

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

**Minutes for February 16, 2023**

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

**WEB CONFERENCE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Barbara Ferrer, rep by 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 Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Barbara Romero, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles  
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Edgar De LaTorre, County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Joseph Rasmussen, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 19, 2023 MINUTES**

Ms. Margaret Clark made a motion to approve the minutes, as revised, and Mr. Mike Mohajer seconded. Motion passed with four abstentions.

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

Mr. Mohajer reported the following at the PEIS meeting:

The Subcommittee reviewed seven articles to be published in the spring issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. Articles included Feeding Student Mind and Body with a Vegetable Garden on Campus, Explore Creative Possibilities in Your Garden, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Adopts Zero Waste Plan, Impacts of Recent Legislation on Conversion Technologies, and three additional articles from the City's of Hawthorne, Malibu, and Burbank. The Subcommittee also requested staff to write an article on the status of conversion technology proposed by H Cycle, which uses hydrogen, and CalRecycle not considering it landfill reduction, but rather a disposal facility.

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

Mr. Fahim Rahimi reported the following at the ATAS meeting:

- GHD provided a [presentation](#) on creating hydrogen directly from anaerobic digestion without the intermediate step of creating biogas.
- Tetra Tech continued expanded evaluation of potential sites for organic waste processing or thermal conversion facilities and other potential sites in the County. They are also supporting Public Works with preparation of a grant application for CalRecycle Organics Grant Program, Cycle 7 for development of anaerobic digestion facility at the Calabasas Landfill.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) Odor Complaints from South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD): There were 226 odor complaints for the month of January 2023. As of February 7, 2023, there were 6 Notice of Violations issued by AQMD.
- The Subcommittee passed a motion to recommend that the Task Force send letters to various agencies relating to SCL including Health Risk Assessment Study conducted by SCL-Community Advisory Committee's consultant, Odor Mitigation Measures, and the Joint Technical Document.

Before voting on the recommended motion by the FPRS, Mr. Jordan Sisson expressed his understanding that the Subcommittee received a staff report with detailed discussion and suggested having a presentation for the Task Force at next month's meeting to consider the matter being voted upon. Mr. Mohajer responded that due to mandated State deadlines, that any future action by the Task Force would become irrelevant. Mr. Mohajer recommended that Mr. Sisson consider participating in the FPRS to acquire the information he needs. Ms. Emiko Thompson requested some additional discussion to understand what the recommended motion was as she did not attend the FPRS meeting. Mr. Mohajer explained the motion in greater detail.

Mr. Sisson asked for clarification regarding a motion being called upon for action that is not explicitly listed in the agenda and asked if the formal action is permissible under the Brown Act. Mr. Mohajer explained that the issue was raised many years ago and the specific language from County Counsel was noted on the agenda as "may take action on recommendations from Subcommittee." Ms. Landis also commented that it was the FPRS' responsibility to review many documents from various agencies and that the Subcommittee does the basic footwork to keep the Task Force apprised. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter, and Ms. Landis seconded. Motion passed with six voting yes and five abstaining.

## **VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided the following update:

- The last day to introduce bills in both Houses will be on February 17, 2023. Bills introduced this year, will have two years to make it through the legislative process. Currently there are over 1,500 bills introduced by both legislative branches.
- On January 18, 2023, CalRecycle held their SB 1383 (Lara, 2016) chat webinar and focused on the implementation of SB 1383 in multi-family dwellings.

- CalRecycle provided an update on SB 619 (Laird, 2021), the corrective action plan compliance. As of January 18, 2023, CalRecycle finalized 23 correction action plans and sent them to respective jurisdictions. All correction plans will be available on CalRecycle's website.
- CalRecycle announced they would provide \$81 million through the Organic Grant Program for local governments, private profit companies, and State agencies for composting and anerobic digestion facilities. Applications are due April 20, 2023.
- On January 31, 2023, CalRecycle hosted their kickoff SB 54 (Allen, 2022) informational workshop webinar. Meetings will be held monthly. The next workshop is scheduled for February 20, 2023.

There were 30 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and one bill on the cover page for consideration:

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support in concept SB 244 (Eggman, 2023) "Right to Repair Act", and Mr. Sisson seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

Ms. Landis was pleased to see many bills being introduced that are considering the handling of various fuels to power vehicles and numerous devices.

## **VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Mr. Joseph Rasmussen provided an [update](#) from CalRecycle.

Mr. Mohajer commented that he read in the publication, Waste News, that the Director of CalRecycle indicated that the disposal in 2021 had increased by one million tons. Therefore, not meeting the 50 percent reduction of organics based on SB 1383, and he emphasized the need of facilities to handle the organic waste to be diverted from landfill disposal. Mr. Mohajer commented that H Cycle technology was a hydrogen process that used organic waste and is more effective than composting technology and that CalRecycle staff endorsed the technology in a staff report, but CalRecycle's Director did not approve the technology. Mr. Mohajer requested that CalRecycle send the Task Force a letter or have guidelines distributed to vendors that could develop the technology. Ms. Margaret Clark concurred with Mr. Mohajer stating that the Task Force had been promoting CTs for decades and did not understand why CalRecycle did not want to look at every possibility available to reduce gas emissions. Mr. Rasmussen responded that it was a very difficult issue and that he would forward comments to CalRecycle's management team.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 1 p.m.