

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

August 21, 2025

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Jordan R. Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association
Jim Smith, Teamster Local 396, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Felicia Truong, Los Angeles County Public Health
Eric Lopez, rep by Basil Cantu, Long Beach Public Works
Wayne Nastri, rep by Philip Crabbe, III, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Cid Tesoro, Los Angeles County Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brenda Eels, Waste Connections
Jocelyn Francis, City of Avalon
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
David Harich, Geo-Logic and Associates
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
John McNamara, CR&R Environmental Services
Khaled Alqam, Los Angeles County Public Works
Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Shawntelle Phillips, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Mr. Cid Tesoro who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 17, 2025, MINUTES

Mr. Jim Smith made a motion to approve the July 17, 2025, minutes, and Mr. Jordan Sisson seconded. Minutes were approved with one abstention.

III. PEBBLY BEACH LANDFILL EXPANSION

Mr. Joe Bartolata provided a brief overview regarding the Pebbly Beach Landfill (PBL) Expansion Project. The City of Avalon (Avalon) submitted a Draft Initial Study and findings for environmental documents on the expansion of PBL. The Landfill Operator, Avalon Environmental Services, submitted a proposal for the expansion of PBL and an application for an extension to PBL Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to the Department of Regional Planning (DRP). The current PBL CUP was approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on November 29, 1984, and is set to expire on July 29, 2028. Ms. Joyce Francis, Assistant City Manager for Avalon, provided a [presentation](#) on their PBL Expansion Project.

Mr. Smith asked what their current diversion rate is and if the city had an official target for diversion. Ms. Francis responded it was about 45 percent on average, and she does not believe the city had any specific goals. However, they are actively involved with public outreach campaigns utilizing social media, as well as sending out yearly notification mailers to Post Office Boxes advising the proper placement for waste.

Mr. Smith asked if Avalon had a material recovery facility (MRF) or sorting facility. Ms. Francis responded that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Avalon had a MRF on the island. However, post COVID-19, all recyclables are barged off the island to the mainland and are sorted at a facility that CR&R runs.

Mr. Farano asked how they calculated diversion. Ms. Francis responded that the diversion number she was referring to is calculated by looking at everything that came into the landfill, whether it is by CR&R or self-haulers to the landfill that was baled and left onside at the landfill, versus anything like green waste or food waste, or recyclables that are barged off the island.

Ms. Francis further indicated that the MRF was before her time working for Avalon, but her understanding was that it was a single system, and everything was sorted at the MRF.

Mr. Tesoro indicated that he has heard PBL had a two-year existing timeframe and asked when construction would start. Ms. Francis responded that the first phase of construction would begin in 2026.

Mr. Tesoro asked the Task Force members if there was a motion for the Task Force to send a letter to Avalon regarding the Finding of Conformance (FOC) for the PBL Expansion Project.

Mr. Farano asked what a letter of conformance entailed. Mr. Bartolata explained that Avalon, as applicant, is proposing an expansion of an existing facility and Chapter 10 of the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE) requires that the existing facility must obtain a FOC with the CSE granted by the Task Force. Therefore, the Task Force would send a letter to the Landfill Operator, notifying them and DRP of the requirement to submit a proposal application for a new FOC for consideration based on the proposed PBL expansion. Once the FOC application is submitted, the Task Force has 90 days to review and transmit comments to Avalon. Once the FOC application is deemed complete, the Task Force will notify DRP and Avalon that the FOC has been granted and will provide a copy of the Final FOC to DRP, the Local Enforcement Agency, CalRecycle, and Avalon.

Mr. Farano indicated that since the landfill has only two years of capacity remaining, he recommended that Avalon pursue aggressively other ways to minimize landfill disposal.

Mr. Sisson asked, procedurally, if today's vote is just for the Task Force to send a letter to Avalon advising them to submit an application to the Task Force for review and once submitted, the Task Force may add other conditions, including ways to minimize landfill disposal. Mr. Bartolata confirmed that was procedurally correct.

Mr. Jorgel Chavez made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter to Avalon advising them to submit a Finding of Conformance application for the PBL Expansion Project, and Mr. Sisson seconded. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Mr. Chavez, Mr. Sisson, Basil Cantu, Jeff Farano, Sam Shammass, Jim Smith, Felicia Truong, and Cid Tesoro) and one abstaining (Philip Crabbe, III).

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

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

The Subcommittee had a quorum and approved meeting minutes from the February 20 and May 15, 2025, meetings. The Subcommittee also reviewed three articles to be published in the fall issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter, of which one article was submitted by the City of Malibu. The next PEIS meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025.

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

Mr. Siya Araumi reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

The Subcommittee did not have a quorum and was unable to approve meeting minutes from the previous three Subcommittee meetings. Approval of the meeting minutes was postponed until next month.

EconWard provided a [presentation](#) on their thermal hydrolysis technology, which processes mixed municipal waste into recyclable material as well as organic material that is suitable feedstock for anaerobic digestion.

Tetra Tech provided an update on their continued conversion technology (CT) project development work.

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

The next ATAS meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2025.

Mr. Sisson asked how many Subcommittee meetings have not had a quorum. Mr. Araumi responded that today was the fourth consecutive meeting. Mr. Sisson asked if there were any solutions to remedy the issue and if not having a quorum was impacting the work of the Subcommittee. Mr. Araumi responded that without a quorum, meeting minutes may not be approved. Mr. Sisson asked how many vacancies there were. Staff responded that there were three vacancies. Mr. Sisson asked if ATAS membership was dictated by a CUP or by the Task Force. Mr. Araumi confirmed that ATAS membership was dictated by the Puente Hills Landfill CUP, which requires at least eight members present for a quorum. Mr. Sisson suggested it may be helpful to review the Puente Hills CUP if a lack of quorum persists, in pursuance of a solution to enable the Subcommittee

to fulfill their responsibilities. Mr. Araumi responded that the Puente Hills CUP will be reviewed, and an update could be provided at next month's Task Force meeting.

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

Mr. Dave Nguyen reported the following from the FPRS meeting:

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- In July 2025, CCL received 5 Notices of Violation (NOVs) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) related to air quality, compared to the 12 NOVs reported in June 2025.
- In July 2025, Public Works issued 3 NOVs to CCL for performing grading work without a permit and for grading work restoration of tank farms in various parts of the landfill.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In July 2025, there were 121 odor complaints reported to the AQMD, an increase from the 46 odor complaints reported in June 2025.
- In July 2025, SCL received 2 NOVs from the AQMD.

PBL Expansion

- The above Agenda Item III presentation was also provided at the Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Sisson extended his gratitude to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts for extending the Request for Expressions of Interest for Mesquite Property deadline to August 15, 2025.

Additionally, Mr. Sisson noted that at last month's meeting, the Subcommittee was presented with information on waste rates based on window rates and there was a brief discussion at this month's meeting on what has been observed. Public landfills are more competitive with fees under \$100 per ton, which is a much lower rate than private landfills. He also shared his concern with landfill capacity issues, particularly with one of the largest landfills closing and how important it is to monitor the existing landfills that are still operational.

VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

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

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 1 p.m.