

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

**Minutes for August 18, 2022**

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

**WEB CONFERENCE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association  
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Barbara Ferrer, rep Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Eric Lopez, rep. by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works  
Barbara Romero, rep by Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jack Cheng, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Mark Pestrella, rep by Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dustin Dvorak, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Chris Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Joseph Ramussen, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
Edgar De La Torre, County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning

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Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Arti Lai, California Department of Resources Recycling and Resources  
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita  
Diana Suarez – Arguellos, California Department of Resources Recycling and Resources

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 21, 2022 MINUTES**

Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Eddie De La Riva seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.

**III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE (PEIS)**

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that the PEIS considered seven articles to be published in the next issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. Most articles reviewed were from various cities and the County addressing and identifying programs to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 1383. There will also be an article regarding the impact on jurisdictions with SB 54 (Allen), the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act., and Legislative Table.

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

Mr. Fahim Rahimi reported the following at the ATAS meeting:

- The ATAS received a [presentation](#) from Burns & McDonnell regarding markets on renewable natural gas created from organic waste.
- Tetra Tech continues to support Public Works (PW) in SB 1383 planning efforts, expanding evaluation of potential locations for organic waste processing facilities, and in evaluating responses to the Calabasas Anaerobic Digestion Request for Proposal.
- On next month's agenda, the Subcommittee requested an update on SB 54.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology (CT) events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

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

Ms. Landis reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- SB 1383 Capacity Report was sent to California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) on August 1, 2022.
- Chiquita Canyon Landfill update: First lawsuit was partly settled in June 2022 and is set to continue with the Second lawsuit in December 2022. There were

470,000 tons of solid waste disposed and 177,000 tons of beneficial reuse materials received in the Second Quarter 2022.

- Sunshine Canyon Landfill update: There were 660,000 tons of solid waste disposed and 9,000 tons of beneficial reuse materials received in the Second Quarter 2022. For the month of July 2022, there were 12 odor complaints and no Notice of Violations. The Second Quarter Vegetation Report showed the good work done in revegetating the landfill in all decks, except for Deck A. Staff will provide the Subcommittee's comments on the Vegetation Report to the landfill operator.

## **VI. UPDATE ON COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**

Mr. Aric Rodriguez provided an update on the Countywide Siting Element (CSE). On August 2, 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Revised CSE and authorized PW as lead agency to release the Revised CSE to cities within Los Angeles County for a State-mandated 90-day approval period. PW will send letters to each City Director of Planning/Community Development Department and Director of Public Works/City Manager informing them of their role in the local adoption of the Revised CSE. If the majority of cities containing a majority of the County's incorporated population do not approve, the County will revise the deficient areas of the Revised CSE for recirculation in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 18779 through 18785. Staff will continue providing updates to the Task Force as the Revised CSE process moves forward.

## **VII. RECYCLING DISPOSAL AND REPORTING SYSTEM ECONOMIC IMPACT SURVEY**

Mr. Rodriguez provided a [presentation](#) on CalRecycle's efforts to survey the regulated community on the economic impacts of proposed additional reporting requirements in the Recycling Disposal and Reporting System related to the implementation of SB 343 and AB 881, which were approved October 2021.

## **VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided a [Legislative Update](#) and stated that the Legislature reconvened from its month-long summer recess on August 1, 2022. Key deadlines approaching include the second house suspense file hearing on August 11, 2022, amendments for bills by August 25, 2022, and passing bills to Senate and Assembly floors by August 31, 2022, which will also begin the final recess of the session. The Governor must sign or veto bills by September 30, 2022. Administration and Legislature officially started negotiating details for the

\$19.3 billion climate package, but it is unclear when the final package will be publicly released.

Ms. Landis noted that when she is reviewing the bills, she is not seeing the word compost very often, which leads her to believe that Legislature is enlarging their definition of organic waste recycling and not just looking at composting to recycle organic waste. Ms. Landis asked if her assessment was accurate or if CalRecycle insists on fining jurisdictions for not composting organic waste. Mr. Darenbourg's understanding is that the major limitation for other alternative technologies to composting is a lack of infrastructure.

Ms. Diana Suarez-Arguelles of CalRecycle commented that they were never against alternative technologies, such as anaerobic digestors to some of which they fund. What they do not typically promote is transformation, the burning of waste. Many jurisdictions who use those types of facilities take out the recyclables and organics prior to sending waste to a transformation facility. However, many jurisdictions are looking into anaerobic digestors technology, which is very costly and causing limitations. Ms. Suarez-Arguelles agreed with Ms. Landis that composting is not the only option for recycling organic waste and that a source of electricity is needed.

Mr. Mohajer noted his concern regarding Ms. Suarez-Arguelles' comment stating transformation is burning. He disagreed with her and asked her to substantiate her statement that transformation means burning. Ms. Suarez-Arguelles' understanding was that there are different temperatures in the different CTs that are present, and transformation is defined as the higher burning temperature, but she could not provide any further information. Ms. Landis concurred with Mr. Mohajer that transformation is not being defined correctly. Ms. Suarez-Arguelles stated that CalRecycle's funding with loans and grants do not typically fund transformation technology but does for other technologies such as anaerobic digestion. Mr. Mohajer asked that she read the definitions of transformation and incineration in the Public Resources Code. Mr. Shammass stated his belief that transformation encompasses more than incineration. Ms. Margaret Clark agreed with both Mr. Mohajer and Ms. Landis and hoped that Legislature and CalRecycle revisit the definition of transformation and support CTs. Ms. Suarez-Arguelles responded that she could invite some CalRecycle experts to a Task Force meeting to discuss CT and transformation. Discussion ensued.

There were 44 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and one bill on the cover page.

Mr. Jim Smith announced that AB 2048 had passed the Senate unanimously yesterday and is now with the Assembly.

- AB 2247 (Bloom) amended on August 11, 2022 – Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and PFAS products and product components: publicly accessible data collection interface. This bill would require the Department of Toxic Substances Control to work with the Interstate Clearinghouse to implement a publicly accessible data collection interface to collect information about PFAS and product components containing intentionally added PFAS. Ms. Landis made a motion to support, and Ms. Emiko Thomson seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

#### **IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

The following was reported by Ms. Suarez- Arguelles, in addition to full detailed [update](#):

- New JACE Branch and Compliance Assistance.
- Zoe Heller appointed new Deputy Director of the Materials Management and Local Assistance Division.
- Several Grant Application due dates.
- RDRS Regulations Rulemaking Workshop 3 will be on August 30, 2022.
- Next CalRecycle public meeting will be on September 20, 2022.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the Governor appointed someone to serve as California's next Secretary for Environmental Protection, effective September 15, 2022, and would forward the information to staff to disseminate to the Task Force.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Jordan Sisson mentioned he forwarded a recent court decision, Zolly vs. City of Oakland, regarding franchise fees, to staff and requested it be shared with the Task Force.

No public comment.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 1 p.m.