

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

**Minutes for October 20, 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  
Jeff Farano, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles  
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 Dee Hanson-Lugo, 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, Los Angeles County Counsel's Office  
Kate Downey, Republic Services  
Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Rivka Jones, City of Palmdale  
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita  
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  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, 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  
Gladys Rietze, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 MINUTES**

Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Jorgel Chavez seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Charles Darensbourg reported the following at the ATAS meeting:

- The ATAS received a [presentation](#) from the Bioforcetech Corporation regarding their use of pyrolysis for biosolid waste and other organic waste management.
- Tetra Tech continues to support Public Works in Senate Bill (SB) 1383 and waste diversion planning efforts, expanding the evaluation of potential sites for organic waste processing on thermal conversion facilities, and in evaluating responses to the Calabasas Anaerobic Digestion Facility Request for Proposal.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).
- Mr. Mike Mohajer requested summaries of SB 54 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1857 to be placed on next month's agenda describing how they impact the development of conversion technology in the state.

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

Ms. Landis reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill update: The two lawsuits were settled. There were 3 odor complaints in July, 15 odor complaints in August, 9 odor complaints in September, and no Notice of Violations (NOVs). All air monitors have been installed.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill update: In September 2022, there were 85 odor complaints and a total of 532 complaints received for the year 2022. As of September 2022, the South Coast Air Quality Management District issued two NOVs related to odor with a total of 11 for the entire 2022 calendar year.
- A motion was passed for staff to develop a recommendation of measures for the landfill to reduce odor for subcommittee member to consider.

**V. BROWN ACT (OPEN MEETING) AS AMENDED BY ASSEMBLY BILL 2449 (2022)**

Mr. Jonathan Brazile provided an update on AB 2449 that will take effect on January 1, 2023, and sunset on January 1, 2026, intended to allow teleconferencing under certain circumstances, which are much more stringent. The main two are when a quorum of a legislative body participates in person from a physical location, the remainder of the members can participate remotely if, either just cause or emergency circumstance exist. Just cause includes childcare or caregiving of a family member, contagious illness, physical or mental disability, or travel related to the business of the legislative body or another state or local agency. Emergency circumstance provisions include physical or family medical emergency. Members must promptly notify the legislative body of their need to participate remotely under the just cause or emergency circumstance. Members may only participate under the just cause provision up to two meetings per calendar year. The legislative body must also request a general description of the circumstance relating to the member needing to appear remotely. The legislative body may approve or deny requests.

Additional requirements include 1) a member cannot appear remotely due to just cause or emergency circumstance for more than three consecutive months in a calendar year; 2) despite the exceptions provided under AB 2449, the legislative body must implement a procedure to resolve reasonable accommodation requests for individuals with disabilities; 3) the legislative body must provide access to a two-way audio-vision platform or a two-way telephonic service with live webcasting; and 4) the applicable agenda must notify the public of ways to access the meeting and offer public comment via a call-in, internet-based service option, and/or in person. AB 361 teleconference provisions remain in effect until January 1, 2024, and the Board of Supervisors (Board) made the necessary AB 361 findings for virtual meetings until at least October 26, 2022. Further guidance from Brown Act counsel is anticipated.

Mr. Jordan Sisson asked if AB 2449 supplements the general background rules prior to COVID where meetings are available to the public to participate. Mr. Brazile responded yes and that the bill modernizes the ability to attend meetings by teleconference. Mr. Sisson requested the AB 2449 presentation be provided to the Task Force. Mr. Brazile believed he could give him the presentation directly rather than making it publicly available but needed to double check. A fact sheet is also being developed.

Ms. Margaret Clark commented that AB 361 was never revised to require findings every 31 days instead of 30 days due to some months having 31 days. She also asked if the County had the ability to request findings for all County commissions.

Mr. Brazile's understanding was that the County is making the 30-day finding for all of its commissions and agreed the 31-day situation may be awkward.

Ms. Emiko Thompson asked if the Task Force can continue to meet remotely under AB 361, provided the Board continued their monthly findings. Mr. Brazile responded yes, and that AB 2449 is not meant to supersede any AB 361 provisions but intended to modernize the Brown Act. Ms. Thompson wanted confirmation that AB 361 is good until January 1, 2024. Mr. Brazile confirmed.

Ms. Landis shared her concerns from an environmental standpoint, also stating that there are over 200 County commissions and suggested future change in the current legislation. Mr. Mohajer responded it was a legislative policy and would require the legislative body to contact Supervisor Sheila Kuehl of the Board who covers the Third District. Mr. Mohajer noted that the final vote for AB 2449 in the State Assembly was 65 to 4 with 9 abstentions and the final vote in the State Senate was 36 to 3 with 1 no vote. Therefore, the chances to change the legislation would be difficult. However, he would support Ms. Landis' conversation with Supervisor Kuehl. Mr. Sisson added sharing the same sentiment from an environmental perspective and that it requires a legislative fix to the Brown Act. Discussion regarding the Brown Act and provisions ensued.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens stated the Task Force had Subcommittees and asked that they also receive a copy of Mr. Brazile's presentation. Mr. Brazile responded he would check with the Board liaison to make certain the presentation may be released.

## **VI. OVERVIEW OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION ON LITHIUM EXTRACTION IN CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER 21, 2002**

Staff provided an [overview](#) of the Draft Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lithium Extraction in California and its relevancy to the Task Force.

Task Force members shared concerns about the dangers with handling lithium batteries and how to recycle. Ms. Clark noted that electric vehicles were catching fire in Florida after the recent hurricane and flooding. Mr. Sisson also noted the new technology has many unknowns, including unintended consequences, and the urgency for oversight as facilities become developed. Discussion continued.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion based on comments from Task Force members and staff recommendations to have staff submit comments to the Blue Ribbon Commission prior to October 28, 2022, with an emphasis on recommending that the State conduct a complete and thorough "life cycle" analysis of electric vehicle batteries and using Lithium as a source of geothermal energy in comparison with

other energy source such as wind, solar, and fossil fuel. Ms. Landis seconded the motion. Motion passed with two abstentions.

## **VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Darensbourg provided a [Legislative Update](#). The California State Legislature successfully ended their second year of the current legislative session and will be on recess until January 2023. There were 48 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and of those, 9 failed to pass by the September 30, 2022 deadline, 25 were signed, and 3 were vetoed by the Governor.

Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of the Legislative Update be distributed to the Task Force.

## **VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

CalRecycle Representative was unavailable to attend the Task Force meeting. Staff disseminated CalRecycle's full detailed [update](#) to the Task Force prior to meeting.

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 1 p.m.