

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste
Management Task Force

Unapproved Minutes of November 21, 2019

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Nick Morell, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
Daniel De La Cruz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (alternate)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Chanel Kincaid, City of Santa Monica
Teri Muse, Waste Management
Mario Rivas, City of Huntington Park
Angela Williams, City of Inglewood
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT

Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Elizabeth Zaragoza, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mohajer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Morell recommended the minutes to be accepted. Mr. Mohajer asked for the vote. Minutes were approved.

III. NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Mr. Mohajer reviewed the following articles for the Fall Edition:

- Los Angeles County Countywide Sustainability Plan
- Update on Senate Bill 1383 Regulations – 3rd draft
- Senate Bill 1383 Draft Program Environmental Impact Report
- Los Angeles County report on National trends in Reducing emissions through building decarbonization programs
- Residential Franchise and Garbage Disposal District
- National Trends in Reducing Emissions through Decarbonization Programs
- Cost Estimates for Senate Bill 1383 Compliance
- Ad Hoc Goals and Priorities Subcommittee
- Update on Woolsey Fire

Mr. Mohajer, Mr. De La Cruz, and Mr. Morell began to review the Los Angeles County Countywide Sustainability Plan article. Mr. Morell commented on a sentence in the Sustainability Plan article, “The County will continue to seek out community and stakeholder voices as it moves forward with development”. Mr. Morell suggested the use of “input” to replace “voices”. Mr. Mohajer agreed. Mr. Morell and Mr. De La Cruz had no more comments on the article. Mr. Mohajer stated that they will accept the article with the modification on page 2.

Pertaining to the article regarding the national trends in reducing emissions through building decarbonization programs, Mr. Mohajer said he wanted to learn the County’s definition of “decarbonization”. Mr. Morell suggested to have a text bubble with the definition for “decarbonization”. Mr. Morell suggested adding another bubble with the requirements for new construction to be all electric. It is a controversial issue and some restaurants state that certain food dishes cannot be cooked without gas. Mr. Mohajer responded he would be okay to have a bullet defining decarbonization if in the report that went to the Board of Supervisors already had the definition. If the definition was not in the report, then to not add it in the article. Mr. Morell suggested adding “decarbonization as defined by...” in the article and to choose a third-party entity’s definition instead of the County’s definition. This way, the public has

an idea what it means. Mr. Morell accepted the article as written, but perhaps to use bubbles to assist the public in understanding certain terms. Mr. Mohajer accepted the article as long as Public Works determines the definition.

Mr. Mohajer commented on the “Cost Estimates for Senate Bill 1383 Compliance” article mentioning it is long because it has significant impacts on all jurisdictions, solid waste facilities, operators, waste haulers, and all generators. Mr. Morell recommended the second to last paragraph of the article should be moved up to the beginning based on Mr. Mohajer’s comments so the public could have a better understanding of the article. Mr. Mohajer agreed to the recommended change and commented that the document was prepared in conjunction with the first and second draft of SB 1383.

Mr. Morell moved onto reviewing the Update on Senate Bill 1383 Regulations – 3rd Draft article. He commented that in the second to last paragraph using the phrase “State shall provide a subvention of funds...”, he was not quite certain what it meant, but understands it could be about a procurement topic, and wanted clarification. Ms. Oyola defined subvention as “a grant of money, especially from the government.” Mr. Morell suggested to remove “subvention of funds” and replace it with “funding to reimburse” but decided against it as it is a direct quote from the California Constitution, Article XIII B, Section 6. Mr. Morell recommended that the quote be italicized to make it stand out as a quote from a State document.

In discussing the Senate Bill 1383 Draft Program Environmental Impact Report article, Mr. Morell suggested that in the fourth paragraph, first sentence, it should say “appropriate mitigation measures” instead of “appropriate mitigating measures”. Mr. Morell recommended that on the second page towards the bottom, the sentence starting “Piles of compost can easily combust”, should be changed to “Piles of compost are combustible under certain circumstances. These materials may also pose a risk when being transported in a truck.” Mr. Morell suggested to replace the first clause of the next sentence from “if the materials in a truck ignite...” to “If the materials ignite during transportation...” Mr. Morell’s next suggestion was that the two paragraphs that mention alternative analysis, be moved up to become paragraphs 5 and 6. Mr. Morell asked where the pictures came from. Ms. Quiroz responded they were provided by the writers. Mr. Morell commented that pictures should be dated and to provide a picture of the Athens facility to show that it is more modernized.

Mr. Mohajer questioned when the fall issue would be published. Ms. Oyola responded that it is currently with Public Works, Community and Government Relations Group. Mr. Mohajer commented that perhaps the newsletter could be published two months from today’s date. Ms. Oyola responded that Environmental Programs Division’s Administration is currently reviewing some articles. Mr. Morell suggested to have the articles be part of the Winter Edition

of the newsletters since Fall Edition deadlines have already passed. Mr. Mohajer responded they will continue working on the Fall Edition until December 21, 2019.

Mr. Mohajer reviewed the Ad Hoc Goals and Priorities Subcommittee and has accepted the article.

Mr. Mohajer continued to the next article regarding the Residential Franchise and Garbage Disposal Districts. He commented that he had nothing else to add. Mr. Morell commented that there should be a link in the article where readers can click be sent to the Public Works Solid Waste Information Management System website to learn more information about jurisdictions, such as, City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, etc., and display all the existing contracts within the Residential Franchises and the Garbage Disposal Districts.

Mr. Morell commented that the date of the Woolsey Fire in the Debris Removal article should be November 8, 2018, and not November 8, 2019.

Mr. Mohajer stated he has time sensitive articles that he wants published in the Fall Edition: Saddleridge Fire that affected Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Countywide Organic Waste Management Plan, and an article that Mr. Mohajer requested Eugene Tseng, of City of Los Angeles, to write regarding landfill surface emissions. Mr. Tseng agreed to write the article.

IV. CHAIR REPORT ON TASK FORCE ACTION ITEMS

No report on Task Force Action Items due to time constraints.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 9 a.m, in Conference Room A of Public Works Headquarters.