

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

Minutes for June 21, 2018

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Robb Cohn, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Jack Hadijinian, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Pedroza, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Ron Saldana, California Waste and Recycling Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Grace Hyde, rep by Sam Shammas, County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
County
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Mark Pestrella, rep by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Craig Beck, Long Beach Public Works Department
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Ang, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
John Bollinger, California State University, Long Beach
Elijah Carder, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Ben Cortez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gladys Gallardo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public
Morena Guardado, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Habib Kharrat, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carol Oyola, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Navnit Padival, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Margarita Quiroz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Ms. Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MAY 17, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Robb and seconded by Mr. Mohajer to approve the May 17, 2018, minutes. The motion passed with one abstention.

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

Ms. Vazifdar provided a report from the ATAS meeting. She said that Mr. Michael Rogozen from UltraSystems gave a presentation on air permitting requirements for thermal solid waste conversion technologies in the South Coast Air Basin.

She reported that Mr. Mark McDannel of the Sanitation Districts provided an update on the Commerce Refuse to Energy Facility, which will accept its last load of trash on June 26, 2018. She mentioned that the facility was processing 400 tons of waste per day, but cannot continue to operate due to financial issues.

Lastly, Ms. Vazifdar reported that Tracy Anthony of Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) provided an update regarding helping the Sherriff's Department implement a small-scale organic waste processing project at the Pitchess Detention Center. She also mentioned that ARI is preparing some suggestions to advance consideration for a conversion technology project to extend the life of Pebbly Beach Landfill in the City of Avalon.

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

Mr. Mohajer provided a report from the FPRS meeting. The FPRS discussed the Sunshine Canyon Landfill odor complaints, Alternative Daily Cover, and Intermediate Cover Enhancements. Staff provided updates on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Quarterly Vegetation Meeting and Report, and the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Proposed Finding of Conformance application. The Subcommittee requested staff to provide action on the following items:

1. The subcommittee requested staff to send a letter to the Department of Regional Planning for a status update regarding the recommendation from the Department of Public Health to issue an NOV to Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

2. The subcommittee requested Staff to send a letter to South Coast Air Quality Management District regarding their changes in responding to odor complaints at Sunshine Canyon Landfill.
3. The subcommittee requested Staff to send a letter to Republic Services regarding the 2018 Bi-annual Waste Characterization performed between May 22 and May 26, 2018. It was reported approximately 2,000 tons of household hazardous waste (HHW) was present within those four days. The letter is to verify if the HHW was accepted and/or diverted from the facility.

The subcommittee discussed the applicability of an FOC revision for Sunshine Canyon Landfill due to the Operator's application for a Joint Technical Document revision. It was determined that a revised FOC is not required at this time.

V. CONSIDERATION OF CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Mohajer stated that due to the lack of time at the FPRS meeting, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill FOC item was not discussed. There will be a separate meeting between the Chiquita Canyon Landfill's consultant and the FPRS members within few weeks to get the process of the consideration of the FOC completed.

VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Cortez gave an update on current legislation and reviewed items on the attached [legislative table](#).

SB 168 (Wieckowski) – Recycling: Beverage containers. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support if amended and oppose unless amended, seconded by Mr. Saldana. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. CHINA'S NATIONAL SWORD POLICY: UPDATE ON MARKETS FOR RECYCLABLE MATERIALS IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. Padival, from the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the Impact of the China Ban on Districts' Materials Recovery Facility (MRFs). The presentation focused on National Sword timeline of 2017 and the China Ban timeline of 2018. Mr. Padival spoke about how China announced in 2017 they would stop importing contaminated recyclables. In December 2017, China only issued limited import licenses for 2018. He mentioned there were 24 different materials affected, including mixed paper, cardboard, and mixed rigid plastic. Mr. Padival spoke about the Districts'

response to the ban. He explained they changed their sorting procedures, slowed throughput to allow for more careful sorting, and added sorters to remove more contamination.

Ms. Clark asked if the Sanitation Districts are considering incorporating conversion technologies (CTs). Mr. Padival responded that the Sanitation Districts are considering them.

Mr. Pedroza asked if markets in the United States have expanded since this new policy came into effect. Mr. Padival responded that freight transportation to Mexico, the Mid-west, or the East coast is cost-prohibitive, but he said they are looking for alternative solutions.

Mr. Ruiz asked what would happen to the materials that were previously sorted for recycling but now are not. Mr. Padival explained that the Sanitation Districts are in the process of finding an outlet for materials removed from the waste stream with contamination. They are testing the possibility of developing a niche grade of sorted paper fiber by working along with their brokers to find a buyer.

Mr. Mohajer asked where the unrecycled materials currently go and if there are any plans to develop markets in California. Mr. Padival stated that part of it is transformed and the rest is disposed in landfill, but he is not aware of any plans to develop additional infrastructure to recycle these materials within the state. Mr. Padival stated that most of the materials were still being shipped abroad to other countries in Southeast Asia.

Mr. Ruiz asked how much less material is sorted for recycling after the implementation of the ban. Mr. Padival responded that 50 percent of material in the waste stream is now sorted for recycling compared to 80 percent previously.

Mr. Saldana asked about the financial impact of the ban. Mr. Padival responded that facilities would be charging similar but higher rates.

Mr. Cohn asked how much labor costs have increased to sort recyclables with less contamination. Mr. Padival estimated that labor costs increased 50 percent.

VIII. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE – SCL JOINT TECHNICAL DOCUMENT (JTD) AMENDMENT

Item discussed in item IV.

IX. ASSEMBLY BILL 901

Mr. Cohn, President of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industry (ISRI) and Committee member expressed his concerns regarding CalRecycle's intended changes to Assembly Bill 901 (AB 901). He requested the Task Force's support in opposing the new proposed changes to AB 901. He explained that CalRecycle is trying to rewrite the definition of what is considered waste through the AB 901 implementing regulations. Metal recyclables were never intended to go into the waste stream because it is a commodity and it is worth money.

Mr. Ruiz stated that under Assembly Bill 939, materials that were normally disposed of are considered waste and metals that were traditionally salvaged for their value and not normally sent to a landfill were never considered waste. Mr. Ruiz asked what CalRecycle is proposing. Mr. Cohn responded that they are proposing for scrap metal to be reported as a diversion so their rates can go up. Their intentions are to reach 75 percent diversion rates by 2020.

Mr. Hadijinian suggested that it may work better for a hauler to count it as diversion. Mr. Cohn added that it would not be better because the franchise hauler will be able to go to a business and tell them they can no longer sell materials to their preferred choice. He added the conflict here is that metal was not required to be reported and counted as waste. The only time it was reported was when it came from a MRF. Mr. Saldana asked what the definition of "commodity" is. Mr. Cohn responded by saying it is something worth value and sellable. He went on to explain metal is a commodity so why should the definition be changed and defined it as waste.

Mr. Mohajer explained that AB 901 was passed two years ago and that the committee is not talking about the legislation, they are referring to the implementing regulations. Today metal can be sold to anyone without reporting it and now CalRecycle wants reports for everything. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter supporting ISRI's position and include his/ISRI's letter as attachment, seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed with one abstention.

Mr. Ruiz shared that while talking with state OAL staff some time ago, they mentioned that there are two things that the Office of Administrative Law looks for 1) whether CalRecycle is following the correct process and 2) if the regulations are consistent with the law. CalRecycle's regulations would appear inconsistent with the State law.

X. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin gave a brief update on two fund applications deadlines.

- Used Oil Payment Program (OPP), due on June 28, 2018
- Tire-Derived Aggregate Grant Program (Fiscal Year 2018-2019), due August 1, 2018

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m. The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2018, in Conference Room B.

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