

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

**September 18, 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  
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 Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Felicia Truong, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Basil Cantu, 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:

Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
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  
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Shawntelle Phillips, 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 AUGUST 21, 2025, MINUTES**

Mr. Jim Smith made a motion to approve the August 21, 2025, minutes, and Mr. Jordan Sisson seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

## **III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The following was reported by Mr. Siya Araumi:

- Legislature had until September 12, 2025, to pass bills before this session ends and reconvenes in January 2026.
- Following the end of the session, the Governor will have until October 12, 2025, to either sign or veto bills.

There are 13 bills shown on the [Legislative Table](#) which have been held as two-year bills and will be pursued beginning in January 2026. The following two Assembly Bills (AB) are of interest to the Task Force:

- AB 27 (Schiavo), amended 06/19/25 – Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: Chiquita Canyon elevated temperature landfill event: exclusions. A negotiated version of the content of this bill was included in the budget deal under Senate Bill (SB) 132.
- AB 28 (Schiavo), amended 09/03/25 – Solid waste landfills: subsurface temperatures. The bill was held by the author and did not continue to move forward this year.

The following bills were sent to the Governor's office:

- AB 70 (Aguiar-Curry), enrolled 09/15/25 – Solid waste: organic waste: diversion: biomethane.
- SB 279 (McNerney), enrolled 09/12/25 – Solid waste: compostable materials.
- SB 404 (Caballero), amended 09/04/25 – Hazardous materials: metal shredding facilities.
- SB 682 (Allen), amended 09/09/25 – Environmental health: product safety: perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked for clarification on AB 70. Mr. Araumi responded that the bill would assist jurisdictions meet the requirements under the organic waste

bill. Ms. Clark asked if that meant that organic waste could be taken to a pyrolysis facility for which credit could be received. Mr. Araumi responded yes, if pipeline methane is produced through additional processing. Since AB 70 is with the Governor, Ms. Clark suggested the Task Force send a support letter to the Governor on why the bill should be signed. Mr. Araumi responded that letters from the Task Force must be sent to the Chief Executive Office Legislative Affairs & Intergovernmental Relations for their review before it can go to Sacramento, and because of time limitations, it may be too late.

Mr. Sam Shammas asked if Los Angeles County has taken a position on AB 70. Mr. Araumi responded no. Mr. Sisson commented that there is no standing position on AB 70 so the Task Force would not be able to backtrack. Ms. Clark was unclear about the reasoning, as the bill aims to reduce disposal in landfills.

Mr. Sisson asked if there was another bill regarding pyrolysis. Mr. Araumi responded that he could only recall AB 70. Ms. Perla Gomez commented that there was no specific bill that defined pyrolysis. However, she would double check.

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

Mr. Araumi reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

The Subcommittee had a quorum and was able to approve meeting minutes for the previous four Subcommittee meetings.

Earthcare provided a [presentation](#) on their gasification technology, which produces energy and biochar from food waste, biomass, animal manure and biosolids. Biochar produced can be used as concrete filler, activated carbon for pollution remediation, and land application. Earthcare has 12 gasification facilities in the United States with several more in development.

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](#).

Mr. Araumi stated that at last month's Task Force meeting, Mr. Sisson shared his concern about the ATAS not having a quorum which could affect the work of the Subcommittee. Mr. Araumi advised that the ATAS originated with the requirement in the Puente Hills Landfill Conditional Use Permit.

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

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

### Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- In August 2025, CCL received 11 Notices of Violation (NOVs) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), compared to the 5 NOVs reported in July 2025.
- CCL continues to be under the Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA), last modified on June 24, 2025. The next status hearing is scheduled for October 29, 2025.

### Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In August 2025, there were 183 odor complaints reported to the AQMD, an increase from the 101 odor complaints reported in July 2025.
- In August 2025, SCL received 3 NOVs from the AQMD related to odor.
- On September 3, 2025, the AQMD held a status hearing for SCL. AQMD made no changes to the requirements of the SOA since effectiveness of the mitigation measures will take time to measure. Another status hearing is scheduled after the rainy season on May 27, 2026.
- The SCL Local Enforcement Agency gave a [presentation](#) regarding various mitigation measures being implemented at SCL to better manage landfill gas and leachate, such as:
  - Installing more gas collection wells.
  - Applying PosiShell to make the surface of the landfill more impermeable.
  - Using microbiology to better manage methane.

### Finding of Conformance

- Staff reported there was about 863,000 tons of waste disposed of at SCL during the Second Quarter of 2025. Compared to the First Quarter of 2025, the disposal tonnage increased by 29 percent, from 671,000 tons to 863,000 tons, which was largely attributed to Eaton Fire debris.

Ms. Clark asked if enough was done in removing toxins from the fire debris before landfills received them noting that the debris removal process was very fast. Ms. Thompson responded that there were two phases in the fire debris removal process:

- Phase 1 required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to remove household hazardous waste (HHW) from the properties.

- Phase 2 began after the HHW was removed and required the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to remove the remaining fire ash and debris.

Ms. Thompson also indicated that the speed of the process was largely attributed to bringing in more forces, including many contractors. Mr. Tesoro added that the EPA initiated the debris removal process and brought in staffing and additional contractors to remove the HHW. Then in Phase 2, before they even moved the debris, the USACE conducted a second round of HHW assessment and did additional testing to ensure that all HHW had been removed prior to contractors doing work. Upward of 200 debris removal contractors handled debris from both the Eaton and Pacific Palisades Fires.

Ms. Clark shared her concern about toxins leaching into the groundwater. Mr. Tesoro and Ms. Thompson added that according to the California State Water Resources Board, Class III landfills that have both liners and leachate collection systems are allowed to take in disaster-related debris. Additionally, Class III landfill liners are within the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), and they have mechanisms in place to ensure the integrity of the liner systems. She noted that SCL has a double landfill liner system. Mr. Shammas added that the Regional Board requires landfills to have ground water monitoring wells around the site so if there is something found, it is reported to the Regional Board for corrective action by the landfill. Ms. Clark asked who would be liable if toxins were to leach into the groundwater. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hunter asked if there were any test results from the Calabasas Landfill (CL) fire-related debris because he felt that Phase 2 fire debris should have gone to a Class I landfill. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Hunter asked for the test results of the fire debris taken to CL. Mr. Tesoro responded that the testing results were publicly available through local published article (see [link](#)).

## **VI. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

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

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Sisson mentioned that on August 4, 2025, there was an incident where the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) that is under lease with Athens, suddenly closed, and asked if that was accurate. Mr. Shammas responded that the MRF was still open and that Athens was leasing the recycling line for their own material, but now they have moved the material to their own facility. Mr. Shammas explained that it was only the Athens material that they were sorting on their recycling line at the MRF. Mr. Sisson stated that a few haulers were caught

surprised when they arrived there without any knowledge that Athens was no longer operating that sorting line. Mr. Shammass stated that they must have a contract with Athens because the LACSD is not involved with their operations and perhaps Athens did not notify them. Mr. Sisson asked if there are any plans for the sorting line to reopen because his understanding is that it will be at least 12 months. Mr. Shammass responded that there are currently ongoing discussions. Mr. Sisson asked if the sorting line can be leased from the LACSD and Mr. Shammass confirmed it could. Mr. Shammass indicated that Athens is still paying the lease for it and that the LACSD is not privy to detailed information regarding Athens' operations.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, October 16, 2025, at 1 p.m.