receiving comments, the letter was finalized and sent to the bill's author, Senator Weickowski.

To date, there have been 12 revised legislative letters and 6 bills on the floor that are coming up for floor hearings.

Ms. Landis noted she was pleased with the way the SB 619 letter was written. Mr. Sheppard commented that the support in concept letter was a reiteration of the letter sent in June 2021 from the Task Force.

VII. UPDATE ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PRELIMINARY DRAFT REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa provided an update on the Los Angeles County Preliminary Draft Revised Countywide Siting Element (Draft Revised Siting Element). At last month's Task Force meeting, the Task Force approved a motion to request an extension of the 45-day public review period of the Draft Revised Siting Element and its Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for an additional 45 days.

PW, acting as the lead agency, has granted the extension of the public review period to September 30, 2021, which would provide the public, cities, and the Task Force an opportunity to review the documents and provide comments to PW. An updated Notice of Availability and Extension was published in local newspapers. The Draft Revised Siting Element and its Draft EIR have been available for public review since July 1, 2021. PW also conducted 6 virtual public information meetings, recorded in English and in Spanish, to solicit comments on the Draft Revised Siting Element and its DEIR. All recordings may be accessed by visiting the [Countywide Siting Element Website Community Meetings page](#). At the end of the public review period, PW staff will present all comments received and the County's response to the Task Force and will prepare the Final Draft Revised Siting Element.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the Draft Revised Siting Element is nearly 500 pages and that he had been reviewing the document and submitting comments to staff. He asked if the Draft Revised Siting Element addressed funding for the Siting Element's programs. Mr. Mohajer made a reference to Title 14, Section 18756.7, Subdivision A, paragraph 3, identification of revenue sources sufficient to support administration and maintenance of the countywide or regionwide solid waste disposal facilities siting program. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that, if a discussion on funding has not been included, then it should be addressed in the document. He also noted other comments, such as who the lead and supporting agencies would be, as well as questions regarding some of the designations.

Mr. Mohajer highlighted State Law, which provides that the Task Force shall develop goals, policies, and procedures to provide guidance in preparation of the countywide siting element. He continued that under the State Law, the Task Force's responsibility is to focus on goals and policy and that the Task Force's responsibility and authority is much more than that of PW, which is part of the siting criteria in the siting element that very specifically states, for example, zero methane gas migration.

Mr. Mohajer requested staff to check with County Counsel on the process of distribution to the cities and whether submissions to cities should be by formal letter or electronic, especially if the case goes to court. Mr. Aiyetiwa responded that Mr. Mohajer's comments were very important, and that staff would like to continue working with him and that perhaps a meeting could be scheduled for further discussion.

Ms. Landis asked if the responsibility of the review would be for the FPRS. Mr. Mohajer responded that the FPRS should review the document and submit comments. Mr. Ruiz explained that the Siting Element had been years in the making with the County and Task Force working together in the development of the draft document and, since there are new members to the Task Force, it would be appropriate for staff to collect comments received and submit to the FPRS and then to the Task Force for their consideration to officially review and comment on the document.

Because the Task Force is responsible for reviewing and commenting on the Preliminary Draft Revised Siting Element, Ms. Clark mentioned wanting to know what Mr. Mohajer had seen in the document, as well as wanting to know about the review process and how much time cities are allotted to review and comment. Ms. Clark recommended the Preliminary Draft Revised Siting Element be sent to the city manager and public works director since they are the ones that know what should be done, and respective Mayors having too much to know what the Preliminary Draft Revised Siting Element entails.

Mr. Kracov commented he was under the impression the Preliminary Draft Revised Siting Element would be reviewed by the Subcommittee and then reviewed by the Task Force. Ms. Landis noted that everyone should review the Preliminary Draft Revised Siting Element. Mr. Rafael Prieto commented it was standard government practice to submit documents to a subcommittee for review and in turn submit their recommendations and comments to the main committee, and that he was comfortable with the practice.

Ms. Clark asked if the September 30, 2021, deadline may be extended for another month to allow the Task Force to review after the FPRS reviews. Mr. Ruiz

responded PW's intent is to work with the Task Force in the development of the document and the request for additional time would be taken into consideration. Mr. Kracov did not support requesting the extra time and felt the Task Force should see where everything stands in September. Discussion of the process and review of the lengthy Preliminary Draft Revised Siting Element and deadline continued.

A motion was made by Mr. Jim Smith and seconded by Mr. Eddie De La Riva for the FPRS to review the Preliminary Draft Revised Siting Element and to note and highlight suggested comments so the Task Force may review, and that the Preliminary Draft Revised Siting Element be placed on September FPRS and Task Force Agendas for discussion and possible extension to the September 30, 2021 deadline. The motion passed with 1 No vote.

Mr. Mohajer strongly recommended that elected city officials, such as Ms. Clark, should direct their staff to start reviewing the documents noting their comments and concerns.

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin reported the following from CalRecycle:

- The Rubberized Pavement Grant application is due September 29, 2021.
- The Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grant application is due September 2021.
- Assembly Bill 793 Workshop on August 25, 2021.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. ADJOURMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held remotely on Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 1 p.m.