

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

July 17, 2025

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Jordan R. Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association
Jim Smith, Teamster Local 396, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Public Health
Eric Lopez, Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works
Wayne Nastri, rep by Philip Crabbe, III, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County
Brenda Eels, Waste Connections
Jocelyn Francis, City of Avalon
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
David Harich, Geo-Logic and Associates
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
John McNamara, CR&R Environmental Services
Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works
Lance Cervantez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, 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 1:06 p.m. by Ms. Emiko Thompson who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 15, 2025, MINUTES

Mr. Jordan Sisson made a motion to approve the May 15, 2025, minutes as amended. Mr. Shammass seconded. Minutes were approved.

III. PEBBLY BEACH LANDFILL EXPANSION

The presentation was postponed to next month due to the lack of confirmation of quorum prior to the Task Force meeting. Ms. Joyce Francis, Assistant City Manager for the City of Avalon, was present to introduce herself and the team involved in the landfill expansion project. She also provided a very brief high-level overview of the landfill expansion project.

IV. REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE MESQUITE PROPERTY AND WASTE-BY RAIL SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Mr. Sam Shammass provided an [update](#) on what the Request for Expressions of Interest (REI) for the Mesquite Property and Waste-by-Rail System entails. It was released by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) on July 3, 2025, with responses due by August 1, 2025. The REI is to explore the potential uses of the property including sale and lease of the property and does not commit the LACSD to a course of action but rather is an information finding process. The LACSD may then meet with respondents to further discuss any ideas. After the fact-finding process of the REI, the LACSD may potentially issue a Request for Proposal in early 2026 for sale or lease of the property.

Mr. Sisson commented that the elected decision makers should be aware of all available options, including what the full cost of the entire public asset over the last 50 years has been. He further commented on the importance of such information for the 78 cities that the LACSD serves. He noted that selling the property in a two-year timeframe seemed very short-sighted. Mr. Shammass appreciated Mr. Jordan's feedback and stated he would forward his comments to his management.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following was reported by Mr. Siyavash Araumi:

- July 18, 2025, is the last day for policy committees to meet and report on current bills.
- Summer recess begins on July 18, 2025, and runs through August 18, 2025.
- August 29, 2025, is the last day for fiscal committees to meet and report on current bills.

There were 18 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) relevant to the Task Force. Nine bills have been held as two-year bills and will be taken up at the start of January 2026. The bills include:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 436 (Ramson) – Composting facilities: zoning. The County and the Task Force support the bill. The Task Force submitted a support for advocacy letter to the CEO-LAIR.
- AB 473 (Wilson) – Hazardous waste: solar photovoltaic modules.
- AB 762 (Irwin) – Disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device: prohibition.
- AB 973 (Hoover) – Recycling: trash bags: plastic packaging and products.
- AB 1153 (Bonta) – Solid waste disposal and codisposal site cleanup: illegal disposal site abatement. The County and Task Force support the bill. The Task Force submitted a support for advocacy letter to the CEO-LAIR.
- AB 1304 (Schultz) – Paint product recovery program: paint recovery: education and outreach.
- Senate Bill (SB) 45 (Padilla) – Recycling: beverage containers: tethered plastic caps. The Task Force submitted a support for advocacy letter to the CEO-LAIR.
- SB 501 (Allen) – Household Hazardous Waste Producer Responsibility Act.
- SB 615 (Allen) – Vehicle traction batteries.

The following bills have been recently amended, which the Task Force has taken positions on:

- AB 27 (Schiavo), amended 06/29/25 – Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: Chiquita Canyon elevated temperature landfill event: exclusions.
- AB 28 (Schiavo), amended 07/03/25 – Solid waste landfills: subsurface temperatures. 18:48
- SB 404 (Caballero), amended 07/07/25 – Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.

Mr. Sisson asked what the amendment was on AB 28. Mr. Araumi responded that the bill was amended to reference municipal solid waste (MSW) instead of solid waste and that landfill operators will be mandated to monitor landfill gas temperatures. Mr. Sisson asked if this was for all Class III small and large landfills

or just large landfills. Mr. Araumi responded that he did not have that information and asked staff to look into it.

Mr. Sisson mentioned there was a hearing yesterday with some information provided including a map that showed where a variety of landfills are with existing fires. In looking at the Los Angeles area, he counted nine current fires even though they do not specify where exactly these landfills are located. Mr. Sisson asked if the County had a sense of how many fires there currently are, aside from the ones at Chiquita Canyon and El Sobrante Landfills. He also asked if there were any landfills that are less known that are burning that the County is using for disposing municipal solid waste. Mr. Sisson explained the information provided at yesterday's committee hearing showed landfill fires in Corona, Riverside, Ontario, Banning, Santa Clarita, and near Simi Valley, but also did not say the information is factual. It was simply presented. Mr. Araumi responded that staff would look into his inquiries. Ms. Karen Gork asked for the source of information on the nine landfills. Mr. Sisson responded that the information was presented at the committee hearing for the California Communities Against Toxics and all he had was the one-page map that was provided. Ms. Gork asked if fires were subsurface or one-time surface fires. Mr. Sisson did not know but was concerned.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Coalition of Concerned Citizens asked if there were any changes in verbiage in yesterday's hearing for AB 28. Mr. Araumi confirmed there were no changes. Mr. Hunter asked if the map of the landfill fires could be found online. Mr. Sisson responded that the information was submitted to the committee that was hearing the item in Sacramento yesterday and there was only the map showing reported landfill fires. He suggested anybody interested look into the Sacramento Portal. Mr. Hunter asked if the map could be sent to staff for dissemination to everyone. Mr. Sisson confirmed, yes.

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

Mr. Araumi reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

There was no quorum at the ATAS meeting, so the approval of the [April 17, 2025](#) and [May 15, 2025](#), Subcommittee meeting minutes were postponed until next month.

Kanadevia Inova provided a [presentation](#) on their Kompogas high solids anaerobic digestion facility in San Luis Obispo. The facility processes municipal organic waste and fats, oils, and grease to generate electricity and soil amendments.

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](#).

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

Ms. Thompson reported the following from the FPRS meeting:

Pebble Beach Landfill Expansion

- The presentation at the Subcommittee meeting was also postponed until August due to the lack of confirmation of quorum prior to the Task Force meeting.

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- In June 2025, CCL received 12 Notices of Violation (NOVs) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) related to air quality, compared to the 10 NOVs reported in May 2025.
- CCL continues to be under a Stipulated Order for Abatement with AQMD that was last modified on June 24, 2025.
- On June 26, 2025, County Public Works issued 3 NOVs to CCL for performing grading work without a permit. CCL is expected to provide information on the work performed.
- Discussion on tipping fees for several landfills:
 - Residential MSW tipping fees for Calabasas, Scholl Canyon, and Simi Valley Landfills have remained unchanged since last year.
 - MSW tipping fees for Antelope Valley, Sunshine, and Lancaster landfills have increased in the range of 10 to 17 percent.
 - While increases to tipping fees are typical, the extent to which the closure of CCL has impacted prices is difficult to identify.
- A [presentation](#) was provided on the countywide disposal rate and an assessment of disposal capacity using 2024 data.

Mr. Sisson pointed out that Santa Clarita was a jurisdiction that had to find an alternative disposal facility due to CCL closing. The tipping fee that was being paid was about \$38 per ton. In looking for alternatives, all tipping fees were over \$90 per ton, which is about a 160 percent increase that is being absorbed by rate payers. Mr. Sisson further commented that increases will happen as less capacity continues. Also, as of July 1, 2025, Orange County has also significantly increased their rates.

Mr. Sisson noted that disposal in 2022 and 2023 was stable, but in 2024, there was a drastic change in where waste was going in the latter half of the year. Clear signs indicate that things would change at the beginning of 2025. However, the data for the last six months of 2024 would not be available until the fall of 2025.

Ms. Bernadette Halverson noted that the recent fire event in January 2025 also added volume to local landfills and that the City of Los Angeles is feeling the pressure because of the longer lines that are affecting the City's operations due to the longer turnaround time for drivers. The fires, CCL closure, and restriction of Orange County have caused an impact.

Mr. Hunter commented on the potential acquisition and use of Mesquite property and the concern that was discussed at the FPRS meeting. With capacity declining due to landfills closing, Mesquite could have made up for the shortfall in landfill capacity especially when Mesquite could take 20,000 tons per day and could be functional for 100 years. He felt that it could be economically viable at \$200 per ton since other landfill tipping fees are about \$137.

Mr. Shammass responded that the \$130, which is the posted tipping fee, is being discussed with customers. Large customers, such as haulers, are receiving a significant discount and paying a lower rate. However, because LACSD is unable to get waste commitments, they are unable to open this facility in the near future. Mr. Shammass indicated that he would forward all comments and concerns to his management.

Mr. Sisson asked if the REI included potential for an operating agreement, like what San Bernardino County does. Mr. Shammass responded no, because the concern is not having any waste commitments and the facility is 200 miles away from the County so if an operator takes the waste to Mesquite and then leaves, the LACSD and rate payers would be on the hook to continue the operations of the facility.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In June 2025, there were 46 odor complaints reported to the AQMD, a decrease from the 129 odor complaints reported in May 2025.
- In June 2025 there were no NOVs.
- The next AQMD hearing is scheduled for September 3, 2025.

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Adylene Gonzalez provided an [update](#) to the Task Force.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Araumi answered Mr. Sisson's previous question about AB 28 in that all requirements apply to Class III landfills whether small or large.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at 1 p.m.