

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

November 21, 2024

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Jim Smith, Teamster Local 396, City of Los Angeles
Jordan R. Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Los Angeles County Public Health
Wayne Nastri, rep by Phillip Crabbe III, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Cid Tesoro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Jim Miller, JRMA
Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Siyavash Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Fitchmun, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Shawntelle Phillips, Los Angeles County Public Works
Joy Pipin, 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
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Mr. Cid Tesoro who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

II. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2024, MINUTES

Mr. Eddie De La Riva made a motion to approve the October 17, 2024, minutes and Mr. Jordan Sisson seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following was reported by Mr. Siyavash Araumi:

- There will be new faces in Sacramento representing Los Angeles County including eight new democratic members in Legislature replacing outgoing members. There will also be two new democratic Senators and one new republican Senator, replacing respective Senators.
- On November 7, 2024, Governor Newsom called a [special session](#) of Legislature regarding additional funding for the California Department of Justice and related agencies to protect California's interests under the new Administration.
- During the 2023-2024 legislative session, several new laws were enacted to either create new programs or modify existing ones, particularly in the areas of waste management, recycling, and conversion technology (CT).
- A [timeline](#) of new chaptered bills that go into effect on January 1, 2025, was provided as requested by the Task Force on October 17, 2024.
- CalRecycle is currently engaged in multiple rulemaking activities for both existing and new regulations. CalRecycle's [2024 Rulemaking Calendar](#), as shown on their website, was also provided.
- Staff will continue to monitor bills, including those that may be introduced.

Mr. Sisson stated how beneficial the 2024 Rulemaking Calendar was because it is a live document and suggested it also be reoccurring and linked onto the Task Force [website](#) similar to the [Legislative Table](#).

IV. ANAEROBIC DIGESTION AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Ms. Christine Arbogast of Tetra Tech and Mr. Jim Miller of JRMA provided a high-level [overview](#) of Conversion Technology (CT) in Los Angeles County and the surrounding region. Ms. Arbogast informed the Task Force that the title of their

presentation was modified to "Conversion Technology Overview for Los Angeles County."

Mr. Sisson asked about the long-term prospects for the renewable natural gas (RNG) market considering the move towards electrification. Ms. Arbogast responded that there is much investment in RNG projects which would indicate confidence in the market. Mr. Miller also noted that there is much interest in converting RNG into hydrogen.

Mr. Sisson asked if there were any opportunities for smaller distributed facilities or co-locating with existing solid waste management facilities. Mr. Miller confirmed there are such opportunities and co-locating with an existing site would streamline the permitting process. However, available space may be a limitation. Mr. Miller also mentioned that existing material recovery facilities in Perris and Escondido were retrofitted to add anaerobic digesters.

Ms. Clark asked what the 65 to 70 percent residuals represents. Mr. Miller replied that it represents the material that is left in the waste stream after recycling. Ms. Clark then mentioned that she toured the CR&R facility in Perris which is making RNG and proposed that RNG could reduce electricity costs with the balance of both energies.

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

Ms. Joy Pipkin reported the following from the PEIS meeting:

The Subcommittee did not have quorum so the approval of the minutes for May 16 and August 25, 2024, were postponed. The Subcommittee members in attendance reviewed five articles to be published in the winter issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter, including articles submitted by the Cities of Malibu and Diamond Bar, respectively. Two additional articles are being written by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District and by Public Works staff.

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

Mr. Araumi reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

The Subcommittee did not have quorum, so the approval of the October 17, 2024, minutes was postponed.

Tetra Tech provided an update on CT project development and reported that they are:

- Currently developing a workplan based on the finalized Countywide Siting Evaluation Report for the development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal CT facilities within Los Angeles County.
- Are performing further evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will evaluate limits of waste and surrounding utilities for the potential development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities.

Update on CT Policy and Legislation:

- CalRecycle had their monthly meeting on November 19, 2024, which covered several Senate Bill (SB) 54 updates.
- The extended public comment period for the updated draft SB 54 regulations closed on November 4, 2024.
- The draft SB 54 Program Environment Impact Report was released on November 4, 2024, for public review. A public hearing was held on November 19, 2024, and comments will be accepted until December 19, 2024.
- The SB 54 Advisory Board met on November 1 and 15, 2024.
- CalRecycle reminded stakeholders that producers must prove that all expanded polystyrene packaging and food ware meets a 25 percent recycling rate as of January 1, 2025, in order to continue selling plastic foam food service ware in California.

Staff provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

Due to lack of quorum, the decision to cancel the ATAS meeting was deferred to the Task Force.

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

Mr. Christopher Sheppard reported the following from the FPRS meeting:

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- In October 2024, CCL received 19 Notices of Violation (NOVs) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).
- In September 2024, CCL also received 19 NOVs from AQMD.

- AQMD reported that there were 400 odor complaints reported in November and 20,000 odor complaints in 2024. Recently odor complaints have been going down due to weather patterns being a contributor.
- Staff provided an [analysis](#) of the Waste Management System.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In September 2024, there were 405 odor complaints and 11 NOVs.
- AQMD reported that they are considering an Odor for Abatement at SCL.
- Update on the Third Quarter Vegetation Report.
- Update on Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Program.
- Discussion on the Assessment of Odor Issues by independent consultant, UltraSystems Environmental Inc.
- Update on backup generator onsite at SCL.

Finding of Conformance

- Discussion on Waste Characterization and Monitoring Reports that were conducted at various landfills.

The FPRS passed a motion to not have a December meeting, pending the Task Force's decision on whether to have a December meeting.

Ms. Clark asked for clarification of the organics reduction. Mr. Sheppard explained that each year waste characterization studies are performed, entailing pulling samples from trucks that are coming to the landfill. The samples are broken down into different parts such as plastics, metals, and organic material, and they give a percentage of the different material types taken from the samples. Within the samples taken from the various landfills, roughly 62 percent of the material was still organic. In accordance with SB 1383, since 2022, all organics should be diverted from landfills.

Mr. Ron Milo asked if there was any kind of discussion or initiative for addressing the 62 percent organics being diverted to landfills. Mr. Sheppard was not aware of anything since the data just received was for the fall. He also clarified that the data does not differentiate between jurisdictions on where the material came from or who was responsible for sending it there.

Mr. Hunter commented that SCL's 406 odor complaints for October 2024 was the worst month ever and with the escalating odor complaints, it will be the worst year ever, and that the AQMD report indicated odors are impacting children at El Oro Way Elementary School, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Pre-School, and

Van Gogh Charter School. He further informed that at the last SCL-Community Advisory Committee meeting, AQMD had advised that they will be recommending an Order for Abatement for SCL.

VIII. UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE

Ms. Rowland reported that the Ad Hoc met on November 19, 2024, and completed their first draft of the Task Force bylaws and requested they be agendaized at the next Task Force meeting for review and discussion. The Ad Hoc also voted to dissolve the committee since the work assigned was completed.

IX. DECEMBER TASK FORCE MEETING

Mr. Jim Smith made a motion to cancel the December Task Force meeting unless something urgent arises, and Mr. Milo seconded. Motion passed unanimously to cancel the December meetings for the Task Force and its Subcommittees.

X. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Adylene Gonzalez provided an [update](#) to the Task Force.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hunter asked why Public Works had not made virtual meetings available so the public would have the opportunity to attend. Mr. Tesoro responded that he would look into it.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 16, 2024, at 1 p.m.