

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

Minutes for October 18, 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
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
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, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Dr. Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mark Pestrella, rep by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Ang, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Elijah Carder, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Carol Oyola, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Vu Troung, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:26 p.m. by Mr. Mohajer, who chaired the meeting until the arrival of Ms. Margaret Clark.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Ruiz to approve the September 20, 2018, minutes. The motion passed with two abstentions.

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

Mr. Ajwani reported that during the ATAS meeting, there was a presentation on The California Council on Science and Technology (CCST) Report on Biomethane Injection into Common Carrier Pipeline. Presentation discussed in Item V.

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

Ms. Landis reported that during the FPRS meeting an update on South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) odor complaints and Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project was provided for Sunshine Canyon Landfill and the 2nd Quarter Vegetation update will be provided during the next FPRS meeting.

Ms. Landis also mentioned there was a discussion on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project. She stated that Posi-Shell, which is a material similar to stucco that is sprayed onto the intermediate slopes, had been used in the past and is no longer applied at the Landfill.

Ms. Landis made a motion to write a letter to Republic requesting information regarding the use of Posi-Shell as an intermediate cover at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed unanimously.

V. THE CALIFORNIA COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY REPORT ON BIOMETHANE INJECTION INTO COMMON CARRIER PIPELINES

Ms. Julia Levin from Bioenergy Association of California, and Mr. Carder, Task Force staff gave a [presentation](#) on CCST's Report on Biomethane in California Common Carrier Pipelines: Assessing Heating Value and Maximum Siloxane Specifications.

Ms. Levin spoke about the regulatory background and why this report was done. She mentioned that in 2012, Assembly Bill 1900 (AB 1900) required California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) to adopt standards for pipeline biomethane. The bill also required the CPUC to adopt incentives and policies to promote in-state production and use of biomethane. After a couple of years, in 2014 the commission adopted a standard for 12 constituents of concern in biomethane and six other specifications including the heat value. She said that about a year later in 2015, the CPUC adopted an incentive program to complement the standard and provided 40 million dollars total to help the cost for interconnection, but so far only one developer (CR&R, in Riverside County, CA) has taken advantage of the incentive. The reason others have not applied is that the incentives are not enough for the high cost to meet such high biomethane interconnection standards. Thus, Senate Bill 840 (SB 840) initiated the development of a study to re-assess the biomethane injection standards.

Mr. Carder spoke about the study's focus on heating value and siloxane. The CCST found that the heating value could be lowered from the current 990 btu/scf to 970 btu/scf with no effect on safety nor operation. This alone would save a project like CR&R 1 million dollars off their costs. CCST recommends the PUC initiate a proceeding to lower the heating value.

Mr. Carder explained that siloxane is safely used on human body every day in products such as, shampoo and conditioner. However, when siloxane is combusted it becomes silica particles that may have health, safety and Greenhouse Gasses (GHG) emission implications. There is a very little data to support the current specification, and there is no standardized measurement protocol for dependable measurement of the specification. This uncertainty creates the risk of regulatory error and not being able to meet specification for pipeline injection; which has in turn made it very difficult to acquire financing for projects. CCST recommended both a simplified verification regime for biomethane sources unlikely to have siloxanes, and continued study of siloxane impacts and measurement.

Mr. Carder also stated that the building of new anaerobic digestion (AD) facilities will be essential to comply with the GHG emissions reductions and Senate Bill 1383 organic waste disposal reduction regulations. Mr. Carder added Staff's opinion that lowering the heating value should facilitate more AD development, but it may be limited if siloxane specifications are unchanged. Mr. Carder continued stating that the CPUC should work with utilities to develop guidelines for blending biomethane with pipeline gas. Lastly, Mr. Carder discussed the economic barriers and indicated that an estimated \$2 to \$3 billion dollars is needed to develop sufficient organic waste recycling infrastructure to meet SB 1383 targets.

Mr. Saldana asked why there was only one project taking advantage of the initiative. Ms. Levin responded there has not been enough money and the standards are expensive to meet for pipeline biogas.

Mr. Mohajer discussed how producing biomethane is more expensive in California and the regulations are not the same for other states. Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter to CalRecycle and Air Resources Board to get involved in the CPUC biomethane specifications discussion and copy Governor Brown and express the need for a solution on the out-of-state injection issue and speed up the research on siloxane testing. Motion was seconded by Mr. Ruiz and passed unanimously.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF ANTELOPE VALLEY LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Reyes-Gomez gave a [presentation](#) on the Antelope Valley Landfill (AVL) Finding of Conformance (FOC). He gave background information about the AVL. He mentioned that on January 11, 2018, the City of Palmdale Planning Commission approved a land use permit for the project, which took effect on January 24, 2018. He also mentioned that the previous FOC was issued by the Task Force on November 17, 2011.

Mr. Reyes-Gomez also stated that a new FOC is required in accordance with the Countywide Siting Element since the facility is receiving a new Solid Waste Facility Permit due to changes in the Landfill's and as modified by the FPRS subcommittee intake capacity. AVL is proposing to increase the maximum daily waste disposal tonnage from 1,800 tons/day to 3,600 tons/day. Mr. Reyes Gomez stated that based on staff's review of the application, staff determined that it meets the requirements; and therefore, recommends granting the FOC subject to the Conditions of Approval based on staff report.

Mr. Mohajer clarified that the Landfill is not requesting to expand and that they are only requesting to increase the amount of waste from 1,800 tons/day to 3,600 tons/day.

Ms. Pereira asked if the landfill is considering an energy recovery center. Mr. Reyes-Gomez said there is no consideration for an energy recovery center at the time.

After a lengthy discussion, Mr. Mohajer made a motion to approve the FOC based on recommended suggestions of the FPRS subcommittee and his edits on the FOC Staff Report. The motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Shammass and one opposition from Ms. Landis.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Ajwani gave an update on the legislative table. He mentioned no action is required and gave an update on the following bills:

AB 1884 (Calderon and Bloom) – Food Facilities: Single-Use Plastic Straws. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor. Mr. Ajwani mentioned the County is working on an ordinance that is similar to this law but expanded, and for unincorporated LA County.

AB 1933 (Calderon and Bloom) – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: Recycling Infrastructure Projects. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

AB 1981 (Limon) – Organic Waste: Composting. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

AB 2115 (Santiago) – Vehicles: Passing and Overtaking: Waste Service Vehicles. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

AB 2411 (McCarty) – Solid Waste: Use of Compost: Planning. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

AB 2832 (Dahle) – Recycling: Lithium-ion Vehicle Batteries: Advisory Group. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

AB 2908 (Berman) – Tire Recycling: California Tire Regulatory Fee and Waste Tire Program. The bill was vetoed by the Governor.

AB 3036 (Cooley) – Solid Waste: Byproducts from the Processing of Food or Beverages. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

AB 3178 (Rubio) – Integrated Waste Management Plans: Source Reduction and Recycling Element: Diversion requirements. The bill was vetoed by the Governor.

AB 3232 (Friedman) – Zero-Emissions Building and Sources of Heat Energy. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

SB 100 (De Leon) – California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program; Emissions of greenhouse gasses. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

SB 212 (Jackson) – Solid Waste: Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

SB 1335 (Allen) – Solid Waste: Food Service Packaging: State Agencies, Facilities, and Property. This bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

SB 1440 (Hueso) – Energy: Biomethane: Biomethane Procurement. The bill was signed and chaptered into law by the Governor.

VIII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

Ms. Wallin gave the following information about upcoming grants and events.

Grants due dates:

- Tire Incentive Program (Fiscal Year 2018-2019) due on November 1, 2018
- Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program (Fiscal Year 2018-2019) due on November 8, 2018
- Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grant Program (Fiscal Year 2018-2019) November 14, 2018
- Legacy Disposal Site Abatement Partial Grant Program (Fiscal Year 2018-2019) due on November 14, 2018
- Beverage Container Recycling City/County Payment Program (Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019) due on December 17, 2018

Events:

- Rate Hearing for beverage containers on October 25, 2018 in Riverside, California
- Rate Determination Survey Mythology Workshop on October 25, 2018 in Riverside, California
- Shifting Recycling Markets: Impacts on AB 939 Compliance for Jurisdictions on November 7, 2018
- Workshop on Revising the Five-Year Plan for (Fiscal Years 2019/2020 through 2023/2024) on November 13, 2018
- Workshop to Discuss the Development of the Pilot Reuse Grant Program (FY 2019-2020) on November 14, 2018

Mr. Mohajer suggested that at the November 7, 2018, meeting, CalRecycle should consider talking about the comments that they received from different jurisdictions and address what Assembly Bill 3178 (AB 3178) was trying to do and the Governor vetoing it.

Mr. Ruiz asked what the latest news on SB 1383 was. Ms. Wallin answered that she will follow up with an email with that information.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m. The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2018, in Conference Room B.

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