

Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**SPECIAL MEETING**  
**November 9, 2021**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

Los Angeles County Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative  
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Betsey Landis called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**II. DISCUSSION OF FPRS COMMENTS ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PRELIMINARY DRAFT REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Ms. Landis noted having many comments on what needed correcting on the Los Angeles County Preliminary Draft Revised Countywide Siting Element (Draft Revised CSE) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR):

- Reduce reliance on out of county waste disposal, not buy more air-polluting trucks to send our solid waste to other counties.
- Need to develop local electricity facility sources and emphasis on proceeding with alternative conversion facilities for electricity.
- Re-evaluate the list of potential locations for alternative technology facility in Los Angeles County. Most sites identified are unusable (e.g., Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica Airport, City of Carson).
- Ms. Landis also mentioned that she will provide her entire comments soon.

Mr. Sam Shammas mentioned that the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts is currently working on a comment letter that they plan to submit. He noted a few issues:

- Corrections on the life of Calabasas Landfill should be based on exhaustion of capacity and not the estimated closure date on their Solid Waste Facility Permit.
- To have flexibility for landfill operators, they do mention balefilling as a potential requirement. However, some landfills have physical or operational constraints that may not allow that.
- The landfill operator should have flexibility in the use of different types of covers.
- Discussion on the history of waste-by-rail and that economic viability should be mentioned as one of the issues with starting operation of the waste-by-rail system.

Mr. Ruiz provided the following comments:

- The Siting Element should continue to promote and develop strategies to support the development of conversion technologies and, to the extent the County can develop those sites within Los Angeles County, that will certainly alleviate the need for exporting waste out of the County. He also expressed the need to have long-term capacity to handle what is currently going to landfills.

- Developing in-County capacity through conversion technologies should be a priority but we should not close the door to the export of solid waste if that means extending the life of in-County capacity.
- Putting more emphasis on conversion technologies as a means of managing waste and derive useful products, whether electricity, fuel or other things, to help manage all of the organic waste.
- Re-evaluate the list of proposed potential locations for alternative technology facilities in Los Angeles County. These sites should at least pass some basic criteria, even though at the end, the placement or identification of a site in the document does not mean that that a facility must be developed in that location. The local jurisdiction has the ultimate authority to determine land use within its boundaries.

Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo commented that she had not had time to read the entire Draft CSE, nor is she aware if others in Public Health have reviewed it. However, the areas that Ms. Hanson-Lugo reviewed pertained to the solid waste sections of the Local Enforcement Agency and agreed with Ms. Landis that the Draft CSE needs to be rewritten. Landfill operators have approached the Local Enforcement Agency proposing research projects on some sort of anaerobic digestion and does not know if this is triggered by cities or the County. Ms. Hanson-Lugo agreed that landfill operators will have to change the way they manage their solid waste because of SB 1383. Her belief is that it is more profitable for cities to develop a closed landfill site into a parking lot for Amazon instead of looking at those potential sites for solid waste infrastructure, and that economics has a lot to do with who will invest in what type of project.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens provided the following comments:

- Landfill photo or any photos of a facility used in the document should be identified or labeled accordingly.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill in the Draft CSE is noted as a minor landfill and should be recognized as a major landfill.
- Requested to see a summary of comments previously provided by Mr. Mike Mohajer.

Ms. Landis commented she would like to forward a motion to the Task Force about having both the Draft CSE and Draft EIR rewritten. Mr. Ruiz offered his suggestion that it would help Public Works in responding to the comments by being as specific as possible, rather than stating that it needs to be rewritten, because that may be difficult to interpret. Other Subcommittee members agreed. Ms. Landis responded that she and Mr. Mohajer had already submitted their comments and that there

were some excellent comments at today's special meeting that staff may incorporate.

Mr. Ruiz commented that the public review period was still open until November 15, 2021. Mr. Aiyetiwa indicated that the next Task Force meeting was on November 18, 2021, which was outside of the public review period. However, staff would accept Task Force comments after the public review period is over. Mr. Aiyetiwa's recommendation was for the Subcommittee to submit its collective comments to the Task Force and then the Task Force may send the comments to the County. Mr. Ruiz suggested that staff summarize the comments received today so they could be presented at next week's Subcommittee meeting and then submitted to the Task Force for consideration. His recommendation was for the Task Force to consider the submittal of comments to the County and Public Works and that staff would accept comments from the Task Force and would continue to work with the Subcommittee.

Ms. Hanson-Lugo asked if the public review period could be extended. Mr. Aiyetiwa responded that it could, but that there was no request to extend the period at the last Task Force meeting. By law, the County has 105 days after the end of the public review period to prepare written responses to comments received and prepare the final draft. Once the final draft is completed with all comments being considered, it will be sent to the Task Force for review before releasing it to the cities for local adoption.

Ms. Landis made a motion to request the Task Force, based on today's meeting comments, to have Public Works address the comments received and revise the Draft CSE and Draft EIR, accordingly. Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion.

Mr. Aiyetiwa clarified the process that staff would be preparing a draft letter from the Task Force to the County, which will include all the comments that have been received from the Subcommittee, public, as well as Mr. Hunter's verbal comments. The draft letter will be sent to the Subcommittee for review and consideration and then the Subcommittee could forward to the Task Force for their approval to be sent to the County.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.