

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

Minutes for September 19, 2019

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Gideon Kracov, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Liz Reilly, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Craig Beck, rep by Charles Tripp, Long Beach Department of Energy
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagaw-Ota, Los Angeles County Public Health
Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mark Pestrella, rep by Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jack Hadjinian, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shari Afshari, Los Angeles County Public Works
Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works
Clark Ajwani, Los Angeles County Public Works
Elijah Carder, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Elizabeth Zaragoza, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2019, JULY 18, 2019, AND AUGUST 15, 2019 MINUTES

Ms. Landis and Ms. Clark agreed to call the documentation of the meetings that do not meet quorum “Unofficial Minutes” because the members were present, and topics were still being discussed. There were no debates.

Ms. Landis motioned to approve the August 15, 2019 Unofficial Minutes, as corrected, and Ms. Reilly seconded the motion. Ms. Pereira, Mr. Mohajer, and Ms. Clark abstained. No oppositions. The Unofficial Minutes were approved.

Ms. Reilly motioned to approve the June 20, 2019 minutes, seconded by Mr. Kracov. Mr. Mohajer opposed. No abstentions. The minutes were approved.

Ms. Reilly motioned to approve the July 18, 2019 Unofficial Minutes, seconded by Ms. Landis. Mr. Mohajer and Mr. Tripp abstained. No oppositions. The minutes were approved.

Mr. Hunter stated that he has not seen other city and county committee meetings having “Unofficial Minutes” and that if you are meeting, it should still be called “Minutes”. If there is no quorum, a meeting would not take place because topics could not be voted on. He stated that a member does not need to abstain the minutes if the member was not in attendance and could still vote on the minutes. Ms. Landis specified that there still should be minutes because there were discussions that should be on record. Mr. Hunter suggested researching if this applied throughout the county. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that no decision would be made, but to receive a summary and file it away. Mr. Kracov mentioned that there could be a headcount before the meeting, and if there is no quorum, the meeting should be canceled through the Chair because his concern is wasting the members’ time. Ms. Landis suggested that Mr. Kracov assign an alternate, and Mr. Ruiz said Staff may assist. Mr. Ruiz also mentioned that Staff waits for a response in attendance from the members, and on that basis, Staff can convene with the Chair and decide whether the meeting should be canceled.

Ms. Landis expressed her unhappiness with the idea of canceling the meeting, stating that the subcommittees discuss things that need to be presented to the main committee. There is so much to be discussed about solid waste industries, and the Task Force cannot afford to not have any of the meetings, including the subcommittee meetings because soon there would be no Task Force. Ms. Clark

agreed with Ms. Landis' statement that all meetings should continue as they have always done. Ms. Clark stated looking into having alternates.

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

Mr. Nam Doan reported there was a presentation by Louis Verrengia of Nextec International, LLC (Nextec). The presentation included a background of Nextec, a company specializing in pyrolysis of waste tires into a beneficial gas, which can be used to produce transportation fuels and electric power. Mr. Doan stated the presentation discussed the potential to utilize this technology to process non-recyclables and excess plastics as well.

Mr. Doan reported CalRecycle expects to release the third formal draft of Senate Bill 1383 regulations in September 2019, followed by a 15-day comment period.

Mr. Doan also reported that an update was provided by Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) on conversion technology project development. ARI has prepared an informal draft Best Management Practice guideline for non-organic waste. ARI and its subconsultant Clements Environmental prepared a permitting process flow diagram for gasification of biomass.

Mr. Doan mentioned the details for upcoming conferences that are provided in the Conversion Technology newsletter and the ATAS Minutes.

Mr. Doan reported that the October 17, 2019 ATAS subcommittee meeting has been canceled. He stated that on this day, Mr. Coby Skye will be moderating a solid waste panel at the Air & Waste Management Association West Coast Section Annual Conference and will be presenting on organic waste management. He said that the panel will also include Mr. Bob Asgian of the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, presenting on the impacts of the China National Sword policy, and Meredith Roberts of Sierra Energy presenting on the company's thermal gasification technology. He reported that this panel will be held from 10:40 a.m. to noon at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) office in Diamond Bar. He stated that Public Works staff will attend the conference. Mr. Doan said that information about the conference will be sent to ATAS Subcommittee Members.

Ms. Clark requested that information on the Air & Waste Management Association West Coast Section Annual Conference be sent to Task Force members as well. Ms. Clark also requested for more information on technologies such as anaerobic digestion that convert organic waste into renewable natural gas (RNG), including existing and planned facilities and their estimated production of RNG.

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

Ms. Landis reported that Staff provided an update of odor complaints from the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline regarding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL). Seven odor complaints and “No Field Response” was done in the month of May 2019 in comparison to July 2019 and was unchanged at seven complaints. Compared to August 2018 it increased from six to seven complaints. Full number of complaints received this year is 143. As of September 10, 2019, AQMD has not issued any Odor Complaint Notices of Violations to SCL for the month of August. Ms. Landis mentioned that Mr. Hunter stated there was a lot of violations AQMD issued after September 10, 2019.

Ms. Landis also reported it was voted to ask Staff to send a letter to Republic Services (Republic) asking for information regarding the number of wells, oil wells, on their property and who owns them. Chevron owns two perimeter monitoring wells on their property. Ms. Landis added that if wells are abandoned, to acquire the dates of abandonment. Ms. Landis continued that there are problems getting the State Department to send an order to re-abandon the well due to ownerships, conditions of the property, and measured landfill gasses and also measuring gasses that are not considered landfill gasses. The gasses are giving out half the output the Department of Health requires to take action.

Ms. Landis reported that Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) currently has three lawsuits against them, including those living at the top of the landfill, and CCL is suing Los Angeles County. Palos Verdes Advisory Committee (PVAC) is officially operating and the subcommittee asked Staff to invite a member from that committee to speak to the Task Force because they are taking measurements, but do not seem to be going anywhere. Waste Connections for CCL have not been able to give a report on the alternative technologies that they are supposed to be using on their landfill and that perhaps the FPRS may be able to assist.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Carder gave an update on the [Legislative Table](#). He reported that three bills were added since the last Task Force meeting. There are 63 bills in total on the Legislative Table for the 2019 – 2020 legislative cycle. Mr. Carder mentioned that he will only print the active bills, removing all possible second year bills from the table and will place them back if they become active again. There are 26 bills on the Legislative Table today. The last day for the legislature to pass bills was Friday, September 13, 2019. The last day for the Governor to sign bills is Sunday, October 13, 2019. The legislature will reconvene with a second cycle on Monday, January 6, 2020.

Mr. Kracov expressed that it would be helpful to the committee to hear which bills have passed, focusing on noteworthy bills, bills sitting or going to be on the Governor's desk, and should not use up the committee's time to talk about taking positions on two-year bills since there is time for discussion and position taking later. Task Force will vote on bills when their deadlines get closer.

Ms. Clark requested to discuss the bills that are currently on the Governor's desk. Mr. Kracov requests Staff to organize bills.

AB 142 (Garcia) – The Lead-Acid Battery Recycling Act of 2016. Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 12, 2019.

AB 176 (Cervantes) – The California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority Act. Enrolling on September 13, 2019

AB 187 (Cristina Garcia and Bigelow) The Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling Act. Enrolled on September 16, 2019.

AB 293 (Eduardo Garcia) – The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Chaptered on July 12, 2019.

AB 296 (Cooley) The State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission. Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 12, 2019.

AB 614 (Eggman) – The Personal Income Tax Law and the Corporation Tax Law. Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 18, 2019.

AB 619 (Chiu) The California Retail Food Code. Chaptered on July 12, 2019.

AB 729 (Chu) – Carpet Recycling: Carpet Stewardship. Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 13, 2019.

AB 792 (Ting and Irwin) – The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act. Amended on September 10, 2019 and Enrolled on September 14, 2019.

AB 815 (Aguiar-Curry) – Integrated Waste Management Plans: Source Reduction and Recycling Element and Household Hazardous Waste Element: Dual Stream Recycling Programs. Chaptered on August 30, 2019.

AB 827 (McCarthy) – Solid Waste: Commercial and Organic Waste: Recycling Bins. Amended on August 27, 2019. Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 11, 2019.

AB 1162 (Kalra) – Lodging Establishments: Personal Care Products: Small Plastic Bottles. Amended on August 30, 2019. Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 13, 2019.

SB 54 (Allen, Skinner, Stern, and Warner) – Solid Waste: Packaging and Products (same as AB 1080). Currently on Assembly Floor.

SB 457 (Hueso) – Biomethane: Gas Corporations. Amended on June 18, 2019. Enrolled on September 13, 2019.

SB 726 (Caballero) – Hazardous Waste: Public Agencies: Materials Exchange Program. Amended on August 20, 2019. Enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 17, 2019. Mr. Mohajer commented that this bill is a companion to SB 552.

The Task Force made the following legislative motions:

AB 54 (Ting) – The California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act. It will be on the Governor's desk soon. Mr. Mohajer motioned to support, seconded by Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 1770 (Frazier) – Tire Recycling Program: Rubberized Pavement. Introduced on February 22, 2019. Senate Committee on Environmental Quality. Mr. Mohajer motioned to support. Mr. Ruiz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

SB 552 (Archuleta) – Hazardous Waste: Household Hazardous Waste: Door-to-Door Collection Programs: Residential Pickup Services. It will be on the Governor's desk soon. Mr. Mohajer motioned to support. Ms. Landis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. MEETING ATTENDANCE

Ms. Landis expressed the importance of meeting quorum for the Task Force Committee due to the fact that so many topics need to be discussed and items need to be voted on. Ms. Clark mentioned that every member on the Task Force Committee must have an alternate. Ms. Landis encouraged the assignment of alternates. Mr. Kracov stated that the Goals and Priorities Subcommittee is currently reviewing the issues of appointments to fill current vacancies and alternate positions, encouraging attendance and Members to RSVP to the attendance emails that Staff sends to count for quorum.

Ms. Landis and Ms. Clark mentioned that no meeting should be canceled due to lack of quorum.

VII. UPDATE ON THE COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CIWMP) FIVE-YEAR REPORT

Ms. Nilda Gemeniano gave a [presentation](#) on the update of the Five-Year Report. The report is to confirm that the County's waste management practices are consistent with the hierarchy of waste management practices defined in the State's Integrated Waste Management law. Ms. Gemeniano mentioned that the CIWMP is made up of planning documents, three of which are prepared by each jurisdiction in Los Angeles County (Source Reduction and Recycling Element, Household Hazardous Waste Element, and Non-Disposal Facility Element) and two countywide plans prepared by the County (Siting Element and Summary Plan). The review of the Countywide demographic changes since the 2014 Five-Year Report are not significant enough to warrant revision of the planning documents. Ms. Gemeniano reported that Public Works annually monitors landfill capacity and disposal rates to ensure that there is adequate disposal capacity for the County. The County continues to have adequate disposal capacity. Since the CIWMP's Five-Year Report in 2014, CCL has expanded, which has increased in-County disposal capacity and the remaining transformation facility accepting County waste, the Southeast Resource Recovery Facility plans to continue to operate with its current maximum permitted daily capacity of 2,240 tons. The changes in quantities of waste and in permitted disposal capacity over the past five years are being incorporated into the Siting Element that is being finalized.

Ms. Gemeniano mentioned that there have been no significant changes in funding for administration of the Siting Element and Summary Plan. The County also has not experienced significant changes in its administrative responsibilities as outlined in the current CIWMP.

Ms. Gemeniano stated that the County's annual reports provide updated information covering program implementation that is current as well as updates to the Countywide Siting Element and the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Summary Plan. Ms. Gemeniano continued to report that since the announcement of the China National Sword policy in February 2017, the prices of the recyclables have significantly dropped and continue to do so. Currently, some materials that have been separated and baled are being turned to the landfill due to a lack of markets. Changes in available markets for recycled materials do not warrant a revision to one or more of the planning documents as there is still adequate disposal capacity. New recycling facilities that are developed may warrant a change in planning documents. Solutions to these changes are best addressed through State legislation, regulation, and/or policies that are developed with local jurisdictions' input. Program implementation status is reported individually by local agencies in each jurisdiction's Annual Reports. CalRecycle's Local Government Information Center database provides program listings for each of the 89 jurisdictions within Los Angeles County and is available

through CalRecycle's website. There are no significant changes in the County's implementation schedule to warrant a revision to any of the planning documents. New programs are added as required by new laws or regulations. The County has completed a draft revised version of the Siting Element. The revised Siting Element and its environmental impact documents are undergoing a review and approval process in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements. The updated Siting Element is expected to be submitted for review to CalRecycle by 2021. The Draft 2019 Report of the Five-Year Review of the CIWMP will be provided to the Task Force for review in the next few weeks.

Mr. Kracov asked what the Task Force Committee's role is in reviewing the report. Mr. Ruiz responded that there is a review, approval, commenting, and voting on the approval once the report is complete. After the Committee's approval, revisions of the report are submitted to CalRecycle. Mr. Kracov asked if the fundamental challenges of the County regarding organic capacity and funding, would be addressed in the report. Mr. Ruiz responded it would be appropriate to address in the report.

Mr. Ruiz asked Staff if there were any changes in the content or regulations in the CIWMP review report. Mr. Clark Ajwani responded that there have been no changes in the requirements in the report. The report will not define the adequate disposal capacity, the Siting Element will list that information. Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa mentioned there is a separate report citing organic issues and this report will also come before the Task Force Committee.

Mr. Kracov would like confirmation on the Task Force's role for reviewing many of these reports, including the Five-Year CIWMP report, because of the confusion of the different reports. Mr. Kracov's goal for the Goals and Priorities Subcommittee is to assist the Task Force in identifying what the reports are each year and to determine the roles and forecasting future reports in an effort to be better prepared in reviewing respective reports.

Regarding the tours that Ms. Clark participated in, she asked if they witnessed the recyclables due to the China Sword policy, if they still are going to the landfills as baled recyclables and if so, were there any reservations to store the bales for processing later. Mr. Ruiz responded that the materials that were forwarded to China that came back were going to the landfills because they were contaminated and what is being baled is adequate for market.

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

CalRecycle representative was unable to attend.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m. The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2019, in Conference Room B of Public Works Headquarters.