

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

March 20, 2025

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
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works
Mark Pestrella, rep by Cid Tesoro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, rep by Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Shawntelle Phillips, Los Angeles County Public Works
Paul Nguyen, 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 1:06 p.m. by Mr. Cid Tesoro who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

II. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2025, MINUTES

Mr. Eddie De La Riva made a motion to approve the February 20, 2025, minutes and Mr. Jordan Sisson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Sisson requested that the Chair move Item X. Review/Approval of Draft Task Force Bylaws to Item VII. due to potentially not having a quorum to vote after lengthy discussion. The Chair and all members agreed to the move.

III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The following was reported by Mr. Siya Araumi:

- The deadline to introduce bills was on February 21, 2025.
- Legislature introduced close to 2,500 bills with focus on housing, energy, and measures on the use of artificial intelligence and reaction to wildfires.
- Last week, the Governor halted the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 54 regulations that would limit the number of single-use plastics sold and distributed in California. He directed CalRecycle to restart the regulations development and to focus on affordability.
- Committees from both houses have until April 10, 2025, which will be the start of spring recess, to schedule hearings on bills and make amendments.

There were 18 bills on the [Legislative Table](#) and three bills on the cover page for consideration.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked if pyrolysis was being redefined in Assembly Bill (AB) 70, and if it was a better definition. Mr. Charles Darensbourg clarified that pyrolysis is not defined in the Public Resources Code but that it is in the definition of transformation. He also indicated that is a step forward because it recognizes pyrolysis as a process that has never been defined and that it has ties to biomethane, which is good, and if there is a new definition that it scientific, then staff would support it.

Motion was made by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Ms. Margaret Clark to have the following bills agendaized at next month's Task Force meeting:

- AB 70 (Aguiar-Curry) - Solid waste: organic waste: diversion: biomethane.
- AB 1153 (Bonta) - Solid waste disposal and codisposal site cleanup: illegal disposal site abatement.

Motion passed with nine voting yes (Mr. Sisson, Ms. Clark, Mr. De La Riva, Mr. Jeff Farano, Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Ms. Erin Rowland, Mr. Sam Shammass, Mr. Jim Smith and Mr. Tesoro) and one abstaining (Ms. Bernadette Halverson).

IV. DISCUSS ASSEMBLY BILL 436 (RANSOM) - COMPOSTING FACILITIES: ZONING

Mr. Araumi explained the content of [AB 436](#) which is a reintroduction of SB 1045 that died last year in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Ms. Clark asked how this bill could be reintroduced after it died last year. Mr. Araumi clarified that during a two-year session when a bill does not make it out of a committee, an author may make additional changes based on comments received and reintroduce under a different number. Ms. Clark shared her concerns about reintroducing AB 436. Mr. Araumi responded that there was a hearing scheduled for March 25, 2025, and that there may be amendments. Ms. Clark requested that as amendments are being made, that staff e-mail the Task Force. Mr. Araumi confirmed amendments would be e-mailed.

Mr. Sisson asked if the existing approved policy by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board), as stated in the Executive Office Memo of Findings (MOF), is supportive to AB 436. Mr. Araumi responded the Board is supportive of the bill.

Motion was made by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Smith to send a letter of support regarding AB 436 to the CEO-LAIR. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Mr. Sisson, Mr. Smith, Mr. De La Riva, Mr. Farano, Ms. Halverson, Ms. Nakagawa-Ota, Mr. Shammass, and Mr. Tesoro) and two abstaining (Ms. Clark and Ms. Rowland).

Both Ms. Clark and Mr. Sisson requested full copies of only those bills for consideration prior to future Task Force meetings.

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

Mr. Araumi explained the content of [SB 45](#) which was passed by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee on March 19, 2025, and moves to the Senate of

Appropriations Committee. The bill has until early May 2025 to go through policy committees.

Ms. Rowland asked if the bill would eliminate incentive payments to qualified recyclers as stated in the SB 45 MOF, which could cause financial loss for cities. Mr. Araumi responded he did not have that information but could look into. There was also discussion about how tethered caps would prevent the separation of caps from containers which may be conducive to minimizing litter and trash, and the possibility of making caps from the same recyclable material.

Ms. Halverson commented that the City of Los Angeles receives funding through the California Redemption Value program for the plastics they send to a materials recovery facility for processing, so they may be impacted by SB 45. She also mentioned that the design of the tethered caps is to prevent litter because caps may end up in the water ways and that it was more of a water way issue than a landfill diversion issue.

Mr. Shammass asked if the Task Force had time to wait until next month so staff may review the bill for incentive payments as well as manufacturing issues. Since there was time, Mr. Araumi responded that staff could provide an analysis for SB 45 at next month's Task Force meeting.

VI. FISCUSS SENATE BILL 404 (CABALLERO) - HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: METAL SHREDDING FACILITIES

Mr. Araumi explained the content of [SB 404](#) which is a reintroduction of last year's SB 1234 that Los Angeles County took a support position on. The bill is currently referred to both the Senate Environmental Quality and Judiciary Committees and is scheduled for hearing on April 2, 2025.

Mr. Sisson asked if the only thing new in SB 404 from last year's SB 1234 is subdivision (d) (1) regarding the California Environmental Quality Act, which addresses the Department of Regional Planning's concern. Mr. Araumi confirmed yes.

Mr. Farano's understanding of the bill was that siting facilities must comply with local zoning laws. Mr. Araumi responded that was for the prior bill, but not for SB 404. Mr. Farano also understood that with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) being the lead for SB 404 and removing CalRecycle, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and the California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), the bill would be subject to permitting from alternative regulatory agencies. Mr. Araumi responded that was

also his understanding, and that everything goes through the DTSC, but staff could look into it to confirm.

Ms. Rowland asked what the DTSC fee would be, as stated in SB 404 MOF. Mr. Farano responded that the DTSC is developing fees based on work criteria and what needs to be done to approve facilities. After additional clarification and discussion, Mr. Farano indicated that the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, for which he represents on the Task Force, is supportive of SB 404 and that they are working with Senators on the language of the bill.

Motion was made by Mr. Farano and seconded by Mr. Sisson to send a letter of support regarding SB 404 to the CEO-LAIR. Motion passed unanimously with 10 voting yes (Mr. Farano, Mr. Sisson, Ms. Clark, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Halverson, Ms. Nakagawa-Ota, Ms. Rowland, Mr. Shammass, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Tesoro).

VII. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF DRAFT TASK FORCE BYLAWS

Ms. Rowland explained this was the final draft of the Task Force Bylaws that the ad hoc developed, which incorporated content from other statutes and County policies. She went through each one of the article sections and asked Task Force members if they had any questions or comments.

Motion was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. De La Riva to approve the draft Task Force Bylaws for final. Motion passed unanimously with 10 voting yes (Mr. Smith, Mr. De La Riva, Ms. Clark, Mr. Farano, Ms. Halverson, Ms. Nakagawa Ota, Ms. Rowland, Mr. Shammass, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Tesoro).

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

Mr. Araumi reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

HF&H Consultants provided a [presentation](#) on SB 1383 requirements for procuring recovered organic waste products and strategies for local jurisdictions to reach their procurement targets. The presentation included recently adopted bills that provide more flexibility for local jurisdictions to meet their targets.

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 [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

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

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

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- In February 2025, CCL received eight Notices of Violation (NOVs) from the AQMD, compared to the three NOVs reported in January 2025.
- CCL continues to be under a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) by the AQMD that was last modified in November 2024. The next status hearing on the SOA is scheduled for April 16 and 17, 2025.
- Following the closure of CCL on January 1, 2025, CCL continues to implement mitigation measures required by the AQMD and the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) to address the landfill's reaction and ongoing odors.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In February 2025, there were 340 odor complaints from the AQMD, compared to the 118 odor complaints in January 2025.
- In February 2025, SCL received 12 NOVs from the AQMD, compared to three NOVs in January 2025.
- On March 19, 2025, the AQMD Hearing Board approved an Order for Abatement to Republic Services on their operation of SCL. The next hearing is scheduled for September 2025.
- Update on the status of vegetation growth at SCL, which included germination of native plants and revegetation in the closed portion of the landfill.
- Discussion on regional disposal capacities after closure of CCL, the need to dispose tons of wildfire debris, and the potential restrictions on exporting County waste to landfills in Orange and Riverside Counties.

Motion passed for staff to update the Disposal Capacity Analysis that was given to the Subcommittee last November, using 2024 data and including large and medium-sized facilities as well as recent events. The report is to be presented to the Subcommittee during the third quarter of this year or once the data is available.

Waste by Rail System Update

- Item postponed until next month's Subcommittee meeting.

X. PRIVATE PROPERTY DEBRIS REMOVAL PORTOCOLS FOR THE JANUARY 2025 FIRE EVENTS

Ms. Thompson provided the following information on the Government-sponsored program for fire debris removal:

- Phase 1 requires the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) removing household hazardous waste (HHW) by sorting, wrapping, and transporting it to only those facilities authorized to accept HHW. The EPA completed the HHW removal on February 26, 2025. However, they were unable to complete Phase 1 cleanup on properties with structural damage or unstable terrain, so deferred remaining cleanup to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- After the HHW is removed, the remaining fire-ash and debris is removed as part of Phase 2. Residents may choose to opt in to the Government-sponsored program in which the USACE removes the fire debris, or they may opt out in which property owners acquire a permit from the County and retain certified contractors to do debris removal.

All non-hazardous materials, such as concrete, metals and trees, will be separated and sent to recycling facilities. According to the Water Board's General Waste Discharge Requirements, the disposal of disaster related waste, which includes fire ash and debris, is authorized for disposal at Class III landfills that have a composite liner and leachate collection system.

On [February 25, 2025](#), the Board approved the temporary waiver of the wasteshed restriction at the Calabasas Landfill, and increase in disposal tonnage limits at local landfills.

For more information on Phase 1 and 2 fire debris removal, Ms. Thompson advised that recovery.lacounty.gov was a good resource.

Ms. Halverson asked if the hours of operation were also extended. Ms. Thompson responded that the hours of operation were extended but were determined by the LEA and not the Board. For SCL, the hours were increased by one hour, Monday through Friday, ending at 7 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. On Saturdays the hours were extended two hours, ending at 6 p.m. instead of 4 p.m. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota confirmed that the LEA did process the emergency waiver request for CL, but did not have the information on hand.

Mr. Hunter stated that Ms. Thompson did not really cover what happens at the landfill. That yes, it is burrito-wrapped when it arrives to the landfill, but then they dump it out, break it open, bulldoze and roll over it, so it is basically the same as if fire debris arrived loosely. The major concern is that it is in the northside of the

landfill which is still in the wind and if for some reason SCL stops wetting any portion of the landfill, the material will dry and become airborne and create odors for the community. Mr. Hunter added that SCL does not seem to be taking a lot a fire debris, just mostly from the Eaton fire and that most of the fire debris from the Palisades fire is going to Simi Valley. He then asked how much fire debris CL was receiving. Mr. Shammass confirmed that CL was receiving fire debris but did not know the total amount, only that it varied day to day with other trash.

XI. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

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

Mr. Rowland was under the impression that the County will begin working on Extended Producer Responsibilities related to HHW that would entail some policy recommendations and asked if at some point, the information could be presented to the Task Force after it is presented to the Board. Mr. Tesoro confirmed yes.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Carol Saucillo reminded Task Force members of the celebration of life service on Saturday, March 22, 2025, for former Task Force member, Betsey Landis.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 1 p.m.