

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

Minutes of October 20, 2016

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Pedroza, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Craig Beck, rep by Charlie Tripp, Long Beach Public Works Department
Gail Farber, rep by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Cynthia Harding, rep by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Grace Hyde, rep by Christopher Salomon, County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
County

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Jack Hadjinian, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Bob Shaw, MWS
John Emerson, City of Redondo Beach
Heidi Sanborn, California Product Stewardship Council
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Caren Alvarez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Trishena Robinson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mackenzie Domann, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Tranette Sanders, County of Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:12 p.m. by Ms. Betsey Landis.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 15, 2016

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz to approve the September 15, 2016, minutes, as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Mackenzie Domann provided a report from the ATAS meeting stating there was a presentation from Kim Johnson of Gen2, LLC, on their Waste Sorting and Pyrolysis Technology. Gen2's technology proposes a fully automated system with no need for separate collection or bins such that the waste is processed through an autoclave before advanced sorting so that materials are sterile and can be easily separated for recycling, unrecyclable plastics to fuel, and pyrolysis of the biomass to create electricity or fuel ultimately achieving net zero waste with minimal emissions. Gen2 is currently working on a plastic to diesel project in Watsonville in Northern California, which should be completed in summer 2017.

Ms. Domann also stated that during the last ATAS meeting it was discussed that DPW would host another Conversion Technology Conference in early 2017. Due to staff changes it has been proposed to have a smaller workshop in early 2017 to discuss upcoming legislation and a larger conference in early 2018.

Finally, Ms. Domann stated that DPW staff and ARI are in the final stages of confirming a summary table of small-scale food waste processing technologies for on-site applications, which will be made available as an informational resource to interested parties. ARI is continuing to work on updating the 2011 economic model for a conceptual AD project at the Calabasas Landfill. ARI is currently working to update the list of potential CT sites/projects in Los Angeles County, which was developed as a part of a siting feasibility study conducted in 2010.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis provided an update on the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) meeting. Ms. Landis reported that in September 2016, a total of 206 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline relating to odors at SCL. In comparison with

August 2016, the number of complaints increased by 142 percent, from 85 to 206. When compared to September of 2015, the number of complaints decreased by 39 percent, from 337 to 206. The total number of complaints made to the SCAQMD hotline since 2009 is 9,515, and the total number of complaints received this year is 1,101. The total number of Notices of Violation issued to the SCL by the SCAQMD since 2009 is 185, with two notices of violation issued in October 2016. Mr. Ron Saldana asked if the number of complainants, as well as the number of complaints, is provided by the SCAQMD. Ms. Landis responded by commenting that staff will be working with the SCAQMD to provide information such as this for the FPRS to consider.

Ms. Landis also provided an update on the status of the new access road and tree planting project at SCL. She stated that the access road has not been reviewed by Public Works for approval and is still being reviewed. Ms. Landis also provided an update on the use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC), and she informed the Task Force that the benefits of using ADC are still being studied; however, it appears to be reducing odors at SCL.

Ms. Landis also gave an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project at SCL. Ms. Landis stated the LEA amended its approval of this project and required Republic Services to secure approval from the necessary regulatory agencies.

Ms. Landis provided an update on a letter, dated August 5, 2016, that the Task Force sent to CalRecycle regarding questions the Task Force had on recently adopted regulations by CalRecycle on the land application of compostable materials. Ms. Landis stated that the Task Force received a response from CalRecycle on September 20, 2016, and that CalRecycle didn't fully answer the questions posed by the Task Force. Staff recommended that a follow up letter be sent to CalRecycle requesting the agency to directly address the issues stated in the first two comments of the August 15, 2016, letter. Discussion ensued and Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to CalRecycle requesting that all CalRecycle regulations on land application of compostable, chip and grind, and mulched materials be consistent with the California Department of Food and Agricultural regulations and requirements. The motion was seconded by Ms. Landis and passed with abstentions from Mr. Chris Salomon and Mr. Gerry Villalobos.

Mr. Ron Saldana expressed his concern that letters are being sent out on behalf of the Task Force and members are not being given the chance to review them. In discussion of this issue, Mr. Sam Pedroza asked if there is a policy on how letters are issued. Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated that a few years ago, the Task Force designated both Ms. Margaret Clark and Mr. Mohajer to review letters prepared by staff. Once Ms. Clark and Mr. Mohajer agree upon the contents of the letters, Ms. Clark will authorize staff to finalize the letter for dissemination.

Ms. Clark stated that maybe we need to consider a new process for the entire Task Force to review letters before they are disseminated. Mr. Saldana made a motion to provide Task Force members the opportunity to review letters before dissemination. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mohajer and it passed unanimously.

V. UPDATE FROM CALIFORNIA PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL INCLUDING “REFUEL YOUR FUN” CAMPAIGN

Ms. Heidi Sanborn gave a [PowerPoint presentation](#) from the California Product Stewardship Council including the “ReFuel your Fun” Campaign. Ms. Betsey Landis questioned how the batteries were recycled; Mr. Sanborn stated they are disposed of using a smelter and research is being done on how to recycle the batteries. It was asked of Ms. Sanborn if they have a tank exchange for the one pound refillable propane containers and her response was it is not financially feasible.

VI. UPDATE ON COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF UNWANTED PHARMACEUTICAL DRUG AND SHARPS

Mr. Patrick Holland provided an update on the Collection and Disposal of Unwanted Pharmaceutical Drug and Sharps. Mr. Holland stated that on June 14, 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion that deferred action on the draft Pharmaceuticals and Sharps Waste Take-Back Ordinance, and directed the County Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Working Group to work with Pharmaceutical and Sharps Industry (Industry) representatives to implement and immediately launch, in accordance with the recommendations in Option 1 of the June 7, 2016, report to the Board, which included public education and outreach campaign approved by the Director of Public Health, quarterly collection take-back event days, and benchmarks to measure the effectiveness of these activities. The June 2016 motion also directed the EPR Working Group to work with Walgreens in order to assess the performance of their drug collection kiosks and report back on any established benchmarks or best practices they may have developed. Lastly, the motion called for a status report in 60 days and a final report at the Board’s November 1st meeting.

Mr. Holland also stated that following the June 2016 Board meeting, the County EPR Working Group informed industry representatives of the expectations for the minimum requirements of the above 3 mentioned plans included providing them a list and maps of the 10 priority unincorporated communities for the first take-back event day. On July 20, 2016, Industry representatives submitted the first draft of their plan and on July 21, 2016, the EPR Working Group met with Industry and provided them key revisions that needed to be made to the plans. Industry submitted revised plans on August 12, 2016. These revised plans

included a \$200k grant for the Sheriff's Department to host and run quarterly collection event dates.

Mr. Holland stated that on August 15, 2016, the EPR Working Group submitted the 60-day status update report to the Board of Supervisors, which discussed the meetings and correspondence with Industry and the EPR Working Group. Following an extensive review of the August 12, 2016, plans submitted by Industry, the EPR Working Group sent a letter on August 26, 2016, which included detailed Plan Correction Sheets which specified what components of the plans had met, partially met, or did not meet the requirements.

On August 29, 2016, the Sheriff sent a letter to Industry officially declining the \$200,000 grant to host and run collection events, but committed to participate as law enforcement at these events per the DEA requirements. On September 16, 2016, the Industry sent a letter to each Board office, which stated the Industry planned to launch their education and outreach campaign despite DPH's disapproval.

On October 12, 2016, a meeting was held with deputies from all 5 Board Offices, the EPR Working Group, and the Industry to discuss Industry's education and outreach campaign. The Board Offices expressed displeasure that Industry had not shared the messaging, timelines, locations of advertisements, etc. with the EPR Working Group. There was a lot of discussion that the plans Industry had submitted to date failed to include any specific information about conducting voluntary quarterly collection events.

Finally, Mr. Holland stated that staff is preparing the upcoming November 1, 2016, status report to be finalized by the EPR Working Group. It is anticipated Public Health will be providing a presentation to the Board on November 1, 2016.

VII. REGIONAL/COUNTYWIDE ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION

Ms. Trishena Robinson provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the Regional/Countywide Organic Waste Management Plan, after an extensive conversation between staff and the Task Force it was determined that staff would revise the Regional/Countywide Organic Waste Management Plan and bring it back to the Task Force at a later meeting date.

VIII. RESPONSE TO THOMAS M. BRUEN'S LETTER REGARDING THE TASK FORCE AND SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa provided an update on the letter the Task Force requested County Counsel to prepare in the response to Thomas M. Bruen's letter of June 30, 2016, regarding the Task Force's role as it pertains to Sunshine Canyon

Landfill. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that County Counsel sent a letter to the Task Force for review and would like to direct County Counsel to proceed with disseminating the response letter to Mr. Bruen. Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send the response letter to Thomas M. Bruen from County Counsel. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz and the motion passed with abstentions from Ms. Reina Pereira, Mr. Ron Saldana, and Mr. Chris Salomon.

IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Caren Alvarez gave an update on current legislation and reviewed items on the attached [legislative table](#).

- AB 1103 (Dodd) – Bill has been signed by Governor Brown.
- AB 1669 (Hernandez) – Bill has been signed by Governor Brown.
- AB 1923 (Wood) – Bill has been signed by Governor Brown.
- AB 2153 (Garcia) – Bill has been signed Governor Brown.
- AB 2313 (Williams) – Bill has been signed by Governor Brown.
- AB 2396 (McCarty) – Bill has been signed by Governor Brown.
- AB 2812 (Gordon) – Bill has been signed by Governor Brown.
- SB 423 (Bates) – Bill has been signed by Governor Brown.
- SB 778 (Allen) – Bill has been vetoed by Governor Brown.

X. CALYRECYCLE UPDATE

Item was not discussed.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gerry Villalobos stated that the October 20, 2016, Task Force meeting will be his last meeting, due to his promotion to the City of Los Angeles.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2016, in conference room D.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m.

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