

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

Minutes for September 16, 2021

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

WEB CONFERENCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Michelle Chambers, California League of Cities
Eddie De La Riva, California League of Cities
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council 6th District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Public Health
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Gideon Kracov, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gabriel Esparza, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Ms. Margaret Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 19, 2021 MINUTES

Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Ms. Clark seconded. The motion passed with 1 abstention.

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

Mr. Christopher Sheppard, ATAS Chair, reported the ATAS received a [presentation](#) by USA Renewable Energy and its partner, Stellar J Corporation. They provided information on their anaerobic digestion and gasification technologies and current projects, one of which is in San Bernardino, California. The San Bernardino facility processes about 85,000 gallons of food waste per day and produces about 2.6 megawatts of power. Another project is located in the Central Valley and is part of the BioMAT program. The project processes about 200 tons per day of wood chips and generates about 5 megawatts of power. The presentation will be available on the August ATAS Minutes on the [Task Force website](#).

Ms. Christine Arbogast reported that Tetra Tech is supporting Public Works in developing factsheets on different types of anaerobic digestion technologies. Tetra Tech also helped to develop a recent report which was completed by Public Works and submitted to the Los Angeles County earlier in the month regarding solid waste infrastructure in Los Angeles County. The report included recommendations on potential facility locations and pursuing a Request for Proposal for a facility at the Calabasas Landfill.

There was an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#):

- Renewable Natural Gas Works Technical Workshop & Trade Expo: September 29 – 30, 2021, Nashville, TN
- Air and Waste Management Association West Coast Section Annual Conference: October 28, 2021, Virtual
- Paper and Plastics Recycling Conference: October 20 – 21, 2021, Chicago, IL
- WasteCon 2021: November 1 – 4, 2021, Kissimmee, FL
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference & Exhibit: November 10, 2021, Ontario, CA

Regarding the ATAS update on the presentation given by USA Renewable Energy and its partner, Stellar J Corporation, Ms. Landis asked if the megawatt production was hourly, weekly, or daily and how much material in pounds or tons are processed. Mr. Skye responded that facilities typically report their continuous power generation, so 2.6 megawatts is the amount they are producing at any moment in time when they are operating at full capacity. The number of megawatt hours produced in a year can be calculated assuming they are operating with a 5 to 10 percent downtime or less.

Mr. Skye addressed the Vice-Chair and mentioned several items that could be presented at future Task Force meetings, such as the Board report on solid waste programs and infrastructure, the priorities of the Task Force, and an update to the Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future.

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

Ms. Landis, FPRS Chair, reported on the following discussed items at the FPRS meeting:

- A motion was passed by the FPRS to request Public Works to extend an additional 45-day public review period for the Los Angeles County Preliminary Draft Revised Countywide Siting Element and Draft Environmental Impact Report. The additional time would allow the FPRS and Task Force to review and comment.
 - Mr. Coby Skye seconded the motion and it passed with 1 abstention.
- Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)
 - Presentation and discussion on subsurface methane gas migration.
 - Status of South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Stipulated Order for Abatement for CCL and their operation and maintenance mitigation measures.
 - AQMD issued 3 NOVs for August 2021.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill
 - There were 71 odor complaints for August 2021, 16 were classified as trash and 9 were noted as landfill gas, and the rest were listed as no field response and none. AQMD issued 2 NOVs in August 2021. The total number of complaints received in 2021 is 175.

V. CONSIDERATION OF REVIEW COMMENTS ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Discussion covered under Item IV. Report from FPRS.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Motion approved under Item IV. Report from FPRS. Ms. Landis mentioned that Task Force Members may review comments made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and herself since documents are very lengthy.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Sheppard provided the legislative update. There have been several budget trailer bills that were recently approved and that will provide some financial assistance to the waste sector.

- \$140 million approved for a 2-year circular economy package, which appropriates about \$75 million this Fiscal Year 2021-22 and then another \$65 million in Fiscal Year 2022-23.
- Additional Cap-and-Trade appropriations, which include \$130 million to CalRecycle for Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) implementation of which \$70 million will be for organics infrastructure and \$60 million for local jurisdictions to support SB 1383 implementation.
- \$247 million for implementation of the Carl Moyer Program to expand the adoption of electric vehicles.
- \$50 million to the California Department Food and Agriculture for the healthy soils program.

Mr. Sheppard noted key dates: September 7, 2021, being the last day for each house to pass bills and October 10, 2021, being the last day for the Governor to act on bills. Bills that are vetoed by the Governor will return to their House of origin and the House of origin will have some time to consider the veto, which will either be placed in the unfinished business file or they could act upon the veto bill within 60 days. If no action is taken, then the measure will be removed, and the veto will go into effect.

The Task Force has been tracking the following 12 Assembly and Senate Bills that were sent to the Governor for signature:

- AB 322 (Salas) - Energy: Electric Program Investment Charge Program: Biomass
- AB 652 (Friedman) - Product Safety: Juvenile Products: Chemicals: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
- AB 707: Mercury Thermostat collection Act of 2021
- AB 818 (Bloom) - Solid Waste: Premoistened Nonwoven Disposable Wipes

- AB 843 (Aguiar-Curry) - California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program: Renewable Feed-In Tariff: Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff Program: Community Choice Aggregators
- AB 881 (Gonzalez) – Recycling: Plastic Waste Export
- AB 1200 (Ting) – Plant-Based Food Packaging: Cookware: Hazardous Chemicals
- AB 201 (Ting) – Labeling for Compostability and Biodegradability
- AB 1276 (Carrillo and Gonzalez) – Single-use Foodware Accessories and Standard Condiments
- SB 244 (Archuleta) - Lithium-Ion Batteries: Illegal Disposal: Fire Prevention
- SB 343 (Allen) – Environmental Advertising: Recycling Symbol
- SB 619 (Laird) – Organic Waste: Reduction Regulations: Local Jurisdiction Compliance

The following Assembly and Senate Bills the Task Force supported were signed by the Governor:

- AB 246 related to illegal dumping
- AB 332 related to hazardous wood waste and emergency regulations
- AB 504 related to commercial organic waste recycling bins
- AB 698 related to hazardous waste small quantity generators
- Assembly Joint Resolution (AJR 4) related to the ratification of the Basil Convention

Staff will monitor bills that did not make it through the legislature this season or died and will track the new bills for the second half of the 2-year session.

Ms. Landis commented she is pleased that more bills focused on more electricity since California has so many problems with forest fires and drought and needs to find ways to fund the feed for electricity. Mr. Sheppard responded that the big topic for legislators is electrification and how to support it, including energy storage.

Ms. Michelle Chambers requested that the bills sent to the Governor for signature be e-mailed to her. Ms. Clark asked that the bills be sent to all Task Force Members.

Mr. Mohajer commented on Senate Bill 619 (Laird), which delayed the imposition of the \$10,000 penalty by 1 year. The final language stated that jurisdictions have to, in essence, plead guilty for not complying with the mandates of SB 1383 by March 22, 2022 and gives CalRecycle authority to write emergency regulations. If cities try to delay the penalty by 1 year, then they must agree with CalRecycle mandates. Therefore, if jurisdictions agree to the noncompliance, then tools are taken away when they appeal. It is up to the discretion of jurisdictions what they

want to do. Mr. Mohajer would like to see cities and the County write a letter to CalRecycle prior to March 22, 2022, regarding all the efforts they have tried that have failed. He noted that 2 months is not enough time for cities and the County to substantiate the implementation of SB 1383.

Mr. Mohajer also advised that Assembly Bill 1201, which is on the Governor's desk, was recently amended on September 3, 2021, of which the Task Force has not had a chance to comment on since the Task Force meeting is today. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the bill could allow CalRecycle to prohibit the sales of certain products in California based on their determination of what is recyclable or compostable. The previous bill that was supported by the Task Force was limited to plastic products, but now the word plastic is omitted so the scope of the bill is expanded. The bill also requires separation of agricultural waste from the rest of the organic waste, which could result in 5 bins instead of 3 or 4. Ms. Landis commented that agricultural waste should include items such as cow manure and chicken waste that go into compost and that you cannot get clean green waste. She also mentioned that a lot of wood waste is contaminated. One of the comments she had on the Draft Countywide Siting Element is that they keep forgetting that the Department of Toxic Substances and the Department of Food and Agriculture both have definite regulations. Mr. Mohajer also advised the Task Force that the League of Cities still supports the bill and that staff to the Senate indicated that the Task Force is in support of the bill, which is false since the Task Force had not taken action on the amended bill. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mr. Skye and seconded by Ms. Landis to withhold sending a request for signature for AB 1201 since the Task Force did not have an opportunity to review the latest amendments to the bill that were recently printed a week or two ago, which means the Task Force is taking no action on the bill. Motion passed with 1 abstention.

VIII. RECAP OF THE CARB WORKSHOPS

Mr. Sheppard gave an [overview](#) for each of the following California Air Resources Board workshops. The workshops were meant to solicit feedback from stakeholders on how implementation efforts could be structured and prioritized. Each workshop touched on some common themes and goals, including different emissions target dates being worked on for California climate goals.

- California Climate Investments Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Fourth Investment Plan
- 2022 Scoping Plan – Short-Lived Climate Pollutants
- Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation

Staff submitted a comment letter on the Cap-and-Trade Investment Plan and are preparing comments on the 2022 Scoping Plan and Advanced Clean Fleet regulations.

Ms. Landis shared her concern on how much waste is being diverted out of Los Angeles County over the next 10 to 15 years since it is cheaper to buy more trucks for hauling than to reduce contamination and address issues causing climate change.

IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin reported the following from CalRecycle:

- SB 1383 record keeping requirements and tools were posted on website.
- Public Hearing related to SB 1383 regulations and e-waste program on October 21, 2021.
- Record Keeping Resource webinar on October 27, 2021.
- Department-issued Waivers and Exemptions webinar on September 23, 2021.
- New requirements for facilities to measure and report organic materials pursuant to the SB 1383 regulations webinar on October 26, 2021.
- The Rubberized Pavement Grant application is due September 29, 2021.
- The Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grant application is due September 29, 2021.
- Legacy Disposal Site Abatement Partial Grant application is due September 29, 2021.
- Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant application is due November 11, 2021.
- Tire-Derived Aggregate Grant application is due December 8, 2021.
- Beverage Container Redemption Pilot Project Grant application is due on January 1, 2022.

Mr. Mohajer expressed his gratitude to Ms. Wallin for her continued participation at Task Force meetings over the years and providing valuable information. Ms. Clark also asked if Ms. Wallin is able to relay some of the Task Force's concerns to CalRecycle. Ms. Wallin confirmed she takes notes and forwards them accordingly. However, she recommended that it is still best for the Task Force to reach out to CalRecycle's executive staff versus relying on her to forward concerns.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

Mr. Skye mentioned County Counsel is monitoring the possible extension or modification of the Executive Order pertaining to the Brown Act and virtual meetings. Members shared concerns about in-person meetings. Mr. Skye also mentioned the election of new Vice-Chair at next month's meeting.

XI. ADJOURMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 1 p.m.