

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

July 18, 2024

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Jim Smith, Teamster Local 396, City of Los Angeles
Jordan R. Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Los Angeles County Public Health
Wayne Nastri, rep by Phillip Crabbe III, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Miki Esposito, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County
Basil Cantu, Long Beach Public Works
Darin Sprecher, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Cid Tesoro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Ms. Miki Esposito who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 20, 2024, MINUTES

Mr. Eddie De La Riva made a motion to approve the June 20, 2024, minutes and Ms. Margaret Clark seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following was reported by Mr. Christopher Sheppard:

- Legislature is on recess until August 5, 2024.
- Bills will have until August 16, 2024, to pass out of financial committees, and will have until August 31, 2024, to clear the floor of their house and make it to the Governor.
- The last day for Governor to sign or veto bills is September 30, 2024.
- Just prior to July 3, 2024, the Governor approved a climate and water bond as part of [Senate Bill \(SB\) 867](#) that will be on the November 5, 2024, ballot which is a \$10 billion bond.
- Pursuant to SB 101 that passed in 2023, CalRecycle released their Baseline Report for the Zero Waste Plan (Baseline Report) that evaluates the effectiveness of the department's existing statewide programs. SB 101 requires CalRecycle to publish the plan by January 1, 2026.

As part of SB 101, Mr. Jordan Sisson asked if there was a comment period for the draft Baseline Report so the Task Force or PW staff may submit comments. Mr. Sheppard responded he was unaware of a formal comment period, but if there is none, he believed there would still be opportunity for the Task Force to send a letter to CalRecycle.

Mr. Sisson made a motion and Mr. Jim Smith seconded for Public Works (PW) staff to provide an overview of SB 101 Baseline Report. Motion passed unanimously with all voting yes (Mr. Sisson, Mr. Smith, Ms. Clark, Mr. Jeffrey Farano, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Esposito, Mr. Ron Milo, Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Ms. Erin Rowland, and Mr. Sam Shammass). Mr. Phillip Crabbe III, arrived at the meeting during Agenda Item V.

- There were 30 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and 6 that are dead.
- At last month's Task Force meeting a motion passed to send a [Support Recommendation](#) to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) regarding SB 1234 (Allen) – Metal Shredding Facilities.

Mr. Sisson asked if there was any discussion about the specific opposition regarding SB 1359 that lead the author to remove it. Mr. Sheppard responded that PW would inquire in order to facilitate discussions next year.

Following are three bills that the Task Force previously made recommendations on that are still moving forward with the hope to make it out of their financial committees and on to the Governor for signature:

- SB 707 (Newman) – Responsibility Textile Recovery Act 2024. The bill made it out of committee and is moving forward with minor amendments.
- Assembly Bill 2346 (Lee) – Organic waste reduction regulations: procurement of recovered organic waste products. The bill made it out of committee and is moving forward with amendments that make bill language less specific on what is allowed and gives more flexibility to CalRecycle on how items are implemented.
- AB 2514 (Aguiar-Curry) – Solid waste: organic waste: diversion: hydrogen: biomethane. The bill made it out of committee and is moving forward with amendments including removal of hydrogen pathway.

IV. VOTE TO APPOINT JORDAN SISSON TO FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Motion was made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Mr. Smith to appoint Mr. Sisson to the FPRS. Motion passed unanimously with Mr. Sisson abstaining.

V. CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEES AND AD HOC COMMITTEES TO DEVELOP BYLAWS AND TRAINING/ONBOARDING OF NEW TASK FORCE AND SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Task Force members received a hard copy of [initial draft bylaws](#) created by PW staff. Ms. Esposito asked how long it would take for an ad hoc committee to finalize bylaws. Mr. Sheppard anticipated three to six months because the draft incorporates [County Code](#) but will also need to address filling vacancies, how alternates are represented, and legislative advocacy. Ms. Esposito asked if virtual meetings would be permitted for the ad hoc committee. Mr. Sheppard confirmed

the ad hoc committee would not be a Brown Act body so virtual meetings would be allowed.

Mr. Smith asked if the bylaws would require Board approval. Mr. Sheppard responded that the bylaws would only require approval by the Task Force. Ms. Esposito stated that County Counsel would be assisting with the bylaws to ensure alignment with County policy.

Ms. Clark asked about the three-year term for Task Force members. Mr. Sheppard responded that terms are limited to three years based on the County Code and the bylaws can further specify whether there is a maximum number of terms.

Ms. Clark stated that the County Code does not note who the Chairperson will be. Ms. Esposito responded that the ad hoc committee would clarify this language.

Mr. Hunter asked if Subcommittees would be governed by the bylaws. Mr. Sisson commented that it is not uncommon for bylaws to include subcommittees. Mr. Hunter also commented that alternate members should also have access to training. Ms. Esposito responded that the ad hoc committee would address these questions.

Motion was made by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Smith to establish an ad hoc committee to finalize bylaws with consideration of training and onboarding for new Task Force and Subcommittee members. The ad hoc committee is expected to last three to six months and will include no more than four Task Force members, which will be Ms. Clark, Ms. Rowland, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts provided a [presentation](#) on Infrastructure for Organics Co-digestion.

Tetra Tech provided an update that they:

- Are compiling an application to the Department of Energy for the Waste Analysis and Strategies for Transportation End Uses grant. This grant would be for pre-development for the proposed Calabasas Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility.
- Submitted a first draft of the AD White Paper to PW which provides an objective overview of AD technologies and the state of the industry.
- Submitted a Draft Countywide Siting Evaluation to PW for the development of AD and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facilities within the unincorporated County.
- Submitted a Draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study to PW for the Antelope Valley in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92; which includes the performance of a high-level review of economic, environmental and technical considerations for CT facility options.
- Are currently performing a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will evaluate limits of waste and surrounding utilities for the potential development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities.

Staff provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

Ms. Esposito requested that Tetra Tech provide a presentation at a future meeting on the future of AD and CT facilities in the region. Ms. Clark and Mr. Sisson also expressed interest in this presentation and requested that it include information on renewable natural gas and net zero resiliency.

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

Mr. Sheppard reported the following from the FPRS meeting:

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issued 17 Notices of Violation (NOV) in the month of June 2024 related to air quality.
- The US Environmental Protection Agency issued an NOV on June 4, 2024, for violations to Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations related to air emissions of hydrogen sulfide, volatile hazardous air pollutants, and volatile organic compounds and a Title V permit related to landfill gas collection and control system.

- The Local Enforcement Agency cited violations on June 11 and 18, 2024, regarding methane concentration exceedances and for alleged leachate and stability issues, high temperatures, issues with landfill as collection, and settlement.
- The Regional Water Quality Control Board issued an NOV on June 27, 2024, for failing to comply with the Water Board's March 20, 2024, Order that required CCL to provide technical report to investigate on potential surface water and groundwater impacts due to current conditions at the landfill.
- Los Angeles County Regional Planning issued an NOV on July 1, 2024, for violations to CCL's Conditional Use Permit related to tonnage exceedances.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- There were 31 odor complaints made to the AQMD hotline in June 2024, and no NOVs were issued.
- Compared to May 2024, the number of complaints received in June 2024 increased from 18 odor complaints to 31.
- To date, AQMD issued 41 NOVs for the calendar year.
- An update was provided regarding the alternative daily cover (ADC) project.
- On March 26, 2024, PW issued an approval of a one-year pilot program for expanded use of ADC over the weekend with the goal of reducing odors by enhancing the gas collection efficiency.
- Republic Services is required to present the ADC pilot program to local community groups such as the SCL Technical Advisory Committee, SCL Community Advisory Committee, and Neighborhood Council.
 - There was discussion regarding the ADC, and it was noted that some of the community groups are opposed to the pilot program. PW did reiterate that the pilot program has many conditions and if there are any impacts, the pilot program could be discontinued at any time.
 - During public comment, Mr. Eugene Tseng stated there was data available regarding the efficiency of ADC at SCL and offered to share the information with the Subcommittee, which could then be shared with the Task Force.

Finding of Conformance (FOC)

- An update was provided on the waste characterization study for CCL regarding material brought into the landfill, which is composed of about 57 percent organic materials.

- There was a request for information regarding what the FOC entails and what role the Subcommittee has when FOC reports are received. Staff will present at next month's meeting.

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Mr. Darin Sprecher provided an [update](#) to the Task Force, which PW staff disseminated to the Task Force prior to the meeting.

Ms. Esposito asked if the audience for the CalRecycle chat are from government agencies or communities. Mr. Sprecher believed it was open to the public and typically city staff and consultants are in attendance.

Mr. Sheppard asked if there was a public comment period for the Zero Waste Plan. Mr. Sprecher would find out if there is a public comment period.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hunter asked if CalRecycle or the Task Force had a webpage where documents are uploaded for easy access, such as for the monthly CalRecycle update, rather than looking back at previous months' e-mails. Ms. Esposito responded she would discuss with staff on the ability to post online and may follow up with Mr. Hunter.

Mr. Sheppard informed that the Electronic Annual Report regarding the organic waste capacity analysis for the region as part of SB 1383 is due to CalRecycle on August 1, 2024, so staff may provide an update at the next Task Force meeting.

Ms. Esposito introduced Mr. Cid Tesoro, who is the new PW Deputy overseeing the Environmental Services Core Service Area.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 15, 2024, at 1 p.m.