

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

Minutes for June 15, 2023

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities
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 Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Public Health
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works
Mark Pestrella, rep by Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, rep by Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jorgel Chavez, League of California Cities
Eddie De La Riva, League of California Cities
Jeff Farano, Sr., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Joseph Rasmussen, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, 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 1:03 p.m. by Mr. Sam Shammass.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 18, 2023 MINUTES

Mr. Christopher Sheppard made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Jordan Sisson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

- SG H2 Energy provided a [presentation](#) on their technology that uses gasification to process waste such as paper, plastic, tires, and textiles, creating renewable hydrogen.
- Tetra Tech is currently working on the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit Condition 92 Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley. 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 preparation of a grant application for CalRecycle Organics Grant Program, Cycle 7 for development of a proposed anaerobic digestion facility at the Calabasas Landfill. Application was submitted on May 2, 2023, for \$5 million. Award notifications are tentatively expected in October 2023.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming conversion technology events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

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

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported the following at the FPRS meeting:

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill Update (CCL): Two Notices of Violation (NOVs) were received by South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) on May 18 and 19, 2023, respectively.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill Update (SCL): There were 32 odor complaints made to the AQMD hotline. One NOV was issued in May. The total number of odor complaints in 2023 is 780.
- Mr. Mohajer requested an update on SCL's daily limit of incoming waste and final contour at next month's FPRS meeting.

- Staff will provide an update on landfill operators' recommendations on sample size of incoming waste to conduct the Waste Characterization study per the Finding of Conformance.
- Mr. Mohajer requested an update from Department of Regional Planning regarding the status of the revised Conditional Use Permit for CCL.
- AQMD's Assistant Chief Deputy Counsel attended the FPRS meeting in response to the Task Force's letter regarding the odors at SCL, and shared AQMD's concerns about the odors.

V. UPDATE ON ASSEMBLY BILL 557 AS AMENDED ON APRIL 29, 2023

Mr. Jonathan Brazile of County Counsel provided an update on new legislation that provides more relaxed teleconferencing provisions provided by Assembly Bill (AB) 361 that is set to sunset on January 1, 2024. The two main changes to the emergency teleconferencing provisions are: 1) proposes to only require the legislative body to make requisite finding as to the declared state of emergency every 45 days instead of the current 30 days, and 2) proposes to eliminate the January 2024 sunset date for the teleconferencing provision provided in AB 361.

AB 557 has not been signed into law, but Mr. Brazile expects the bill to pass and once it does pass, then the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors (Board) Commission Services Division will develop procedures for all County commissions to follow.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked that since there is no state of emergency now and if she was at another conference, would she be able to teleconference. Mr. Brazile responded that there is an option under AB 2449 for less serious emergencies, such as personal emergencies, but there are requirements that must be followed. For example, posting the location of where the commissioner is calling in from and the location must be accessible. Various questions related to AB 2449 were brought up and answered.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the presentation is available to the Task Force. Mr. Brazile responded he needed to add a blurb at the end of the presentation and would forward it to staff for dissemination to the Task Force.

VI. UPDATE ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AND SENATE BILL 1383 WORKSHOP

Mr. Aric Rodriguez reported that on May 23, 2023, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) conducted a public hearing, adopted a Resolution approving the Los Angeles County Revised Countywide Siting Element (Revised CSE), and instructed the Director of Public Works to submit the

Revised CSE to CalRecycle. Staff is currently finalizing the transmittal letter to CalRecycle.

Public Works is hosting a virtual meeting with jurisdictions scheduled for June 20, 2023. The primary purpose of the webinar is to present jurisdictions with tools and information so that they are prepared to submit the required Senate Bill (SB) 1383 capacity data to the County by CalRecycle's deadline of August 1, 2024.

Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of the last Disposal Reporting System Quarterly Report (Report) for landfill disposal within the County. He explained that the Report was the practice for many years pursuant to AB 939 in that all jurisdictions submit their disposal quantities to the County. Mr. Sheppard responded that his understanding is that jurisdictions are bypassing the County completely in providing their disposal quantities. They are now inputting directly into CalRecycle's Recycling and Disposal Reporting System. Therefore, the County must request the information from CalRecycle, which has significantly slowed down the County's data reporting requirements.

VII. PRESENTATION ON LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION REPORT

Mr. Rahimi provided a [presentation](#) on the draft Little Hoover Commission Report. The draft Report was finalized on June 8, 2023, after the presentation was prepared by staff and disseminated to the Task Force for mailout, but the recommendations in the final Report were the same as the draft Report.

Mr. Sheppard asked if the recommendation to exempt Counties producing less than 200,000 tons of waste was for all jurisdictions within the County or just the County's unincorporated areas. Mr. Rahimi responded that staff would double check, but that his understanding is that the threshold would be for Countywide waste.

Ms. Clark asked why the Little Hoover Commission would want to eliminate the edible food recovery requirement, which she believed would be an easy to reduce organic waste and help those in need. Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar responded that the report recommended that edible food recovery efforts requirements should apply to industrial food production rather than businesses and local government facilities.

Ms. Clark asked which other countries are doing more than California. Mr. Shammass responded that Europeans were doing more and since landfills in Europe are much more expensive, there is more emphasis to recycle.

Ms. Clark asked if compressed natural gas was considered near zero-emission for vehicles. Mr. Mohajer responded that the California Air Resources Board (CARB)

adopted a policy requiring the waste industry to use electric vehicles by 2040. Ms. Clark asked if pipeline renewable natural gas is considered zero-emission. Mr. Darensbourg responded even though renewable natural gas is net carbon negative, it is not considered zero-emission.

Mr. Sheppard mentioned that members of the waste industry expressed concerns about the Report's discussion on hydrogen. Ms. Vazifdar commented that the Report indicates that using hydrogen is not feasible for meeting the procurement strategy for 2025 due to cost, lack of infrastructure, and the potential for fugitive emissions. However, Ms. Vazifdar added that these challenges may also be applicable to other products that could be procured. Mr. Sheppard asked if the Report specified was a reasonable timeframe for hydrogen production and procurement. Ms. Vazifdar responded the recommendation was for CalRecycle, CARB and other state agencies to determine strategies to recycle organic waste, create recovered organic waste products, and incentivize procurement those products.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided the following update:

- The last day for each house to pass bills introduced in their house was on June 2, 2023.
- Policy committees started hearing bills in their house on June 5, 2023.
- Bills must pass out of their second house policy committee by July 14, 2023.
- On June 15, 2023, the Assembly and Senate approved and released their Joint Budget Proposals, AB 141 and SB 101, that are in print.

There were 56 State bills on the [Legislative Table](#), with 4 bills on the cover page, including 5 Federal bills, for consideration:

- AB 557 (Hart) – Amended on April 27, 2023: Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support, and Ms. Margaret Clark seconded. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Ms. Clark, Ms. Karen Gork, Ms. Bernadette Halverson, Mr. Mohajer, Ms. Erin Rowland, Mr. Shammass, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. James Smith), and one abstaining (Mr. Sheppard).
- AB 1550 (Bennett) – Amended on May 22, 2023: Green Hydrogen. Ms. Clark made a motion to oppose unless amended, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. Motion passed with eight voting yes (Ms. Clark, Ms. Gork, Mr. Mohajer, Ms. Rowland, Mr. Shammass, Mr. Sisson, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Halverson), and one abstaining (Mr. Sheppard).

- SB 663 (Archuleta) – Amended on May 18, 2023: California Renewables Portfolio Standard program: renewable hydrogen. Ms. Clark made a motion to oppose unless amended, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. Motion passed with seven voting yes (Ms. Clark, Ms. Gork, Ms. Halverson, Mr. Mohajer, Ms. Rowland, Mr. Shammass, and Mr. Sisson) and two abstaining (Mr. Sheppard and Mr. Smith).
- SB 707 (Newman) - Amended on May 23, 2023: Responsible Textile Recovery Act of 2023. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support if amended/oppose unless amended, and Ms. Clark seconded. Motion passed with six voting yes (Ms. Clark, Ms. Gork, Mr. Mohajer, Ms. Rowland, Mr. Shammass, and Mr. Smith) and three abstaining (Ms. Halverson, Mr. Sheppard, and Mr. Sisson).

Mr. Sisson asked what the difference was between support if amended/oppose unless amended versus oppose unless amended. Mr. Darenbourg responded that there have been situations when the position was support unless amended, and Legislators interpret it as support when the Task Force is really supporting the concept of the bill and will only support the bill if some amendments are made. Mr. Darenbourg noted that the Task Force developed the protocol rather recently. Mr. Shammass stated that the Task Force had concerns about Legislators taking support if amended as simply support and not noting the amendments.

In relation to SB 707, Ms. Rowland asked what the impact of the legislation would have on local jurisdictions, including costs, rates, and fees. Mr. Darenbourg responded that he would research to see if there is similar language in SB 707 like that in SB 54 (Allen, 2022), which said jurisdictions could pass the costs to producers that are responsible. Details of SB 707 ensued.

After voting on the four bills, Mr. Smith asked 1) what the Task Force policy was and when it was established; 2) if the policy had evolved over time and if there was a process to revise the policy; and 3) who determines if the bills align with Task Force policy. Mr. Darenbourg responded that there was a document developed and adopted by the Task Force, [2020 Priorities, Goals & Objectives Report](#), which was a high-level outline. Along with it was a [memo](#) from the Task Force Chair that was disseminated to the Task Force. Staff could provide a copy to Mr. Smith. In determining if bills are aligned with Task Force policy, Mr. Darenbourg stated it is opinion of staff who also inquires with the Task Force for feedback, as well as working with Mr. Mohajer who is the Legislative Liaison for the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer noted that a lot of legislation is driven by lobbyists. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sisson asked if the Consumer Product Safety Commission or Stormwater Association have taken any positions on these bills, which could impact staff's

consideration on amendments. Mr. Darensbourg responded that SB 707 was sponsored by the California Product Stewardship Council, who supports the Extended Producer Responsibility concept, which is why staff chose to watch the bill, but just because associations support a bill, they may not share the same interest as jurisdictions or the Task Force. Therefore, bills are scrutinized.

Mr. Sheppard addressed Mr. Smith's question regarding revising policies and said as a legislative body, the Task Force has the option to review the policies on an annual basis and discuss if updates are needed.

Ms. Rowland asked if staff could provide more information about AB 573 (Garcia) regarding organic waste and meeting SB 1383 target dates. Mr. Darensbourg responded that staff would provide information at the July meeting.

IX. CALRECYCLE UPDATE

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

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at 1 p.m.