

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

**November 20, 2025**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ed Chen, 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 James Roska, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Bob Dowell, rep by Erin Rowland, City of Long Beach Energy and Environmental  
Services Department  
Wayne Nastri, rep by Philip Crabbe, III, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
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  
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  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Paul Kim, Green Science  
Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Lance Cervantes, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Darren Kwan, 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  
Londy Lin, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Joy Pipkin, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Miguel Portillo, 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

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Mr. Cid Tesoro who served as Chair, representing Director Mark Pestrella.

Mr. Tesoro welcomed new Task Force member, Ed Chen, who was appointed by the League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division and serves as a councilmember for Temple City.

## **II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2025, MINUTES**

Mr. Jordan Sisson made a motion to approve the October 16, 2025, minutes as amended, and Sam Shammass seconded. Minutes were approved with three abstentions.

## **III. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The following was reported by Mr. Siya Araumi:

- Staff is tracking the forthcoming Governor's Budget Proposal for the 2026-27 fiscal year.
- The Governor's priorities are focused on health coverage, education, housing, and homelessness initiatives.
- The Budget Proposal primarily focuses on maintaining fiscal stability, and possibly a cautious approach to General Fund spending on environmental programs.
- Staff is monitoring the budget for changes to CalRecycle, Department of Toxic Substances, and local assistance grants related to solid waste and recycling, as well as funding for needed infrastructure and operational programs.
- Once a draft of the Budget Proposal is available, staff will review and provide an update.

The [Legislative Table](#) was provided and lists the two-year bills which will be active when the Legislature reconvenes in January 2026.

Also provided was an update on the Chief Executive Office's (CEO) annual process of developing Los Angeles County's (County) legislative priorities in the next legislative cycle, which includes Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility (HHW EPR), Illegal Dumping Policy, and Solid Waste Infrastructure and Programs.

Mr. Sisson asked if there was a list pertaining to the three policy objectives that could be shared with respective clients and cities. Mr. Araumi responded that there was no list available and stated that the three policies are what the County and CEO identified, and as information becomes available, Public Works (PW) staff may present to the Task Force at a future meeting.

Ms. Margaret Clark shared her concern about the fire debris removal process from the wildfires as she believed the fire debris was not properly cleaned up and that everyone needs to remain vigilant on cleanup efforts in the event there are future wildfires.

Ms. Erin Rowland indicated that the City of Long Beach (Long Beach) is really focused on HHW EPR and is also very curious about solid waste infrastructure so will continue to support current or future legislation. In addition, Long Beach is evaluating some of the requirements in Senate Bill 1383, specifically the procurement requirement for organic material based on population. Ms. Rowland stated that the current requirement is very challenging for large cities and counties. Therefore, Long Beach is actively looking to see if other organizations or groups are interested in some sort of amendment or proposed approach on options to reach the level of compliance that would be cost effective for rate payers.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR MESQUITE PROPERTY AND WASTE-BY-RAIL**

Mr. Shammas provided an update on the Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for Mesquite Property and Waste-by-Rail that was released in July 2025. The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts Board of Directors had several meetings with respondents to the RFEI and several issues were identified. The Request for Proposal is on hold for an indeterminate period of time until issues have been addressed.

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

Ms. Joy Pipkin reported the following from the PEIS meeting:

The Subcommittee had a quorum and approved meeting minutes from the August 21, 2025, meeting. The Subcommittee also reviewed five articles to be published in the winter issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. Three articles were prepared by PW and two articles were prepared by Culver City. PW and the

City of Glendale are also working on additional articles. The next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2026.

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

Mr. Araumi reported the following from the ATAS meeting:

The Subcommittee had a quorum and approved of the meeting minutes of October 16, 2025.

Tetra Tech provided a presentation on the Los Angeles County 2025 Wildfires Debris Management response that covered elements of the debris removal process, particularly the handling of waste, diversion activities, hazardous waste management, and any technologies employed, as well as measures that can be taken to build resiliency and reduce future impacts.

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

The Subcommittee passed a motion to follow the decision of the Task Force on whether to have the December 2025 meeting.

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. Emiko Thompson reported the following from the FPRS meeting:

### Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

- In September 2025, CCL received 11 Notices of Violation (NOVs) from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), related to odor, compared to the 16 NOVs reported in September 2025.
- CCL continues to be under the Stipulated Order for Abatement, last modified in June 2025. The next status hearing has been rescheduled to December 9 and 11, 2025.
- In June 2025, PW issued 3 NOVs to CCL for performing grading work at the landfill without a grading permit. CCL appealed the NOVs in August 2025, and a hearing date is pending.

- There was a [presentation](#) on the disposal tonnages at various landfills, based on data from CalRecycle's system.

Mr. Lance Cervantez also provided the presentation on disposal tonnages at various landfills to the Task Force. Mr. Tesoro requested that the presentation be made available to Task Force members.

Ms. Thompson explained that data in the presentation showed several changes in disposal tonnages at both in-County and out-of-County landfills. She noted that CCL stopped accepting waste in January 2025 so some of the disposal reflects where trash may have gone, as well as impact to landfills from the wildfire debris.

Ms. Clark asked how the decision was made on where to take the waste. Ms. Thompson's belief is that the decisions are business-related. Mr. Sisson commented that while it is unknown where waste is going, there is a clear correlation between how much is exported and what County disposal is available. Discussion ensued.

#### Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL)

- In October 2025, there were 438 odor complaints reported to AQMD, an increase from the 228 odor complaints reported in September 2025.
- In October 2025, SCL received 12 NOVs from AQMD related to odor.
- Mr. Larry Israel with AQMD shared current data for November indicating that as of yesterday, there were 200 odor complaints reported to AQMD and that SCL received 5 NOVs from AQMD related to odor.
- There was discussion about debris that was taken to SCL by PW from an illegal dumping (ID) site in Agua Dulce.
  - In October 2025, PW responded to cleaning up a large-scale ID site, estimated at upwards of 2,000 cubic yards.
  - There were 39 truckloads of material disposed of at SCL when operations were halted for purposes of testing the material.
  - 66 samples were taken from the remaining material at the ID site for testing.
  - The California Environmental Protection Agency's definition of asbestos-containing material is defined as material that contains 1 percent or greater amounts of asbestos.
  - Out of the 66 samples taken for testing, 3 were considered to be asbestos-containing material, which is less than 5 percent.
  - PW takes this matter very seriously and acknowledges that this process should not have happened and to prevent future incidents, PW is enhancing its protocols for clearing ID sites.

- Protocols for ID are also being enhanced at SCL.
- There was an update on the Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Program at SCL.
  - The use of geosynthetic cover, as an alternative to soil on Saturdays, began last year on a one-year pilot basis.
  - After evaluating the findings, PW does not support the permanent use of geosynthetic cover on Saturdays until further data is collected and analyzed.
  - The pilot project has been extended through May 30, 2026.

The FPRS passed a motion to not have a December meeting, pending the decision of the Task Force.

Mr. Wayde Hunter with the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, as well as a member of the FPRS, mentioned that at the FPRS meeting there was a request for PW staff to provide existing protocols for handling ID, as well as any revisions that have been made to those protocols for future handling of ID. Mr. Hunter shared his concerns about the ID material being taken to SCL without prior testing, especially because of asbestos that can become airborne.

#### **VIII. DECEMBER TASK FORCE MEETING**

Ms. Clark made a motion to cancel the December Task Force meeting unless something urgent arises, and Ms. Rowland seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

CalRecycle Representatives were unable to attend the meeting but an [update](#) was provided to staff, which was also included in Task Force packets.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Sisson requested that PW staff look into the California Air Resources Board's hearing on regulation of methane emissions from landfills taking place on November 20, 2025, and asked for an update in January or February 2026 on possible ramifications for the solid waste industry.

Mr. Paul Kim, CEO of Green Science, described his company's technology that uses modular microwave plasma systems to produce hydrogen, fuels, and power from waste. He also indicated the technology could reduce landfill disposal. Mr. Hunter indicated that Mr. Kim would like to present his company's technology at a future ATAS meeting.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 1 p.m.