

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

Minutes for August 16, 2018

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
Robb Cohn, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Jack Hadjinian, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Pedroza, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division
Ron Saldana, California Waste and Recycling Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Craig Beck, rep by Charles Tripp, Long Beach Public Works Department
Grace Hyde, rep by Sam Shammas, County of Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
County
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
Wayne Nastri, rep by Jason Aspell, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Mark Pestrella, rep by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative*
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Ang, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Hank Brady, CalRecycle
Martine Boswell, CalRecycle
Elijah Carder, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Ben Cortez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
La Salle Duong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wendy Dunlap, CalRecycle
John Freseas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Brian Hunter, Athens Services
Chis Coyle, Republic
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Marshalle Graham, CalRecycle
Judi Gregory, Go 2 Zero
Jim Ketzell, City of Santa Monica
Jennifer King, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

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Riel Johnson, Athens Services
Selena Loke Soo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Howard Levenson, CalRecycle
Ben Lucha, Palmdale
Cara Morgan, CalRecycle
Teri Muse, Waste Management
Mireille Nseir, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Primitivo Nunez, CalRecycle
Nicole Puma, CalRecycle
Carol Oyola, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Lisa O'Brien, Lavienna
Margarita Quiroz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Trishena Robinson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Lisa Sagin, Azusa L&W
Tranette Sanders, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Damian Skinner, Torrance
Michelle Slocombe, CalRecycle
Sonia Terry, Public Citizen
Vu Troung, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Victoria Valverde, Baldwin Park
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle
Jaenna Wessling, CalRecycle
Willa Zheng, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

* Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Ms. Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JULY 19, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Pedroza to approve the July 19, 2018 minutes, as submitted with a minor correction. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE (PEIS)

Mr. Mohajer provided a report from the Public Education and Information Subcommittee. The following articles will be included in the next inside solid waste issue.

- Update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill Odor Issues
- Chiquita Canyon Landfill
- CalRecycle Grants Help!
- China's National Sword Policy Impacts Recycling Industry
- County Department of Public Works Waste Tire Collection in the Antelope Valley
- Food Waste Facility at the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility
- Update on AB 901 Regulations
- Update on SB 1383
- Athens Proposed a new MRF in Irwindale
- New Process – Athens Composting Facility in Victorville
- Update on City of Los Angeles Exclusive Franchise System
- CalRecycle update on AB 341 and 1826 Implementation and Results
- Lithium and Ion Batteries and the Fires they are causing

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

Ms. Vazifdar gave an update on the ATAS meeting. She reported that Richard Ludt from Interior Removal Specialist, Inc. (IRS), a commercial interior demolition contractor, gave a presentation on their facility located in South Gate, California. She said that IRS take in materials that are much more difficult to recycle such as drywall, carpet, manufactured or treated wood than traditional commercial and demolition debris. Due to the closure of the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility, IRS is sending some of their materials, including paper, to landfill disposal. She mentioned that IRS has expressed interest in developing a thermal conversion technology (CT) project on-site to

process waste. Public Works and Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) are currently working on modeling some potential projects to analyze the technical and financial viability of the project.

Ms. Vazifdar also reported that there was a discussion on Assembly Bill 3232 (AB 3232), which is being voted on the Senate Appropriations Committee today. If the bill were to be enacted, it would create a transition away from gas to electricity in residential and commercial buildings. This would create a significant barrier for the development of CT facilities that recycle organic waste and produce renewable natural gas. The ATAS moved to send a template opposition letter to ATAS members to send to the Senate Appropriations Committee as well as to the Senate floor to oppose the bill.

Ms. Clark asked if AB 3232 is still mandating that all buildings use only electricity for power. Mr. Mohajer responded that nothing has changed regarding the bill and Staff is recommending opposing the bill. He added that the bill is on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Task Force would send a floor alert. Mr. Mohajer also mentioned the ATAS would send a template opposition letter to Waste Connections for Chiquita Canyon Landfill, Republic Services for Sunshine Canyon Landfill, and Sanitation District's for Calabasas Landfill they could use to send letters to the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senate Floor in opposition of AB 3232.

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

Mr. Mohajer provided a report from the FPRS meeting. He gave an update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) starting with the report on the total number of complaints made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) hotline regarding odors. During the month of July, a total of 16 complaints were made, and 8 of the 16 complaints had no field response. In comparison to June 2018, the number of complaints received in July increased from 9 to 16 complaints. In comparison with July 2017, the number of complaints increased from 14 to 16 complaints. The total number of complaints received by SCAQMD since 2009 was 11,111. The total number of complaints received this for year 2018 is 110. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that Republic Services has made a significant effort to address the ongoing odor complaint issues.

Mr. Mohajer added that a Task Force (TF) letter was sent to SCAQMD requesting information on their response procedure for odor complaints. He also mentioned that the response letter to the TF did not address the issue adequately.

Mr. Saldana asked to define the change in the methodology. Mr. Mohajer responded that in the past when SCAQMD received a complaint regarding landfill odor originating from SCL, an investigator would go out and investigate the complaint. Currently, an inspector is dispatched after receiving at least three complaints during a specific time before investigating.

Mr. Ruiz asked Mr. Aspell to provide clarification. Mr. Aspell clarified that in the past SCAQMD responded to one complaint, but since complaints have decreased, they started responding to three complaints made within an hour. Mr. Aspell agreed to provide a more detailed response during the next meeting and that a letter from the TF to SCAQMD requesting more clarification would not be necessary. The TF members agreed.

Mr. Mohajer also reported that the subcommittee discussed the disposal requirements of gas condensate and leachate at SCL. Mr. Mohajer mentioned a letter was sent to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) questioning if Republic Services was properly disposing the liquids, but no clear response was received. The FPRS would like to send another letter to the Water Board asking three things 1) whether the gas condensate and leachate are considered to be hazardous wastes, 2) what are the thresholds for the liquids to be disposed of back into the landfill, and 3) is the operator complying with all the requirements for disposal of these substances. A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer to send a letter to Water Board, seconded by Mr. Cohn. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that there was no representative from Department of Public Health (DPH) during the FPRS meeting. The TF wanted to receive an update on the Notice of Violation (NOV) that DPH had written to the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) requesting to issue an NOV to Republic Services. The TF sent a letter to DRP requesting a status on the NOV. Mr. Mohajer summarized DRP's response by saying the performance at SCL has improved and that an NOV may not be necessary.

Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota responded to the TF concern. She mentioned based on the reports they have received from AQMD, the odor complaints have decreased, and the performance has improved. She stated DPH will continue to monitor through the second year and decide on issuing an NOV. Ms. Nakagawa Ota continued, stating in December 2018, SCAQMD will determine if all the odor issues have been resolved. If they are resolved, DPH will speak to Republic Services and make a recommendation to close the case. A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer to send a letter to DRP requesting an update on the NOV every six months, seconded by Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer also mentioned there was a discussion on the methane gas discharge and Health Reports conducted regarding the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility. A summary has been requested by the Task Force to DPH analyzing a Health Presentation made by local physician, Dr. Nordella. Mr. Mohajer also mentioned that the City, County, State, and Southern California Gas Company have proposed a settlement and the proposed settlement requires a health study on the Porter Ranch community and adjacent communities.

A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer to send a letter to the Department of Public Health requesting the analysis of Dr. Nordella's health study and the potential health study resulting from the settlement requirements, seconded by Mr. Cohn. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. CALRECYCLE ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS & PROGRAMS – IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Representatives from CalRecycle, Howard Levenson, Deputy Director, Hank Brady, Implementation Manager for Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383), and Cara Morgan, Branch Chief, discussed key components of the draft regulations and the need for development of organic waste processing infrastructure.

Mr. Brady gave a brief summary of SB 1383 and its requirements. He mentioned that SB 1383 is part of California's Integrated Climate Change Strategy to combat climate change in California. He stated that one of their goals is to achieve greenhouse gas reduction of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. He mentioned three "super pollutants" they have prioritized: 1) Methane, 2) Black Carbon, and 3) Hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), and how they have a short life span in the atmosphere but have an immediate climate impact. Mr. Brady mentioned that another goal of SB 1383 is to reduce organic waste disposal by 75 percent (from 2014 levels) by 2025, and to ensure that not less than 20 percent of edible food is recovered for human consumption by 2025. Enforcement of SB 1383 regulations are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2022.

Mr. Levenson spoke about financing for new infrastructure. He mentioned that he agrees with the TF in offering loans rather than grants because they can offer incentive payments. He added that loans can be issued to a specific entity whereas grants are issued to selective winners and are difficult to implement. He also mentioned that loans require sustained source funding for five, six, or seven years and will guarantee payments to industrial investors in exchange for the production of a product.

Mr. Levenson also spoke about CalRecycle's involvement with manufacturers. He mentioned that CalRecycle meets with recycling manufacturers to assist them

with a variety of issues, including financing, understanding regulations, tax benefits, permits, and more. He responded to the TF's inquiry regarding CalRecycle staff assisting with permits and meeting regulations. He stated that CalRecycle does not have the authority or expertise to get involved in the permitting process and it is up to the jurisdictions to uphold ordinances and regulations on businesses.

Lastly, Mr. Levenson mentioned two upcoming workshops on air quality permitting and regulatory issues for expanding infrastructure, as it relates to composting facilities:

- August 21, 2018, Sacramento, CA
- August 24, 2018, Diamond Bar, CA

Mr. Cohn asked if three years is enough time for companies to achieve the 2022 goal of organic waste reduction, considering that obtaining permits alone take approximately two years, and then construction commences. Mr. Brady responded that additional language to the regulatory text to has been added to give two or more years to allow for construction.

Mr. Cohn asked about reducing food waste and adding another bin to residential and commercial properties in addition to the other three they already have. Ms. Clark additionally inquired as to their flexibility on imposing violations. Mr. Brady responded that collections will vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. He mentioned one possible solution is to mix green waste with food waste in the green bin. More details on SB 1383 are still being discussed.

Mr. Pedroza expressed his concern with the cities' understanding of the new regulations that come with SB 1383 or AB 939. He would like CalRecycle to engage more with cities so that they can understand the regulations and feasibly comply. Mr. Brady added cities and counties are not required to meet the 75 percent reduction of solid waste goal. Mr. Levenson responded that the recycled organic waste procurement requirements in the draft regulations would increase market development.

Mr. Mohajer spoke about the purpose of inviting CalRecycle to the TF meeting. He said that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss how the TF and CalRecycle can work together with coordinating efforts to comply with regulations that come with bills like SB 1383.

Mr. Mohajer also mentioned Assembly Bill 3178, a legislation embraced into implementation as part of good faith and efforts from local jurisdictions. Mr. Mohajer also reiterated that the Task Force has to work together as a team to understand the implementations. He suggested that attendees look into what

happened to the City of Maywood regarding the city having an auditor being sent to collect old records regarding the impact on AB 939.

Ms. Clark expressed concern about the possibility of spreading diseases with the transportation of contaminated green waste (e.g. trees) between various jurisdictions. Mr. Levenson stated that CalRecycle is working with different agencies regarding quarantined materials such as diseased trees.

After a lengthy discussion, the Task Force members thanked CalRecycle staff for joining the TF meeting and addressing their questions and concerns. The TF and CalRecycle are looking forward to meeting again and working together to address the challenges and potential solutions that accompany SB 1383 regulations.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Item was not discussed.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Sonia Terry expressed concerns about nuclear sources and their association with fires.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m. The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018, in Conference Room C.

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