

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

July 16, 2026

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Chen, 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:

Bob Dowell, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Energy and Environmental
Services Department
Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Felicia Truong, Los Angeles County Public Health
Mark Pestrella, rep by Cid Tesoro, Los Angeles County Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
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:

Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ana Diaz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Londy Lin, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aaron Nolan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Shawntelle Phillips, 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
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:11 p.m. by Mr. Cid Tesoro who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 18, 2026, MINUTES

There was no quorum, so the approval of the minutes was deferred to the next meeting on August 20, 2026.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Siya Araumi provided the following State Legislative Update:

- The Legislature is on Summer Recess through August 3, 2026.
- Since this is the second year of a two-year session, returning Legislature must pass bills out of their appropriations committees by mid-August to meet the August 31, 2026, deadline for a final floor vote.
- On June 29, 2026, the Governor signed the \$352 billion state budget for Fiscal Year 2026/2027, which includes the following:
 - \$18.9 billion allocated to the Natural Resources Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency.
 - \$1.25 billion allocated to CAL FIRE funding from Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds (GGRF).
 - \$105 million allocated to California Air Resources Board from GGRF.
 - \$200 million allocated to establish a new light-duty zero-emission vehicle incentive program.
 - \$425 million allocated to expand organic waste processing infrastructure and assist local jurisdictions meet organic waste diversion mandates.
 - \$131 million allocated for the Cleanup in Vulnerable Communities Initiative to investigate, assess, and remediate contaminated brownfield and former dry-cleaner sites in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

There are seven bills on the [Legislative Table](#) that are being tracked and are moving through the final legislative session with two Assembly Bills (AB) and two Senate Bills (SB) recently amended:

- [AB 762 \(Irwin\)](#) amended June 30, 2026 – Disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation devices: prohibition and penalties. The amendments to the bill do not change the watch position taken by Los Angeles County (County).
- [AB 1153 \(Bonta\)](#) amended June 18, 2026 – Illegal disposal site abatement. The amendments to the bill do not change the support position taken by the County.

- [SB 811 \(Caballero\)](#) amended June 25, 2026 – Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities. The amendments to the bill do not change the watch position taken by the County.
- [SB 936 \(Blakespear and Umberg\)](#) amended July 2, 2026 – Nitrous oxide: sales. The amendments to the bill do not change the watch position taken by the County.

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

Mr. Araumi reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

The Subcommittee received a [presentation](#) from Waste Conversion Technologies on strategies to use existing solid waste facilities to build an integrated conversion technology (CT) campus which incorporates a material recovery facility (MRF), anaerobic digestion facility, and thermal CT. Such a facility would generate renewable energy and would incorporate additional features such as solar panels. It would include medical waste processing and would employ the best available control technologies to mitigate impacts such as air emissions. The estimated cost is \$1.5 billion and would require 30 to 40 acres.

Tetra Tech provided an update on their ongoing CT project development, which includes two studies: a long-term solid waste disposal needs study for the Antelope Valley and a parcel evaluation to further assess potential sites for commercial-scale AD or CT identified during an initial Countywide siting evaluation.

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

Ms. Emiko Thompson reported the following from the FPRS meeting:

Antelope Valley Landfill Finding of Conformance

An update was provided regarding the Antelope Valley Landfill's (AVL) Finding of Conformance (FOC) application. Because the site's proposed expansion involves an existing solid waste facility, Waste Management must obtain a FOC from the Task Force to ensure conformance with the CSE.

Last month, Waste Management submitted the requested FOC application information. Staff are actively reviewing the application and are expected to complete the recommendation report before next month's Task Force meeting. The completed report will be sent to the Task Force on mailout day in preparation for the next meeting on August 20, 2026.

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- In June 2026, CCL received 10 Notices of Violation (NOVs) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), related to odor, compared to the 6 NOVs reported in May 2026
- To date in July 2026, AQMD issued 12 NOVs.
- CCL continues to be under a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA), last modified on June 3, 2026.
- The next status hearing for the SOA is in September 2026.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In June 2026, there were 26 odor complaints reported to AQMD for SCL, a decrease from 41 odor complaints reported in May 2026.
- In June 2026, there were no NOVs issued by AQMD.
- For the current month of July 2026, there were no NOVs issued by AQMD.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens noted that Mr. Eugene Tseng of the SCL - Local Enforcement Agency, who normally attends meetings, had to leave for SCL because of the installation of automated wellheads. Mr. Tseng is closely monitoring the process to ensure compliance. The automated wellheads were modified to maximize gas extraction without increasing air, preventing the risk of a landfill fire. Since installing automated wellheads, Gabion cubes, and other mitigation measures, odor complaints have dropped, and Mr. Hunter anticipates the positive trend to continue during September's peak odor period.

VI. POST FIRE DEBRIS CLEANUP AND REMEDIATION

Mr. Aric Rodriguez provided a [presentation](#) on the post fire debris cleanup and remediation.

Ms. Margaret Clark cited the [ABC7 article](#) she shared with the Task Force last month, noting "Jerrett said the nanoparticles may have exposed as many as 3.3 million people to levels hundreds of times higher than those typically found in Los Angeles air." She questioned why this exposure occurred if safety protocols were being followed. Ms. Clark also pointed out that once a vehicle is completely burned, it is virtually impossible to distinguish between electric and gas vehicles and voiced her concern about the risks posed by the hazardous material from the fires. Mr. Rodriguez could not elaborate on all the specific details of concern, but during and after the disaster, one of the primary concerns was that the fires in general were releasing unsafe concentrations of toxic materials into the environment, which is why there were mandatory evacuations. Mr. Rodriguez

noted that the AQMD website features a section on the fires and monitoring. After learning about an upcoming UCLA report, AQMD conducted its own follow-up testing for Chromium 6 in the burn areas in September and October 2025 and found no concentrations of alarm. AQMD states that the UCLA study used non-regulatory approved and novel data analysis techniques for modeling concentrations.

Ms. Clark asked who was at fault for the contaminants. Mr. Rodriguez was not sure who was at fault but rather questions how they measured the contaminants. The AQMD website contends that the UCLA study only had four samples taken, which is a very small study sample using non-regulatory techniques.

Ms. Clark noted that, because asbestos is so dangerous, in the past homeowners often painted over it rather than removed it because of the particles. She remains skeptical about the cleanup efforts being done correctly. Ms. Clark also asked if the disposal of the fire debris was monitored to ensure landfills provide adequate cover for the hazardous materials received. Mr. Rodriguez confirmed that the facilities approved to receive the hazardous materials were vetted by the appropriate regulatory agencies.

Mr. Fahrion requested the total tonnage of fire debris that was taken to each landfill. Mr. Rodriguez believed the total tonnage could be verified through existing records.

Mr. Hunter stated that SCL received 200,000 tons of hazardous fire debris material in wet burrito-like wraps. He cautioned that burying the hazardous material threatens the leachate collection system, as the liner only lasts for 50 years, leaving cleanup to future generations. Mr. Hunter noted reaching out to SCL with his concern about the landfill possibly receiving the Boyle Heights warehouse fire debris and that SCL confirmed they would not receive the Boyle Heights warehouse fire debris and had made that clear with MRFs. Discussion ensued.

VII. TASK FORCE VACANCIES

Mr. Araumi provided an overview of Task Force Vacancies as requested at last month's Task Force meeting. The Task Force consists of 17 voting members, including 6 ex officio members representing the following agencies:

- Director of Public Works (Chair)
- Los Angeles County Health Officer
- Chief Engineer and General Manager, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
- Executive Officer, South Coast Air Quality Management District
- Director, Bureau of Sanitation, City of Los Angeles

- Public Works Director, City of Long Beach

The remaining members include:

- Three representatives appointed by the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities
- Three representatives appointed by the City of Los Angeles
- One representative appointed by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
- One representative appointed by the California Waste and Recycling Association
- Three representatives appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board):
 - One member of the general public
 - One representative of an environmental organization
 - One representative of the business community

Each participating County or City department and agency designates both a primary representative and an alternate to serve on the Task Force. The Task Force currently has four vacancies: three Board-appointed positions and one City of Los Angeles-appointed position. Staff are coordinating with the City of Los Angeles to fill its vacancy.

For Board-appointed positions, Board offices identify and evaluate candidates through the Executive Office's [Interest to Serve – Commission Services online portal](#) and referrals from County departments, cities, and other organizations. Recommendations are then submitted to the Board, which has the sole authority to make the appointments.

Mr. Smith asked if the three Board-appointed vacancies are specific to any stakeholders. Mr. Araumi noted that while anyone can apply online through the portal, and that the Board offices may propose its own candidates, all applicants face the same vetting process. Mr. Smith asked if there was a vacancy set aside for an environmental organization representative. Mr. Araumi confirmed yes, and that the position is currently vacant. He also confirmed the other two Board-appointed vacancies are for a general public representative and a business community representative.

Ms. Clark asked whether the process of filling the vacancies had begun. Mr. Araumi confirmed yes. Ms. Clark asked if anybody contacts environmental groups about Task Force vacancies. Mr. Araumi explained that anyone can apply through the online portal and asked Task Force members if they know of qualified candidates, to have them submit a resume and their intent to serve so the Board can review their information.

Mr. Smith noted if Mr. Hunter wanted to fill one of the vacancies, then he could apply through the portal or go through the County as he believed he represented an environmental organization and may live in the City of Los Angeles (LA). Mr. Hunter stated that he is qualified because he is a County commissioner and serves as Chair of the SCL Community Advisory Committee, he represents an environmental organization and can also fill the seat for general public. He added that he sent his resume to Mr. Araumi. Mr. Araumi confirmed receipt of the resume and indicated forwarding it through the online portal. Mr. Smith asked Mr. Hunter if he was a resident of LA. Mr. Hunter responded that he lived in Granada Hills.

Ms. Clark inquired whether the Board knows about the Task Force's ongoing challenges with attendance since no action can be taken without a quorum, which is a serious problem. Mr. Araumi confirmed that the Board is aware of the situation and that they are diligently reviewing all the candidates.

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

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

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Clark shared her concern about the AVL FOC item being placed on next month's agenda and how not having a quorum could delay the approval. Ms. Thompson noted that while taking action at next month's meeting is ideal, delaying it should not cause major problems since AVL's solid waste permit has already been approved. However, if possible, the Task Force should aim to take action on the FOC at next month's meeting. Mr. Tesoro noted that staff will try to secure a quorum.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 1 p.m.