

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

**Minutes for May 18, 2023**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities  
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association  
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Mark Pestrella, rep by Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Barbara Romero, rep by Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities  
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities  
Eric Lopez, Long Beach Public Works  
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Stephanie Meja, City of Palmdale  
Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles  
Joseph Rasmussen, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Genevieve, Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammas, who also announced the resignation of Task Force Member, Ms. Betsey Landis, Environmental Representative, and thanked her for her efforts on the Task Force since 1995.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 20, 2023 MINUTES**

Mr. Jim Smith made a motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. Bernadette Halverson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Mohajer reported the following at the PEIS meeting:

The Subcommittee reviewed eight articles to be published in the summer issue of the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. Articles included City of Los Angeles' Residential Organics Composting Program; Governor Newsom Visits Lithium Valley to Highlight Momentum on Becoming Global Source for Battery Production; Generation Earth program, Students Attend Environmental Youth Summit; H Cycle Technology Evaluation by CalRecycle; Governor Newsom's Budget proposal to Protect the \$345 million from Fiscal Year 2021-22 and Fiscal Year 2022-23 for Senate Bill 1383 (2016) Implementation Grants and the Organic Waste Infrastructure Program; Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling and Reuse Ordinance Update; Free Disposal Days Events at Landfills, Limited to Certain Los Angeles County Unincorporated Communities; Recycling market Development Zone – Los Angeles County.

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

Mr. Fahim Rahimi reported the following at the ATAS meeting:

- Bradam Energies provided a [presentation](#) on their system that uses non-incineration carbon energy recovery technology to process various waste streams and derive renewable natural gas from organic waste, synthetic natural gas from non-organic waste, or hydrogen.
- Tetra Tech continues to identify potential sites for organic waste processing or thermal conversion facilities at old landfill sites and other sites in the County.
- Tetra Tech is conducting a Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for the Antelope Valley as required by the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use

- Permit, Condition 92. The study will include a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for application of thermal conversion technology facilities.
- Tetra Tech supported Public Works with the preparation of an application for the CalRecycle Organics Grant Program, Cycle 7 for development of a proposed anaerobic digestion facility at the Calabasas Landfill. The application was submitted on May 2, 2023, for \$5 million.
  - Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

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

Mr. Mohajer reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Sunshine Canyon Landfill Update (SCL): Regional Planning issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) for exceeding daily tonnages. Republic Services filed an appeal.
- At SCL, there were 185 odor complaints and 11 NOVs issued by the South Coast Air Quality Maintenance District (AQMD) for the month of April 2023. A total of 748 odor complaints and 29 NOVs have been received for 2023.
- SCL Vegetation update reported the mitigation requirements for tree removal has not yet been fully satisfied.
- Discussion of Finding of Conformance (FOC) Semi-annual Waste Characterization studies for all landfills: Due to CalRecycle significantly expanding their requirements, the question is if Waste Characterization studies need to be based on the total incoming waste or just a sample. Landfill operators may need to provide an analysis of what they think would be the sufficient sample size necessary to conduct the studies for consideration by the Task Force.
- The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) issued a NOV to SCL on May 17, 2023.
- Staff will forward NOVs from the Water Board and the County Regional Planning to the Task Force members.

Mr. Jordan Sisson asked when the Task Force should anticipate receiving the Waste Characterization sample analysis by the landfill operators. Mr. Mohajer clarified it would be up to the landfill operators to decide when the Waste Characterization will be submitted and for what amount of waste. Mr. Shammass commented that it takes hours to sort through one load.

Ms. Bernadette Halverson asked what the NOV issued by the Water Board to SCL was regarding. Mr. Mohajer explained it was for structural damage due to the

rainstorms and for failure to notify the Water Board of the runoff. Ms. Halverson also asked if there was a breakdown of the 748 odor complaints. Mr. Mohajer clarified the 748 odor complaints were a cumulative for the first four months of 2023.

Mr. Shammass asked if the Waste Characterization had to be brought to the Task Force or simply discussed with staff. Mr. Mohajer responded that once the Task Force approves the amount of sampling, then the FOC may need to be revised. Mr. Shammass commented that the Waste Characterization is an industry standard, and no one samples all incoming waste, which should be understood in the FOC. Discussion ensued.

## VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided the following update:

- May 19, 2023 is the last day for the Fiscal Committee to hear and report on floor bills introduced in their house.
- May 30 through June 2, 2023 will consist of floor sessions only.
- June 2, 2023 is the last day for each house to pass bills introduced in their house.
- An update was given on the Governor's May revision to his proposed \$308 Billion 2023-2024 California State Budget.

Mr. Darensbourg gave a [Legislative Update](#) for May 2023. There were 50 State bills on the [Legislative Table](#), with 3 bills on the cover page, including 5 Federal bills for consideration:

- AB 1290 (Luz Rivas): Product safety: plastic packaging: substances. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to Support, and Ms. Bernadette Halverson seconded. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Mr. Jorgel Chavez, Mr. Jeff Farano, Ms. Halverson, Mr. Mohajer, Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Mr. Shammass, Mr. Jordan Sisson, and Mr. James Smith) and one abstaining (Ms. Emiko Thompson).
- SB 615 (Allen and Min): Vehicle traction batteries. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to Support if Amended, and Mr. Chavez seconded. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Mr. Chavez, Mr. Farano, Ms. Halverson, Mr. Mohajer, Ms. Nakagawa-Ota, Mr. Shammass, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Smith) and one abstaining (Ms. Thompson).
- S. 1427, S. 1429, S. 1430, S. 1432, S. 1433 (Lummis): Resource Management PFAS Liability Protection Act of 2023. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to Support, and Mr. Sisson seconded. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Mr. Chavez,

Mr. Farano, Ms. Halverson, Mr. Mohajer, Ms. Nakagawa-Ota, Mr. Shammass, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Smith) and one abstaining (Ms. Thompson).

## **VII. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Joseph Rasmussen provided an [update](#) to the Task Force.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned CalRecycle's May 17, 2023, Recycling and Disposal Reporting System Workshop and how he was unclear on what he heard in that beneficial use is only the material that goes through the gate of a landfill and is separated and reused for daily cover or for winterizing roads. CalRecycle staff also indicated that beneficial use was not considered recyclable. Mr. Mohajer asked for a clear understanding in writing from CalRecycle of what beneficial use is as it pertains to SB 1383 and AB 939. Mr. Rasmussen responded that those terms are defined on CalRecycle's website and if Mr. Mohajer had questions specific to SB 1383, he could e-mail them so Mr. Rasmussen could forward to CalRecycle's legal team. Mr. Shammass asked that if Mr. Rasmussen found any information regarding Mr. Mohajer's inquiry, to please inform the Task Force.

Mr. Sisson announced that Los Angeles Sanitation had just issued a notice of preparation for their program environmental impact report on the Comprehensive Plastics Reduction Program. They are in the initial process, which will take months or even years to go through and wanted to inform Public Works staff since the program will impact the County.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

On behalf of Public Works, Ms. Thompson announced the Organic Waste Management Summit scheduled for May 31, 2023, at Public Works Headquarters, which will consist of jurisdictions and industry representatives discussing organics waste management and SB 1383 implementation.

Ms. Halverson announced the 2023 Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Business Meeting Conference scheduled for May 24, 2023, at the Coyote Golf Course in Fullerton, which will involve discussions on SB 1383 implementation efforts by both the City and County of Los Angeles and the current trends in the California Bottle Bill.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 1 p.m.