

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

**May 15, 2025**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities  
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  
Eric Lopez, Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works  
Mark Pestrella, rep by Cid Tesoro, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles  
Jim Smith, Teamster Local 396, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County  
Basil Cantu, Long Beach Public Works  
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech  
Siya Araumi, 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  
Shawntelle Phillips, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Joy Pipkin, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Emiko Thompson, 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 1:07 p.m. by Mr. Cid Tesoro who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2025, AND APRIL 17, 2025, MINUTES**

Mr. Eddie De La Riva made a motion to approve the March 20, 2025, and April 17, 2025, minutes, as amended. Mr. Jordan Sisson seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

## **III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The following was reported by Mr. Siyavash Araumi:

- May 16, 2025, is the last day for policy committees to meet.
- May 23, 2025, is the last day for fiscal committees to review bills in their respective houses.
- June 6, 2025, is the last day committees from both houses must pass bills introduced in their houses.
- Governor Newsom released his Fiscal Year 2025/26 State Budget and reauthorized the State's Cap and Trade Program that was set to expire in 2030 but is extended to January 1, 2046.
- The Governor is now forecasting a \$12 billion budget deficit due to federal tariffs, termination of some federal funding, and general economic uncertainty.
- The Senate Rules and Administration Committee voted unanimously to recommend Zoe Heller as director of CalRecycle.

There were 18 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) relevant to the Task Force. Staff also provided information on the following two Assembly Bills (AB) requested at last month's Task Force meeting:

- AB 27 (Schiavo) - Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: Chiquita Canyon elevated temperature landfill event exclusions.
- AB 28 (Schiavo) - Solid waste landfills: subsurface temperatures.

On May 13, 2025, Supervisor Kathryn Barger of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) made a [motion](#) directing the Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR), to support both AB 27 and AB 28.

**IV. DISCUSS ASSEMBLY BILL 70 (AGUIAR-CURRY) - SOLID WASTE: ORGANIC WASTE: DIVERSION BIOMETHANE**

Motion was made by Ms. Margaret Clark and seconded by Mr. Ron Milo to send a recommendation of support regarding [AB 70](#) to the CEO-LAIR. Motion passed unanimously with nine voting yes (Ms. Clark, Mr. Milo, Mr. Jorgel Chavez, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Ms. Erin Rowland, Mr. Sam Shammass, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Tesoro).

**V. DISCUSS ASSEMBLY BILL 1153 (BONTA) - SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND CODISPOSAL SITE CLEANUP**

Ms. Rowland asked where the funding was coming from for the cleanup. Mr. Araumi responded that funding was being sourced from the Solid Waste Disposal Site Cleanup Trust Fund, which is continuously appropriated through CalRecycle. Therefore, funding is automatically available without the need for annual legislative approval.

Motion was made by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. De La Riva to send a recommendation of support regarding [AB 1153](#) to the CEO-LAIR. Motion passed unanimously with nine voting yes (Mr. Sisson, Mr. De La Riva, Mr. Chavez, Ms. Clark, Mr. Milo, Ms. Nakagawa-Ota, Ms. Rowland, Mr. Shammass, and Mr. Tesoro).

**VI. DISCUSS SENATE BILL 45 (PADILLA AND BLAKESPEAR) - RECYCLING BEVERAGE CONTAINERS: TETHERED PLASTIC CAPS**

Ms. Clark shared her concern about the different types of plastics for caps and bottles that would be more costly to separate and not solve the litter problem. She stated that [Senate Bill \(SB\) 45](#) had a lot of support, so would rather stay neutral. Mr. Milo advised about his conversation with the Association of Plastic Recyclers, who indicated that because of the different materials for caps and bottles, they are now using a float and sink process. Plastics are shredded into small flakes, then put into a tank for processing, which is based on the density of the material where the lighter material floats. However, Mr. Milo recommended checking with respective contractors that jurisdictions have contracts with to ensure they are using the float and sink process to separate materials. The process was implemented about four years ago and most recyclers are utilizing, but there are some recyclers that are not. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Araumi provided a brief refresher of what was discussed at last month's meeting and addressed the following two questions by Task Force members concerning SB 45:

- 1) Does SB 45 eliminate [California Redemption Value \(CRV\)](#)? No, the CRV remains intact. The bill proposes eliminating the Quality Incentive Payment (QIP) program for thermoform plastic containers but does not impact the CRV program. The CRV QIP program incentivizes the recycling of CRV-eligible beverage containers such as aluminum and glass using funds generated from unredeemed CRV deposits. The Thermoform QIP program incentivizes the recycling of specific non-CRV plastics such as yogurt cups, which was initially funded through the Plastic Market Development Program that SB 45 proposes to eliminate.
- 2) Why does SB 45 not require both bottles and caps to be made with the same material? It is likely due to the difference in required material properties and recyclability. Bottles are typically made of Polyethylene Terephthalate, which is highly recyclable, whereas bottle caps are typically made of Polypropylene, which have different properties and are not as easily recycled into new products.

Effective January 1, 2027, most plastic beverage bottles with plastic caps must have tethered caps to reduce litter. Exemptions include large bottles, alcohol beverages, 100 percent juice beverages, refillable bottles and small manufactures. An additional year exemption until 2008 exists for bottle types with over 70 percent recycling rates based on 2023-24 data. SB 45 is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee's suspense file pending further review and amendment. Early June 2025 is the deadline to move the bill to the Assembly.

Ms. Clark asked if the County is in support of SB 45 and if they sent a letter to legislature. Mr. Araumi responded that the Board is in support of the bill per the Memo of Findings from the CEO-LAIR. However, the Board has not sent a letter to legislature regarding support of SB 45.

Motion was made by Mr. De La Riva and seconded by Mr. Chavez to send a recommendation of support regarding SB 45 to the CEO-LAIR. Motion passed with seven voting yes (Mr. De La Riva, Mr. Chavez, Mr. Milo, Ms. Nakagawa-Ota, Mr. Shammas, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Tesoro) and two abstaining (Ms. Clark and Ms. Rowland).

Mr. Tesoro announced a request to modify the agenda by moving up Item X. CalRecycle Update, to Item VII, to accommodate some scheduling. There were no objections from Task Force members.

## **VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Ms. Adylene Gonzalez informed the Task Force that CalRecycle's monthly chat is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21, 2025, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., which will focus

on jurisdictions, inspections, and enforcement processes related to SB 1383. Chats are recorded and can be found on the [CalRecycle YouTube](#) channel.

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

Ms. Joy Pipkin reported that there was no quorum at the PEIS meeting, so the approval of the February 20, 2025, meeting minutes were postponed.

The Subcommittee reviewed five articles to be published in the summer issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter, three of which were from Public Works and one article each from the Cities of Malibu and Rosemead. The next PEIS meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2025.

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

Mr. Araumi reported that there was no quorum at the ATAS meeting, so the approval of the April 17, 2025, meeting minutes was postponed.

Clean Energy Technologies, Inc., provided a [presentation](#) on their pyrolysis technology, which can convert biomass, digestate, and municipal solid waste to energy. This company offers fuel and electric power for small and mid-sized projects in North America, Europe, and Asia, and they are developing the Vermont Renewable Gas project that will use pyrolysis to produce electricity and biochar from biomass.

Tetra Tech provided an update on their continued conversion technology (CT) project development work.

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

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

Ms. Emiko Thompson reported the following from the FPRS meeting:

##### Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- In April 2025, CCL received 8 Notices of Violation (NOVs) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) related to air quality, compared to the 7 NOVs reported in March 2025.

- On April 1, 2025, AQMD issued NOVs for several issues such as failing to install a liner under the leachate tank farm within a specified timeframe, not properly recording tank pressure readings and gas temperatures, and not obtaining a permit from AQMD prior to installing a new thermal oxidizer that is used to manage landfill gas.
- CCL continues to be under a Stipulated Order for Abatement with AQMD. The next status hearing is on June 4, 2025.
- On April 2, 2025, the Department of Toxic Substances and Control issued an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order to CCL that alleges realizing hazardous substances that may present imminent and substantial danger to public health or the environment. The order included the following key actions:
  - Cover additional areas of the landfill since there are concerns about the reaction spreading.
  - Relocate one of the existing tank farms and move it away from the reaction area.
  - Install a barrier break-plan to stop the spreading of the reaction.

#### Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In April 2025, there were 216 odor complaints from AQMD, compared to the 304 odor complaints in March 2025.
- In April 2025, SCL received 6 NOVs from the AQMD, compared to 9 NOVs in March 2025.
- The next AQMD hearing is scheduled for September 3, 2025.

#### Finding of Conformance

- Update on the FOC Quarterly Monitoring Reports for various landfills.
- Waste Characterization Studies were conducted at Calabasas Landfill (CL), Lancaster Landfill (LL) and SCL.
- The study is a representative sample of incoming waste at the landfills during a five to six-day period; in February 2025 for CL and in March 2025 for LC and SCL. Key findings included:
  - Organics at SCL increased from 61 to 71 percent, compared to the previous study completed six months prior to.
  - Organics at CL increased from 37 to 54 percent.
  - Material disposed at SCL during the first quarter of 2025 was about 671,000 tons, which was a 3 percent increase from the previous quarter.

Mr. Tesoro asked if there were any questions from the Task Force or the public. Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Citizens, who also serves as a member on the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee, requested better audio

equipment at Task Force meetings because of not being able to hear presenters or commissioners speak.

#### **XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Sisson requested consideration to have an update on Mesquite Landfill's Request for Proposal at the July Task Force meeting since there is no meeting in June. Additionally, he requested a report in the wake of the CCL closure as haulers, according to Mr. Sisson, have experienced about a 20 to 40 percent rate hike since the closure. Mr. Tesoro confirmed that Mr. Sisson's request will be brought back for discussion at the next Task Force meeting.

#### **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m. There is no June meeting due to observance of Juneteenth holiday on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 1 p.m.