

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

Minutes for January 20, 2022

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

WEB CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Michelle Chambers, League of California Cities
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council 6th District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, 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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, 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
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Christopher 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 Mr. Sam Shammass. Mr. Shammass welcomed newly appointed Task Force member, Mr. Jordan R. Sisson, representing the California Waste and Recycling Association.

II. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2021 MINUTES

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer asked Mr. Coby Skye if Mr. Sisson may vote as part of quorum before filing his 700 Form. Mr. Skye responded that the Form is required but not a prerequisite to joining the Task Force, and staff would confirm with County Counsel. Mr. Sam Shammass also noted he recalled voting before filing his 700 Form when he was first appointed to the Task Force.

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

Mr. Chris Sheppard reported that the ATAS received a [presentation](#) by Mr. Scott Gardner of H Cycle on its advanced gasification technology, licensed from Omni CT, which processes municipal solid waste (MSW), forest waste, and agricultural waste to produce hydrogen. H Cycle had a commercial scale operation in Canada that was able to process 100 tons of MSW per day and is considering a future project in Los Angeles.

Tetra Tech is supporting Public Works with Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) planning efforts, evaluating potential sites for organic waste processing, and finalizing fact sheets on anaerobic digestion.

There was an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

- Compost 2022: January 24 – 27, 2022, Austin, TX
- Zero Waste Symposium 2022: February 8, 2022, Virtual
- Global Waste Management Symposium: February 14 – 17, 2022, Indian Wells, CA
- VerdeXchange Conference 2022: March 6 - 9, 2022, Los Angeles, CA
- International Biomass Conference & Expo: March 14 - 16, 2022, Jacksonville, FL
- SWANA SOAR Conference 2022: March 21 - 24, 2022, Kansas City, MO
- CEAC Spring Conference 2022: March 23 - 25, 2022, Monterey, CA

CalRecycle provided a brief update on the criteria for an upcoming grant funding opportunity currently open for review. The grant will provide funding for co-digestion projects at wastewater treatment plants processing organic waste.

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

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

- Staff update that the review of all comments received on the Los Angeles County Preliminary Draft Revised Countywide Siting Element and Draft Environmental Impact Report is still ongoing.
- Update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)
 - Staff provided an update on NOVs received by CCL and the landfill's progress on compliance with the NOVs.
 - The Chiquita Canyon Landfill received 31 complaints in October, 27 complaints in November, and 45 complaints in December.
 - There were zero Notice of Violations (NOVs) issued by the Southern California Air Quality Management District (AQMD).
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)
 - Sunshine Canyon Landfill had 83 odor complaints in December 2021.
 - There were zero NOVs issued by the AQMD.
 - Total complaints received in 2021 is 446.
- Discussion took place regarding the SCL - Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) budget in relation to monitoring activities at the landfill. Staff will coordinate with the SCL-LEA to address questions from the Subcommittee and provide an update at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Hunter noted corrections to the data provided in the SCL monthly AQMD odor complaints report. Mr. Jack Cheng responded that the AQMD will review and update the website if needed.

V. SENATE BILL 619 (SB 619)

Mr. Charles Darensbourg presented on [SB 619](#) which authorizes a jurisdiction facing violations in implementing SB 1383 requirements during the 2022 calendar year to submit a Notice of Intent to Comply (NIC) and a resolution to CalRecycle by March 1, 2022.

Ms. Landis inquired if SB 1383 requirements for recycling organic waste offered solutions that would meet the approval of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), which have very rigid regulations about the movement of contaminated or

infected green waste. She questioned CalRecycle's role in penalizing jurisdictions, since CalRecycle and SB 1383 are not addressing regulations for managing such material.

Ms. Margaret Clark agreed with Ms. Landis because the discussion has been going on for years. Because of Huanlongbing (HLB) Asian Citrus Psyllid infesting orange and citrus trees, she cannot give oranges to people because of concerns in transporting the very serious disease. Ms. Clark's understanding is that Florida's citrus crops are in big trouble due to HLB. Her concern is that SB 1383 regulations allow organic green wastes to be placed in the green trash bin, collected, and transferred to different regions. She also expressed concern about her own trees, as well as others, and not wanting trees to die. Ms. Clark asked if anyone could explain if something has been done in response to the Task Force's concerns.

Mr. Shammass asked Mr. Darensbourg if he had heard anything from the CDFA or CalRecycle. Mr. Darensbourg responded no, but that staff would follow up on the concern. Ms. Clark asked what was previously done considering the topic came up when the Task Force was still meeting in person. Ms. Landis also added that the Draft Countywide Siting Element barely mentions the DTSC oversight and does not mention CDFA regulations. She reiterated that both have rigid regulations regarding movement of possibly infected dangerous materials. Ms. Landis noted that SB 1383 can cause a huge amount of harm to jurisdictions if CalRecycle is allowed to give fines.

Mr. Sisson asked if other jurisdictions have started adopting the NOIC considering COVID-19 and working remotely. Mr. Darensbourg responded that at a SWANA meeting held the day before, Ms. Cara Morgan spoke. Some jurisdictions are beginning to reach out to Local Area Marketing and Development Branch of CalRecycle to ask if it is wise to apply for SB 619. CalRecycle did mention that many jurisdictions are rolling out their programs this year to the best of their abilities. Mr. Darensbourg stated he did not have a real good picture on how many jurisdictions will be applying for SB 619, but that is something Ms. Morgan expressed had benefits in doing so if jurisdictions were having difficulties meeting SB 1383 requirements.

Ms. Clark asked Mr. Skye if he had done anything regarding the issue regarding handling organic green waste or had received any responses from CDFA or anybody else. Mr. Skye responded that the Task Force had submitted letters on this issue but there has been no response to his knowledge. Ms. Landis commented the reason she supports alternative technology facilities in the Countywide Siting Element is because they are clean and sterilize contaminants at high temperatures, including the compost going out. Alternative technology also reduces materials going to landfills.

Mr. Mohajer's understanding was that Public Works (PW) had sent documents to the Board of Supervisors (Board) indicating that PW had met with CalRecycle. Mr. Mohajer asked if PW during their meetings with CalRecycle, address this particular issue. Mr. Skye responded that this topic was not on the agenda for any meetings PW has had with CalRecycle but PW had met with CalRecycle a number of times on a variety of issues, including discussion of the SB 619 process and participating in workshops on SB 1383 implementation and that PW has continued to support the Task Force's comments on the issue. He also expressed it was not CalRecycle's sole responsibility to address the issue, as a number of other state agencies have a role as well.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that PW released the Roadmap to Sustainability Waste Management Future. The Chief Sustainability Office stated they have worked with other County departments, cities, the recycling industry, businesses, residents, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders. However, the Task Force is not mentioned at all. Mr. Skye reiterated that the topic was not on the agenda for any of the meetings PW had with CalRecycle and regarding the Roadmap to Sustainability Waste Management Future, reminded Mr. Mohajer that the document was presented to the Task Force who had a role similar to other stakeholders in reviewing and providing comments on the document. Discussion ensued.

VI. STAFF REPORT ON PROGRESS OF CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Sheppard provided a brief [staff report](#) on the progress of Conversion Technology (CT) Development in Los Angeles County, feasibility analysis for additional CT sites, facility development timeline, and an update on the proposed Calabasas Landfill Anaerobic Digestion Facility.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that over ten years ago, Public Works' consultant, ARI, developed siting criteria and identified potential sites for CTs. Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Sheppard if PW used new siting criteria for the report or if the original siting criteria was used. Mr. Sheppard responded that for this report, staff used new siting criteria. The list was developed for the "Enhancing Countywide Solid Waste Management Programs and Infrastructure Report" to the Board and was developed based on County-owned parcels and former solid waste management sites. Mr. Skye commented that PW continues to use the original criteria and that it is essential for the Countywide Siting Element. He added that, for this report, the Board requested that PW identify County-owned parcels as potential CT sites. Mr. Mohajer requested that staff distribute a copy of the siting criteria that was developed for the Task Force's use in finalizing the Countywide Siting Element.

Mr. Skye asked Mr. Sheppard to send a copy of the Board Report to the Task Force members.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Sheppard provided the legislative update. State Legislature reconvened on the second year of the 2021-22 session on January 3, 2022. The State 2022-23 budget proposal was released on January 10, 2022. The State is projecting a surplus of about \$45.7 billion, which includes \$20.6 billion in general fund for discretionary purposes; approximately \$15.1 billion over three years to support various climate resilience and natural resource investments which are of interest to the Task Force including \$3.7 billion for climate resilience investments, \$988 million for wildfire and forest resilience investments, \$5.2 billion in water and drought resilience, \$3.9 billion in zero emission vehicles and infrastructure, \$1.1 billion in investments for sustainable agriculture, \$270 million for the support of the circular economy over two years, and \$100 million proposed to continue the clean California local grant program. There will be a multi-month negotiation process between legislature and administration with the budget needing to be passed by June 15, 2022.

There were 48 bills on the [Legislative Table](#). Key dates include January 21, 2022, the last day for any committee to hear two-year bills and report to the floor; January 31, 2022, the last day for each house to move bills out of their house of origin; and February 18, 2022, the last day for new bills to be introduced. Mr. Sheppard highlighted three bills on the cover page:

- AB 659 (Mathis) amended on January 3, 2022 – Dumping. This bill would double existing fines if waste matter, including used tires or a livestock carcass, is placed, deposited, or dumped in or upon a public or private highway or road or property. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support and continue to monitor the bill for further action unless the bill is already dead, and Ms. Clark seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.
- SB 45 (Portantino) amended on January 3, 2022 – Short-lived climate pollutants: organic waste reduction goals: local jurisdiction assistance. Directs CalRecycle, in consultation with the Air Resources Board, to provide assistance to local jurisdictions, through funding appropriated by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act, to comply with SB 1383 organic waste diversion programs. Mr. Skye made a motion to support in concept, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.
- SB 54 (Allen, Stern, and Wiener) amended on February 25, 2021 – Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act. Establishes the Plastic Pollution Producer Responsibility Act, prohibiting producers of single-use, disposable packaging or single-use, disposable food service ware products from offering

for sale, selling, distributing, or importing in or into the state such packaging or products that are manufactured on or after January 1, 2032, unless they are recyclable or compostable. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Mr. Skye seconded. Motion passed with seven voting yes and five abstaining.

VIII. DISCUSSION OF 2022 TASK FORCE PRIORITIES, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Mr. Skye highlighted the letter disseminated in December from the PW Chair to the Task Force regarding refocusing of the Task Force to meet today's challenges. The letter included the 2020 Priorities, Goals & Objectives Report (Report) that the Task Force spent months preparing and encouraged the review of the Report and the mission statement in an effort for the commission to better serve its communities. Mr. Skye made a call for a small ad hoc committee to be formed to update the Report, similar to the ad hoc committee established in 2019. Ms. Landis volunteered. Mr. Hunter asked if volunteers were extended to the Subcommittee members and if so, then he would also volunteer. Mr. Skye responded PW would like input from all the Subcommittees. Ms. Erin Rowland commented she was not sure she could fully commit because she would need further information on time that would be needed.

Following discussion, Mr. Mohajer recommended staff update the Report and forward it to all members of the Task Force and Subcommittees for review and discussion. Mr. Skye concurred and amended his call that staff would work on a revised draft, sharing the draft with the Task Force and Subcommittees, and then bringing it back to the Task Force for full discussion. Mr. Shammass asked if this was a motion or direction to staff. Mr. Skye responded it was direction to staff.

Lastly, Mr. Mohajer commented that in updating the Report, it must be recognized that the Task Force was formed by the Board and then expanded by Assembly Bill 939. Therefore, there needs to be coordination between the Task Force and PW because PW staff wears two hats: representing the County and representing the Task Force. Discussion ensued.

IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin reported the following from CalRecycle:

- Webpages for SB 619 process and for the record keeping tool were updated.
- A new procurement-related webpage in relation to the recovered organic waste products.
- Local Assistance Grant Program grant application due February 1, 2022.
- Illegal Disposal Site Abatement grant application due February 1, 2022.
- Legacy Disposal Site Abatement grant application due February 1, 2022.

- Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement grant application due February 5, 2022.

Ms. Clark brought up the earlier conversation about concerns about organic regulations with SB 1383 and having unintended consequences of transporting diseased leaves and plants to other areas that are not quarantined. Her concern was that she has very fruitful orange trees, but she is not allowed to give them away, and this regulation may encourage transporting. Her understanding was the citrus industry in Florida is hurting badly because of the transportation. Because concerns have been raised many times by the Task Force, Ms. Clark asked if CalRecycle had taken that information into consideration and put some kind of regulation that would prevent the same thing from happening in California.

Ms. Wallin responded that she believes an update was given from CalRecycle's Bob Horowitz a few years ago at a meeting regarding the issue. He had walked through some of the requirements that CDFA had in relation to what haulers and facilities were being used for and their transport requirements. Ms. Wallin indicated that material must be transported properly if being transported out of a quarantine zone. Ms. Landis commented reading the regulations for CDFA and that there are also regulations for DTSC and they do not allow material in a truck to be moved unless it has been sanitized. For example, compost does not rise to a high enough temperature to kill viruses and bacteria. Ms. Landis continued sharing concerns.

Ms. Wallin suggested perhaps having a 10-minute presentation in the future from CalRecycle regarding this matter and also perhaps from a representative from CDFA. She will explore having a presenter from CalRecycle if the Task Force would like. Mr. Mohajer commented that the Task Force would like something in writing from CalRecycle regarding the matter and for it to be specific. Ms. Wallin stated she would forward the message to CalRecycle. Mr. Hunter suggested perhaps the Task Force make a motion to send a letter to CalRecycle requesting information in writing about information Task Force is requesting and perhaps also having a presenter at a future meeting.

Ms. Clark made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Landis for the Task Force to send a letter to CalRecycle requesting their response in writing on how to handle quarantined materials while complying with the CDFA and DTSC. Motion passed unanimously.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XI. ADJOURMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 17, 2022, at 1 p.m.