

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

Minutes for July 20, 2023

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Public Health
Mark Pestrella, rep by Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Joseph Rasmussen, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Genevieve, Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 15, 2023 MINUTES

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Eddie De La Riva seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

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

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

- Yosemite Clean Energy provided a [presentation](#) on their technology which uses gasification to produce hydrogen from biomass.
- Tetra Tech is currently working on the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit Condition 92 Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley. The study will include a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for application of thermal conversion technology facilities.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Disposal Tonnage Reporting was postponed until next month's Subcommittee meeting to include requested updates on waste quantities by jurisdiction in Los Angeles County.
- Chiquita Canyon Landfill Update (CCL): In June, 5 Notices of Violation (NOVs) were issued by South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). In July, to date, 12 NOVs were received. The number of odor complaints for July is 308 and collectively in 2023 is 605.
- Discussion on the concern of disclosing personal information, such as social security number, on CCL's website to access reports that are public. CCL indicated they would investigate the matter and Public Works staff would inquire with County Counsel on whether CCL's Privacy Notice on their website is legal.
- Discussion on Sunshine Canyon Landfill's (SCL) drainage system that was destroyed due to rain in January and February and causing odors.

- California Water Resource's Board, AQMD, and SCL-Local Enforcement Agency also issued NOV's during this period related to this occurrence.
- FPRS voted on a motion to recommend the Task Force to send Regional Planning a letter requesting that they expedite the NOV process related to SCL's daily tonnages. The motion failed to pass with two voting yes and two abstaining. As a member of the Task Force, Mr. Mohajer made the same motion to send the letter, and Mr. Jim Smith seconded. Motion passed with five voting yes (Mr. Jorgel Chavez, Mr. De La Riva, Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Jim Smith, and Ms. Emiko Thompson) and four abstaining (Mr. Jeffrey Farano, Ms. Karen Gork, Mr. Shammass, and Mr. Jordan Sisson).
 - Due to time constraint, the update on the Finding of Conformance Reports was not covered.

V. OVERVIEW OF ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT SUMMIT AT LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. Rahimi provided an [overview](#) of the Organic Waste Management Summit on May 31, 2023, at Los Angeles County Public Works that focused on SB 1383 implementation and organic waste management solutions.

VI. CALRECYCLE NOTICE OF RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL REPORTING SYSTEM COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Rahimi provided a summary on CalRecycle's [Recycling and Disposal Reporting System \(RDRS\)](#) Rulemaking and its 15-day public comment period.

Mr. Mohajer sought confirmation that the origin of material is defined as where material is generated, rather than the facility where material is taken. Mr. Rahimi confirmed that the origin of material is from where the material is generated.

Mr. Sisson asked what comments were made on the first draft of proposed regulations during the first public comment period and what changes were made in response. Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar responded that CalRecycle proposed that self-hauled waste must be reported by source sector. Ms. Vazifdar added that several comments were submitted opposing this change and this requirement was removed in the second draft of the proposed regulations.

Mr. Sisson asked if Public Works previously submitted comments or had any specific concerns. Mr. Rahimi mentioned that Public Works did not submit any comments during the first public comment period in January 2023, and that staff was currently reviewing the proposed changes in the second draft of the regulations. He added that the deadline for the 15-day public comment period is July 27, 2023.

Ms. Thompson asked Mr. Rahimi to explain why the regulations would make it more difficult for local jurisdictions to find certified facilities to export their mixed plastic waste. Ms. Vazifdar explained that under the Assembly Bill 939 regulations, recycled materials that were exported were previously counted as diversion. Ms. Vazifdar further explained that due to more tracking and limitations on what is considered recyclable, along with the proposed requirement to identify certified facilities outside of the state, all material being exported will no longer be counted as diversion. Ms. Thompson commented that tracking and data are good for making informed decisions on resources and recommended making a pointed comment on the proposed regulation based on concerns regarding excessive tracking.

Mr. Shammass commented that the Los Angeles County Sanitation District already tracks the jurisdiction of origin for residuals so the proposed regulations would not create additional work for them, although they may do so for the private industry.

Mr. Farano also expressed concerns regarding excessive tracking and data collection, but also acknowledged that CalRecycle is required by State statute to implement such changes.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Task Force to send a comment letter to CalRecycle expressing concern regarding their proposed regulatory changes to the RDRS, and Mr. Sisson seconded. Motion passed with six voting yes (Mr. Chavez, Mr. Farano, Mr. De La Riva, Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Shammass, and Mr. Sisson), one voting no (Mr. Smith), and two abstaining (Ms. Gork and Ms. Thompson).

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Perla Gomez provided the following update:

State Budget

- On June 27, 2023, the Legislature passed 21 bills, which comprised mostly of the 2023-24 budget remit reached by Governor Newsom, the State Assembly and Senate.
- The Governor signed the budget package, which allocated approximately \$2 million in funding for CalRecycle to create a zero-waste plan that will evaluate the effectiveness of their existing programs.
- The one-time funding previously allocated for climate and infrastructure was held back to reduce the budget deficit.

- There are no additional state resources on Senate Bill 1383 implementation. Of the \$180 million appropriated in last year's budget to CalRecycle, \$90 million remains to be allocated to local jurisdictions.

Legislative Calendar

- July 14, 2023 was the last day to hear bills before summer recess. Bills that failed to pass out of their second house policy committee by that date, are now considered two-year bills and cannot be acted on until January 2024.
- Summer recess ends on August 14, 2023, at which time all fiscal bills will be heard in the Appropriations Committee.
- Suspense file hearing will be on August 31, 2023.

There were 55 State bills on the [Legislative Table](#), and 3 bills on the cover page for consideration:

- AB 2 (Ward) amended 6/28/23: Recycling: solar photovoltaic modules. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support if amended, and Mr. Chavez seconded. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Mr. Chavez, Mr. Farano, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Gork, Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Shammass, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Smith) and 1 abstaining (Ms. Thompson).
- AB 573 (Garcia) amended 7/13/23: Organic waste: meeting recovered organic waste product procurement target. No vote was taken as the Task Force will continue to watch the bill.
- SB 244 (Eggman) amended 7/6/23: Right to Repair Act. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Thompson seconded. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Mr. Chavez, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Gork, Mr. Mohajer, Mr. Shammass, Mr. Sisson, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Thompson) and 1 abstaining (Mr. Farano).

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Joseph Rasmussen provided an [update](#) to the Task Force.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens thanked the Task Force and commented that there were only nine members present at today's meeting. He asked if the Task Force had an attendance requirement like that of the SCL Community Advisory Committee, in that if a member is absent from three meetings in a calendar year, they are removed from the committee. Mr. Mohajer responded that the Task Force had no such requirement.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 1 p.m.