

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

**Minutes of October 19, 2017**

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  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, California Waste and Recycling Association  
Sam Pedroza, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Mark Pestrella, rep by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jason Aspell, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Cynthia Harding, rep by Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of  
Public Health  
Grace Hyde, rep by Sam Shammas, County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles  
County

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles  
Jack Hadijinian, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles  
Craig Beck, Long Beach Public Works Department  
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Adam Holt, Allan Company  
Dale Sargent, City of Santa Clarita  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle  
Wayde Hunter, NVC/SCL-CAC/GHNNC  
Joe Vitti, SCL-CAC  
Morgan McCarthy, MuniEnvironmental  
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  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Fonda Khuu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bonitto Housen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Tranette Sanders, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Morena Guardado, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m. by Ms. Betsey Landis.

**II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2017, MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer to approve the September 21, 2017, minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz and passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Clark Ajwani provided a report from the ATAS meeting. He summarized the presentation provided by Mr. Shawn Smith of Southern California Edison (SCE) regarding SCE's Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT), established by the Public Utility Commission to implement Senate Bill (SB) 1122. The BioMAT program allows technology developers that are producing bioenergy to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with an electricity utility. The electricity rate generated through this program is between \$0.12 kW to \$0.19/kW. Although the rates are favorable, there aren't many projects entered in the program.

Mr. Ajwani also reported the County Sanitation Districts' Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) broke ground on the installation of the DODA system, a food waste pre-processing technology. They expect the system to be installed in March 2018 as scheduled.

Lastly, Mr. Ajwani mentioned Ms. Betsey Landis' comment encouraging the ATAS to continue exploring more options for conversion technology of pest-infested wood waste.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis provided a report from the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) meeting. She reported the total number of complaints made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline regarding odors at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) from August to September increased by 47 percent from 30 to 44 complaints. In comparison with September 2016, the number of complaints decreased by 79 percent from 206 to 44 complaints. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD since 2009 was 10,934. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD in 2017 was 961. The total number of Notices of Violation (NOV) issued to SCL by

SCAQMD since 2009 is 214. SCAQMD did not issue any NOV's to SCL in the month of September.

Ms. Landis also stated that Chiquita Canyon Landfill will be filing a Finding of Conformance (FOC) application. The deadline to file is October 26, 2017.

## **V. CHANGING RECYCLING CONDITIONS**

Mr. Adam Holt with Allan Company gave a presentation about changing recycling conditions. He stated China has decided to revoke or severely reduce import licenses for recycling materials. Similarly, the recent quality restrictions instituted for these materials are severe. The new standard margin for outthrow (contaminants that should not be in a certain recycling stream) is 0.3 per bale. This represents such a low margin that a couple of items is enough to have the entire bale returned by an inspector for failure to meet standards. Effective January 2018, the inspectors will randomly select bales at the dock to sort and weigh the outthrow to ensure standards of 0.3 percent are met. Failure to comply on one bale will result in the return of the entire booking. Once the cargo has failed the standards the boat will be kept in quarantine for 30 days while negotiations take place considering the next destination of the materials, which is an intense and expensive process.

Mr. Holt commented that the blue bin stream has always been a source of income; however, it is transitioning into a costly item to handle due to many fundamental changes, such as the replacement of heavy paper for less valuable light, plastic film, labor and operational costs, decreases in commodity values, and the newly implemented restrictions. Other factors compound this impact, such as consumer's preferences for better quality, and the addition of other materials to be collected for recycling as requested by municipalities. Mr. Holt anticipates new markets will arise; however, building a new infrastructure may take an average of six years. Mr. Holt stated the use of technology, such as robotic and optic machines, is not the solution for multiple recycling sorting because these devices only sort one stream at a time.

Mr. Holt discussed other drastic changes taking place since the new restrictions have been implemented. Before the new restrictions, Allan Company, exported to China. Now they export 130-135 containers daily, and none are sent to China. Therefore, the rest of the market is trying to absorb the vast amount of material. Delivered comingle curbside material used to average between \$20-\$90/ton. It has decreased to \$20-\$40/ton.

Mr. Mike Mohajer commented that the import restrictions are related to China's environmental interest and their people's health. He also mentioned China's need for commodity for their factories and the 0.3 percent may not provide their

commodity needs. Mr. Mohajer suggested that California should adopt regulations that could allow the development of needed recycling facilities to keep jobs in California and not depend on other countries. This idea has been promoted since 1990.

Ms. Betsey Landis and Mr. Ron Saldana expressed their concerns about this issue, suggesting the need to educate the public.

## **VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ms. Caren Alvarez provided a brief summary of the following bills on the [legislative table](#) that were chaptered during the 2017 legislative session.

**AB 109** (Ting) – Budget Act of 2017: Chaptered on September 16, 2017.

**AB 332** (Bocanegra) – Street Closure: Chaptered on June 28, 2017.

**AB 398** (Garcia) – Extending Cap and Trade: Chaptered July 25, 2017.

**AB 954** (Chiu) – Food Labeling: Chaptered on October 14, 2017.

**AB 1132** (Garcia) – Nonvehicular air pollution: OFA: Chaptered on August 7, 2017.

Mr. Mike Mohajer commented on the collaboration between the industry and the author of the bill. The author has commented on 1132 after the bill was chaptered. Mr. Mohajer will provide a copy of the letter, which includes the author's comments to be distributed to the Task Force Members.

**AB 1158** (Chu) – Carpet Recycling: Chaptered on September 21, 2017.

**AB 1219** (Eggman) – Food Donations: Chaptered on October 14, 2017.

**AB 1572** (Aguiar-Curry) – Integrated Waste Management Plans: Chaptered on July 31, 2017.

Ms. Alvarez also mentioned that there were a number of bills introduced during the 2017 legislative session but were held as two-year bills that may return next year. The topics of those bills are Beverage Container Recycling, Medical and Sharps Waste, Plastic Packaging, Renewable Portfolio Standard, Organic Waste Infrastructure, and Solid Waste Funding.

## **VII. UPDATED 2017 CLIMATE CHANGE SCOPING PLAN**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided a summary on the Air Resources Board's (ARB) Public Workshop on the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan (Plan), which is the proposed strategy for achieving California's 2030 greenhouse gas target. Ms. Vazifdar explained that the purpose of the workshop was to discuss the schedule for finalizing the Plan and to present updated modeling results. ARB announced the full final Plan will be released in November 2017. The plan will go to the Board for final consideration December 14-15, 2017. ARB's updated modeling results were based on AB 398, signed on July 25, 2017, which extends the Cap and Trade program to 2030. The cumulative GHG emissions reduction from 2021 to 2030 remained consistent with the previous modeling, which did not include post-2020 Cap and Trade. The estimated change in GHG emissions in the year 2030 for the recycling and waste sector was not impacted in the new modeling results.

## **VIII. DRAFT COUNTY ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Ms. Trishena Robinson provided an update on the Organic Waste Management Plan (Organics Plan). The Organics Plan is 15-year planning document, it is meant to assist jurisdictions, other governmental agencies, and businesses in planning for the diversion of organic waste materials from disposal at landfills as required under State laws and regulations. The Organics Plan analyzes and identifies capacity demands and shortfalls, and describes capacities available at both in-County and out-of-County facilities for managing compostable organic waste. It also provides an evaluation of potential strategies to address demands as well as an evaluation of organic waste collection options. Ms. Robinson stated that due to the August 1, 2017, deadline to submit data for organic waste disposal to CalRecycle, some data has already been submitted; however, Task Force comments are still encouraged and welcomed and will continue to be incorporated in the document as the Department of Public Works (DPW) continues to make improvements to the plan. Ms. Robinson reiterated DPW's commitment to continue working with the Task Force and its subcommittees to address new regulations related to organic waste management. Ms. Robinson encouraged the continual coordination between DPW and the Task Force as the plan is a living document which will continue to evolve. Once the document is officially finalized, staff expects to release it to the cities, interested public, and CalRecycle.

Mr. Sam Pedroza inquired about cities adopting the plan and whether their measurable efforts would be addressed. Mr. Carlos Ruiz explained that this plan takes a regional view and is not intended to summarize individual efforts per city. Mr. Mike Mohajer expressed concern regarding CalRecycle's definition of a

facility that provides needed capacity to manage organic waste and its process, such as composting, anaerobic digestion, land application and chip and ground. Ms. Betsey Landis expressed concern about 70,000 beetle-infested trees and their disposal as they could be discarded in landfills. Mr. Pedroza suggested bringing these concerns to CalRecycle for consideration. Ms. Jennifer Wallin from CalRecycle stated that progress has been made to aid with these issues. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed to coordinate with Staff to develop a plan to find solutions to these issues and to address concerns to CalRecycle. Mr. Ruiz requested Staff to forward the plan to the Task Force members as is and to review the plan to identify changes that would help address the Task Force concerns. Task Force feedback will be welcomed.

#### **IX. UPDATE ON THE OCTOBER 10, 2017 CALRECYCLE PACKAGING REFORM WORKSHOP**

Ms. Caren Alvarez reported on the October 10, 2017, CalRecycle Packaging Reform Workshop. Ms. Alvarez reported CalRecycle presented a background document and solicited stakeholder feedback on developing policy. CalRecycle recommended a broad policy framework approach to manage all packaging, including primary, secondary, and tertiary. A mandatory, comprehensive policy would include:

- Statutory authority for CalRecycle to manage all packaging
- Measurable/enforceable goals
- Flexible implementation

The process to develop the policy will include the four stages; however, this workshop focused on Stage 1 and Stage 2:

- Stage 1 – Regulation Development: Identifying policy tools, and identifying priority
- Stage 2 – Selecting policy tools: They have identified 13 from which the following eight tools will be applied to all packaging:
  - Source reduction
  - Producer responsibility
  - Pay as you throw (all material not just packaging)
  - Increased tipping fee (all material not just packaging)
  - Advanced recycling fee
  - Statewide standard list of recyclable and compostable packaging
  - Recyclable or compostable design
  - Labeling requirements

- The other five policy tools are:
- Minimum postconsumer recycled content
  - Landfill ban
  - Deposit system
  - Packaging product sales ban
  - Materials management fees

CalRecycle has identified the following 3 fibers and 3 plastic materials as priority packaging for this policy:

- Uncoated corrugated cardboard
- Waxed cardboard
- Aseptic containers and cartons
- Film plastic
- Expanded polystyrene
- Pouches

CalRecycle will welcome comments until October 31, 2017, and a formal recommendation is expected in early 2018. Staff has been supportive of CalRecycle's efforts to develop a broad framework policy but is concerned about the enforcement responsibility for local governments to enforce the measurable goals. Another concern is the list of recyclable and compostable packaging considering material such as Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) is not recyclable. Ms. Alvarez expressed staff continues to be supportive of the Extended Producer Responsibility approach, and suggested CalRecycle consider Conversion Technology as an alternative tool to address this material.

**X. 2016 COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. Joe Bartolata provided the attached [Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan 2016 Report](#) presentation to the Task Force. The purpose of the Annual Report is to provide an annual update to the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. Included in this Annual Report is the Siting Element Assessment. Since there have been numerous new laws and changes in disposal capacity since the time the existing Siting Element was approved in 1998, the Annual Report provides an opportunity to identify and assess those changes on a yearly basis including updated strategies for maintaining adequate disposal capacity to meet the long-term needs. The Annual Report also quantifies and evaluates the disposal capacity needs of the County through various scenarios. Mr. Bartolata stated that the 2016 Annual Report contains disposal data and information updated through calendar year 2016. There were no comments from the Task Force.

## **XI. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Ms. Wallin gave the following information about the upcoming grant due dates and events scheduled by CalRecycle:

- Tire Incentive Program (FY 2017-18)  
Due: October 25, 2017
- Tire-Derived Aggregate Grant Program (FY 2017-18)  
Due: November 1, 2017
- Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grant Program (FY 2017-18)  
Due: November 2, 2017
- Legacy Disposal Site Abatement Partial Grant Program (FY 2017-18)  
Due: November 2, 2017
- Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program (FY 2017-18) Due: November 7, 2017
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Loan Program  
Due: Continuous
- Public Meeting Notice: Informal Rulemaking Workshop for SB 270 Reusable Grocery Bag Certification Fee  
Date/Time: October 25, 2017, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Informal Rulemaking Stakeholder Workshop for SB 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP)  
Date/Time: October 30, 2017, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Informal Rulemaking Stakeholder Workshop for SB 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP)  
Date/Time: November 2, 2017 – Southern California location: TBD
- Public Meeting Notice: Informal Workshop on a Rulemaking Under the Electronic Waste Recycling Act  
Date/Time: November 15, 2017 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

## **XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No comments.

## **XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2017, in conference room D.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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