

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

Minutes for November 15, 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
Jack Hadjinian, 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, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, rep by Dorcas Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mark Pestrella, rep by Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Craig Beck, rep by Charles Tripp, Long Beach Public Works Department
Robb Cohn, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Ang, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Elijah Carder, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nam Doan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Morena Guardado, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Gerald Ley, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Francisca Mandujano, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carol Oyola, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 18, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Pedroza to approve the October 18, 2018, minutes. The motion passed with one abstentions.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION & INFORMATION SUBCOMITTEE (PEIS)

Mr. Mohajer reported at the PEIS meeting, there was discussion regarding thirteen different articles involving:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill
- Antelope Valley Landfill
- Update on AB 901 Regulations
- Athens Proposed a New MRF in Irwindale
- Athens Composting Facility in Victorville
- Update on City of LA Exclusive Franchise System
- CalRecycle Update on AB 341 and 1826 Implementation and Results
- Lithium and Ion Batteries and the Fires they are Causing
- California State Auditor Report
- California Mattress Recycling Stewardship
- Commerce Waste to Energy Closure

Mr. Mohajer also reported that the subcommittee discussed the workshop held by CalRecycle regarding lithium battery fires. He stated that the lithium battery topic is very important given the fact that almost everything we use in our daily lives operate with batteries. The subcommittee recommended that a letter be sent to CalRecycle requesting information on the impact of the China Green Sword on recycling in California and how they are monitoring and verifying the evaluation of activities by local governments.

Ms. Clark requested more elaboration on the recycling stewardship. Mr. Mohajer responded that the Auditor Report recently released questioned if whetherfunding program is being spent correctly by the Mattress Stewardship organization for the mattress collection program. The State Auditors are concerned because there seem to be insufficient services provided for mattress collection. In the meantime, they are collecting twenty dollars per mattress and the money is not being used to provide more collection services to underserved areas. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that CalRecylce is responsible for making sure the program is doing an adequate job and the auditors are saying they are failing.

Ms. Clark also asked how they get the twenty dollars if they are not collecting anything. Mr. Mohajer responded there is money, but the problem is that there is not enough collectors or sites. Ms. Pereira mentioned that they have that same issue in the City of Los Angeles due to CalRecycle not being interested in the program.

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

Mr. Doan reported that there was a presentation by All Power Labs (APL) during the ATAS meeting. APL makes mobile small-scale biomass gasification waste-to-energy units that produce carbon-negative energy and convert dry organics such as wood chips and agricultural waste into power, heat, and biochar. They currently have a project in Ontario, California that is surrounded by agricultural communities and farmer's markets.

Mr. Doan also mentioned they received an update from Alternative Resources Inc on project assistance. They continue to conduct economic analyses for an in-vessel composting project at the Pitchess Detention Center and a potential gasification project for Interior Removal Specialist, Inc.

Mr. Doan also reported that the County Sanitation Districts (CSD) provided an update on the impacts of the recent Woolsey Fires at the Calabasas Landfill. The fire passed through the landfill twice and the site was evacuated on November 9, 2018. No injuries were reported. CSD mentioned that the fire caused damage to the superintendent building and the gas collection system. The collection and control system were back in service on November 10, 2018 and repairs are ongoing.

Mr. Doan also mentioned that Mr. Mohajer brought up a concern that the definition of organic waste and disposal data utilized in public presentations is not consistent with the Senate Bill 1383 definition of organic waste. Public Works will make necessary changes for future presentations.

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

Mr. Mohajer stated that Chair, Betsey Landis, was not able to attend the meeting due to the fires. He reported that during the FPRS meeting there was a discussion on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill odor complaints, which have significantly dropped since they installed the new gas collection system. There are still some odors, but overall the situation is improving.

Mr. Mohajer also reported that Republic Services (Republic), have completed their evaluation on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) and staff will be reviewing it. He then added that there was an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement use of Posi-Shell as an alternative enhancement. The project was completed, and Republic has conducted an evaluation report. Staff is requesting Republic to provide a copy of the evaluation and whether they are planning to continue using Posi-Shell in the future.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the SCL vegetation is looking better in certain areas and the same in other. Staff will contact Republic to address the areas that need improvement and an update will be given during the next Task Force (TF) meeting.

Mr. Mohajer also mentioned staff provided an overview for the quarterly report of Finding of Conformance (FOC) for SCL, Antelope Valley, Lancaster, and Calabasas. Due to the fires in Calabasas, staff will submit reports later and hopefully get a presentation on the Calabasas fire.

One important item Mr. Mohajer mentioned was that in the quarterly FOC report, the landfill operation had to make a waste characterization. They submitted the results and there was no explanation on the impact of the China Green Sword. Staff will review the report.

VI. NOTICE OF CHANGES TO PROPOSED AB 901 REPORTING REGULATIONS

Mr. Ley gave an update on the Notice of Changes to Proposed Assembly Bill 901 (AB 901) Reporting Regulations per CalRecycle and the purpose of the regulations for recycling disposable facilities reporting. This new approach aims to improve how organic recycling material and solid waste are reported so that the state can keep a record and better assist the various stakeholders and public. He mentioned that on April 19, 2018, the TF staff provided an update on AB 901 and then later in the June 2018 meeting, Mr. Robb Cohn, President of Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, expressed his concern regarding the proposed regulation on how CalRecycle is trying to rewrite the definition on what is considered waste through AB 901. The TF approved a motion to send a letter supporting Mr. Cohn's position. Mr. Ley also mentioned that on July 11, 2018, TF sent a letter to CalRecycle in support of the letter that was sent on behalf of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries dated June 18, 2018.

Mr. Ley reported that on October 1, 2018, CalRecycle released the 7th draft of the regulations and the TF responded in a letter dated October 16, 2018. On October 31, 2018, CalRecycle released their 8th draft and they have not addressed the TF comments. Staff has reviewed the 8th draft and is preparing a response for CalRecycle.

VII. THREATS POSED BY LITHIUM BATTERY FIRES

Ms. Guardado gave a [presentation](#) and summarized on the Threats Posed by Lithium Battery Fires workshop, hosted by CalRecycle on November 8, 2018. She reported that two panels were invited to provide different perspectives on the issue. The first panel was represented by the Scrap Industry, addressing the National, Manufacturer, Recycler, and Local Government perspectives. The second panel provided information on the Current Programs and Laws.

Ms. Guardado reported per Resource Recycling Systems (RRS): Compared to 2010, lithium batteries are now 60 percent more powerful, 55 percent lighter, and 40 percent cheaper, becoming the backbone of the mobile electronic revolution. She also mentioned that the stakeholders agreed that there is a nationwide issue on proper disposal of batteries, due to the confusion created by their current labels. Most batteries are labeled with the recycling symbol and/or No Can symbols, which can be construed as “do not place in the trash, instead place the battery in the recycling bin”; as a result, the batteries can be easily damaged causing a spark and consequently a fire during the collection and material recovery, because each spent battery still retains 80% of its original charge. Ms. Guardado indicated that outreach and education on proper battery disposal is crucial to prevent these types of fires.

Lastly, Ms. Guardado stated according to the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), 56 percent of reported fires were due to lithium batteries, and 44 percent made up traditional hazards of combustibles. She echoed the importance of a fire plan mentioned by FireRover, a company dedicated to fire suppression, this plan should include a fire safety plan, fire prevention, early detection, emergency response, daily operation protection, targeted suppression, and outdoor material pile fire elimination.

Ms. Clark asked if an old fashion battery could start a fire, and if there is a way to make batteries safer. Ms. Guardado responded any battery can cause a fire; perhaps taping a battery for disposal can lessen the danger. Mr. Skye added, anything that has a battery can create a spark. Mr. Mohajer commented that as the demand for new devices increases daily; perhaps, the government should control the manufacturing of safer products.

VIII. SHIFTING RECYCLING MARKETS: IMPACTS ON AB 939 COMPLIANCE FOR JURISDICTIONS

Ms. Mandujano gave a report on the workshop hosted by CalRecycle on November 7, 2018, regarding Shifting Recycling Markets: Assembly Bill 939

Compliance for Jurisdictions Workshop. She mentioned the workshop consisted of two sessions:

Session one

The first part consisted of a panel that included: Tim Brownell from the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD), Jim Lavarone from Mill Valley Refuse Services (MVRS), Kristine Costa from Waste Management (WM), and Rob Hilton from HF&H Consulting Firm. They all shared their different ways of adapting to the shifting recycling markets. Ms. Mandujano mentioned that some approaches included, but are not limited to:

- Taking new infrastructural approaches
- Increasing tipping fees
- Addressing contamination issues with outreach and education campaigns
- New recycling contamination process where the driver snaps a picture and logs in order to send the customer proper recycling information
- Haulers and jurisdictions must work together

Session two

The second session included a presentation from Cara Morgan and Howard Levenson of CalRecycle who spoke on AB 939 compliance, including a review of the current California Integrated Waste Management Plan Enforcement Policy Part II. During CalRecycle's presentation, they spoke about each jurisdiction implementing a Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE), Household Hazardous Waste Element (HHWE), and other programs to comply with AB 341 Mandatory Commercial Recycling (MCR) and AB 1826. Ms. Mandujano mentioned four scenarios presented by CalRecycle which they use in determining SRRE and HHWE implementation:

1. Implementing all or most programs and meeting diversion requirements.
2. Implementing some/all programs, but not meeting diversion requirements.
3. Implementing a small number of programs and meeting diversion requirements.
4. Not implementing programs and not meeting diversion requirements.

Ms. Mandujano also mentioned two steps towards Issuance of compliance where the MCR and MORE services need to be appropriate for jurisdictions to meet business needs.

1. If Local Assistance staff review finds program gaps that indicate failure by jurisdiction to make good faith effort, then jurisdiction will be referred to Jurisdiction Compliance Unit (JCU) for independent review to determine if compliance order is necessary.

2. Prior to referring to JCU and to issuing Compliance Order, staff reviews applicable factors in CIWMP Enforcement Policy to assess if jurisdiction has done everything reasonable and feasible to implement its programs or applicable statutes.

Lastly, Ms. Mandujano spoke about understanding the effect of China's National Sword import policy and compliance with AB 939. She mentioned that CalRecycle spoke about some potential changes to Enforcement Policy Part II when evaluating a jurisdiction's compliance:

1. Extent to which China's or other countries' import policies caused the absence or loss of a market for recyclable materials diverted from solid waste facilities that necessitated the disposal of those materials as a temporary measure to avoid a public health threat associated with storing recyclable materials in amounts that exceed permitted or design capacity of a solid waste facility.
2. The extent to which the jurisdiction has made efforts to reduce contamination and improve the quality of recycled materials so that they can be used as feedstocks in manufacturing of new recycled-content products.
3. The extent to which the lack of an available market for one or more types of recyclable materials, which prevented the jurisdiction from fully implementing its diversion programs, was the result of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the jurisdiction.

Mr. Mohajer gave a brief history on the Shifting Recycling. He mentioned that CalRecycle has reviewed the jurisdictions annual report to see if they reached their goal of 25 percent, 50 percent, or 75 percent. The policy that was adopted is now part of the state statute, which was an underground policy determined by TF because CalRecycle did not give a public notice when they adopted the policy on May 25, 1995. One of the factors CalRecycle had to consider was if the jurisdictions made good faith effort to do a number of things. TF worked with a number of legislations that legislatively now CalRecycle is mandated to go through those steps to determine if jurisdictions have made good faith efforts. Now China decided to ban the imports of recyclable materials and that had an impact on recycling activities in California and market for products. Assembly Member Rubio brought AB 3178, which required CalRecycle to consider the impact of China's Green Sword Policy. The legislation went through and CalRecycle made the decision that they had the legal authority to make that decision themselves with no need for legislation. The Senate Environmental Quality agreed with Rubio, but Governor Brown vetoed the legislation because of CalRecycle. Now CalRecycle said they were going to do what AB 3178 was

attempting to do, and they have put the same language that was in AB 3178 that was passed with three conditions. The three conditions mentioned above are relatively the same as AB 3178 with one major difference where it puts a lot of work on local jurisdictions.

Mr. Saldana expressed his concerns saying that there is a need to have more local facilities to be able to process and utilize recyclable materials. Everyone agrees there is a crisis and it needs to be dealt with. There is a need for legislature to provide incentives and we need to be able to find money to finance facilities.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Pedroza made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hadjinian for the Task Force to send a letter to CalRecycle in response to the latest efforts and address the following comments and revisions:

- The Task Force supports CalRecycle's recommendations on 1 and 3 as proposed.
- Recommendation 2, as proposed, will put more pressure on local jurisdictions to reduce contamination without having enough funding or infrastructure to handle the process of recycle materials. The TF recommends rewording as follows: "The extent to which the jurisdiction has made efforts to reduce contamination and improve the quality of recycled materials."
- The TF recommends CalRecycle to work closely and in partnership with local jurisdictions, manufacturers, haulers, and stakeholders to achieve and do what the jurisdictions are mandating.

IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Ajwani reported there is no legislative update and that legislation is in recess until January 1, 2019.

Mr. Saldana asked if the County has a legislative agenda for 2019 and if the agenda includes anything about sponsorship. Mr. Ajwani responded that the County has an agenda for the upcoming session as to what bills they will be supporting or opposing, but it does not talk about any sponsorships.

X. CITY OF LOS ANGELES RECYCLA& OTHER ZERO WASTE PROGRAMS

Ms. Pereira gave a [presentation](#) on the City of Los Angeles recycLA & other Zero Waste Programs. She mentioned that this presentation covers an overview of what the city is working on programs regarding to reach compliance with SB 1383. Ms. Pereira gave a quick history about the goal for City of Los Angeles. She mentioned that the goal was to set zero waste for the

City by 2025. Ms. Pereira explained that the Solid Waste Integrated Resources Plan (SWIRP) is stakeholder driven, long-range master plan that includes, Policies, Programs and Facilities to achieve the zero-waste goal. She spoke about how recycLA collects waste in Los Angeles. She mentioned Los Angeles Sanitation serves single family homes and small multifamily complexes, recycLA serves medium and large multifamily complexes, condominium buildings, and commercial businesses, and Specialized Waste Haulers serve construction and demolition.

Ms. Pereira gave a list of the recycLA Program Requirements (RSP) including:

- waste characterizations
- studies designed to assist LASAN in understanding
- dealing with contamination
- monthly reporting & records retention
- record keeping and reporting
- records audits upon request
- outreach and education
- goals to reduce impacts to public health and the environment (i.e. dust, odor, litter, noise)

Lastly, Ms. Pereira spoke about the Food Waste Pilot Program. This program began in June 2017 and will conclude in December 2018. She explained that the pilot program was offered to 20,000 homes within all 15 Council Districts. It provided a small kitchen pail with outreach materials and conducted surveys. She explained the food waste is sent to CR &R Anaerobic Digestion Facility in Perris, California. The processing facility has four digesters, and two biogas upgrading units with a full capacity of 336,000 tons per year.

Ms. Clark asked what is not allowed in the machinery. Ms. Pereira responded oil is usually avoided, especially if it comes from meats. They also do not allow anything that has a high fat content because it will require a lot of maintenance.

Mr. Saldana asked under the City of LA's recycLA program, are you making any allowance to the haulers in regards to the recycle markets. Ms. Pereira responded that they will evaluate recycle markets annually, per current contract language, that provides adjustments for blue bin costs should residential contract revenues from the City's curbside recycling collection program average less than \$0 per ton. In the past, the City was getting approximately \$25/ton for delivering commingled recyclables to five contracted MRFs. The City is now paying the MRFs between \$20 to \$50 per ton to process the same material. This may provide an additional challenge to the City and the recycLA haulers in meeting the overall landfill disposal reduction goals.

Ms. Clark had a question regarding dealing with contamination located at the bottom of the trash bins. Ms. Pereira responded it is just a visual inspection and that they would not be able to detect any contamination located at the bottom of the bin. Ms. Pereira explained that when the driver picks up the bins, the driver makes a visual inspection and if there is contamination, he will put a tag in that bin to notify the customers and the bin will not be picked up. The customer will have to call the hauler to get their bins picked up. After the third notice, the customer will get fined for contamination.

Mr. Mohajer asked how recyclA deals with upset customers whose bins did not get picked up due to contamination. Ideally the hauler is supposed to call for solid waste collection and it depends on scheduling on when the bins get picked up. The customers are allowed up to three notices of contamination before they are fined. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that some haulers record the contaminated bin on their phones which are already linked to their office databases where other staff contacts the customers regarding their contamination.

XI. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Item was not discussed.

XII. DECEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Task Force will not meet in December.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Pedroza and Mr. Saldana both stated they will no longer be members of Task Force committee.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m. The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2019, in Conference Room A.

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