

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

**February 19, 2026**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Chen, League of California Cities  
Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
David Fahrion, 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  
Wayne Nastri, rep by Philip Crabbe, III, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Mark Pestrella, rep by Cid Tesoro, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Barbara Romero, rep by Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Bob Dowell, City of Long Beach Energy and Environmental Services Department  
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Siya Araumi, 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  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Aaron Nolan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Shawntelle Phillips, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Joy Pipkin, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Chris Sheppard, 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. Cid Tesoro who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

Mr. Tesoro announced that Mr. Jordan Sisson stepped down from the Task Force after serving four years as a representative of the California Waste and Recycling Association (CWRA). Mr. David Fahrion, who was the alternate to Mr. Sisson, was introduced and will assume the primary role of member, representing CWRA, in the Task Force.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2026, MINUTES**

Mr. Sam Shammass made a motion to approve the January 15, 2026, minutes, and Mr. Ed Chen seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

## **III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Siya Araumi provided the following State Legislative Update:

Key deadline:

- February 20, 2026, is the final day for any new bills to be introduced for the 2026 regular session, with an additional 2,000 bills anticipated to be introduced by the deadline.

Update of the Governor's proposed budget:

- The 2026-27 proposed budget is \$348.9 billion.
- The Governor's budget process is currently entering the Subcommittee Hearing phase.
- Budget Subcommittee Hearings in the Assembly and Senate will be held through April 2026.
- The Governor will update the budget, based on April tax filing season, on or before May 14, 2026.

There are nine active bills on the [Legislative Table](#), and two that officially died after failing to meet the January 31, 2026, house of origin deadline.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of bills listed on the Legislative Table without Task Force positions. Mr. Araumi explained that if the Task Force wishes to recommend a position, a letter may be transmitted to the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office - Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR), and the Legislative Table would be updated accordingly. Ms. Margaret Clark expressed interest in establishing a position of support for Senate Bill 811 (SB 811). Task Force members discussed whether a vote could be taken immediately and whether the County of Los Angeles (County) had already adopted a position on the bill. County Counsel advised that PW staff should confirm through Commission Services whether the County has taken a position and noted that Board of Supervisors (Board) policy regarding legislative recommendations would need to be reviewed. While the Legislative Table indicated no current County position, Task Force members acknowledged that confirmation was necessary.

Several Task Force members suggested that the Task Force could recommend support for SB 811 pending confirmation that the County has not already taken a position, others preferred to wait until the next meeting. Task Force members also observed that the legislative session continues through early September, and that taking action in March would not materially affect the outcome.

Mr. Wayde Hunter, with the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, commented that the Task Force may recommend a position regardless of whether the County has acted, while recognizing that the County retains final authority. Ultimately, the Task Force agreed to place SB 811 on next month's agenda. County Counsel will review applicable Board policy and provide clarification regarding the appropriate protocol for recommending positions on legislation. The Task Force acknowledged its advisory role and the importance of following County procedures when making legislative recommendations.

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

Ms. Joy Pipkin reported that the PEIS had a quorum at this morning's meeting and approved the November 20, 2025, minutes. The PEIS also reviewed four articles to be published in the Spring Edition of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter, three of which were submitted by PW staff, and one submitted by Waste Management. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026.

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

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

Ms. Jessica McWilliams from Econward provided a virtual [presentation](#) on their new organics recovery facility in New York. The facility uses thermal hydrolysis and anaerobic digestion to convert organic waste into renewable natural gas (RNG).

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

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

Ms. Clark asked how clean RNG and compressed natural gas are. Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar explained that there have been many studies done at the state level which show that RNG reduces greenhouse gas emissions compared to other sources of energy and that they are clean and sustainable.

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

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

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In January 2026, there were 673 odor complaints reported to South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), an increase from the 530 odor complaints reported in December 2025.
- Compared to January 2025, odor complaints increased from 118 to 673 odor complaints.
- In January 2026, SCL received 16 Notices of Violation (NOVs) from AQMD related to odor.
- The FPRS requested for NOVs and other performance issues to be considered the next time SCL's Finding of Conformance comes up for Task Force review.
- There was an update on the County's illegal dumping (ID) procedures that are being developed and comments were provided by the FPRS that can be incorporated into the procedures. Additionally, a request was made for confirmation to be provided to the FPRS once the ID procedures are formally

implemented within PW. This agenda item will be continued for one more meeting.

#### Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- In January 2026, CCL received 4 NOVs from the AQMD, related to odor, compared to the 4 NOVs reported in December 2025.
- CCL continues to be under the Stipulated Order for Abatement, last modified in December 2025. The next status hearing is scheduled for May 2026.
- In June 2025, PW issued 3 NOVs to CCL for performing grading work at the landfill without a grading permit. CCL appealed the NOVs in August 2025, and a hearing date is still pending.
- The FPRS requested that PW staff share any inspection reports from site visits conducted at CCL. PW staff will look into the request and report back to the FPRS.

Ms. Clark asked for clarification on what the ID procedures involve. Mr. Sheppard explained that a significant illegal dumping incident occurred in a public right-of-way in the Santa Clarita area. When PW crews began removing the material, several loads were taken to SCL. It was later determined that the debris potentially contained asbestos.

As a result, all work was immediately stopped, AQMD was notified, testing was conducted, and a certified asbestos consultant prepared a report. The material was then handled and abated in accordance with proper asbestos procedures.

This incident revealed a gap in PW's existing procedures for clearing illegally dumped material from road rights-of-way, specifically the need to verify whether debris contains hazardous or asbestos-containing material before removal. The updated ID procedures now outline how PW crews will identify and test illegal dumping in public rights-of-way to ensure debris is free of hazardous or asbestos-containing material prior to removal.

The Task Force then resumed discussion of the Legislative Update. Mr. Sheppard outlined the County's two-step process for recommending positions on legislation. First, the Task Force may discuss an agendized bill and recommend a position, which PW forwards to the CEO-LAIR for issuance of a Memo of Findings (MOF) indicating whether a county position exists. Second, after the MOF is received, the item may be re-agendized for a formal vote. If no County position exists, the Task Force may send a letter to the Board advocating its recommendation.

Ms. Clark expressed concern that the process may delay action on time-sensitive legislation, particularly for bills with no existing County position. County Counsel clarified that requesting a MOF does not constitute taking a formal position, but an MOF is required before sending an advocacy letter to the Board. The Task Force discussed adding "discussion/action" or "may take action" language to the Legislative Update agenda item to allow flexibility. Mr. Sheppard requested members to identify bills of interest and notify PW staff in advance so they may be properly agendized.

Mr. Tesoro stated he would request MOFs for bills currently showing no position or blank entries on the Legislative Table. He also confirmed that "may take action" will be added under the Legislative Update item on future agendas to allow the Task Force to act when necessary.

#### **VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

CalRecycle Representatives were unable to attend the meeting but an [update](#) was provided to staff, which was linked to the [agenda](#).

#### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, at 1 p.m.