

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

**January 18, 2024**

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  
Jim Smith, City of Los Angeles  
Jordan R. Sisson, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Robert Ferrante, rep by Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Barbara Ferrer, rep by Dee Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Wayne Nastri, rep by Philip Crabbe, III, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Mark Pestrella, rep by Miki Esposito, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Barbara Romero, rep by Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Eric Lopez, rep by Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works

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  
Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Coby Skye, Public  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Adylene Gonzalez, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Jonathan Brazile, Office of County Counsel Los Angeles County  
Ken Habaradas, Los Angeles County Public Health  
Noemi Bigarre, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Perla Gomez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jose Gutierrez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works

Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2024  
Page 2 of 9

OTHERS PRESENT (Continued):

Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Ms. Miki Esposito, who the Director of Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) designated to Chair the Task Force in his place. Ms. Esposito announced that Mr. Coby Skye was no longer with Public Works after serving nearly 25 years.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2023, MINUTES**

Mr. Sam Shammas made a motion to approve the November 16, 2023, minutes and Ms. Bernadette Halverson seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.

**III. FILL VACANT POSITION AND APPOINT CHAIR TO FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Item was carried over from the last meeting due to no nominations or volunteers. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to nominate Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens to serve as the Representative on the Subcommittee. Ms. Esposito acknowledged this motion.

Since the Task Force members requested details on what the position entails and the process to fill vacancies, Ms. Esposito moved to continue this Agenda Item for additional discussion and for staff to prepare a report on the process for filling vacancies and how to source candidates.

Mr. Mohajer amended the motion and Mr. Jim Smith seconded for staff to prepare a report for next month's Task Force meeting regarding the existing process, a recommended future process, and how to source candidates to fill the current vacancy on the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

- Harp Renewables provided a [presentation](#) on their bio digesters that convert food and other organic waste into a certified organic fertilizer within 24 hours.
- Tetra Tech provided the following update, stating that they are:
  - Preparing a Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit,

Condition 92; including a high-level review of economic, environmental and technical considerations for anaerobic digestion (AD) and thermal conversion technology (CT) facility options.

- Performing a Countywide siting analysis for the development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities within the unincorporated County areas and 88 jurisdictions in the County.
- Performing a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites investigating land availability and land use compatibility.
- Finalizing a Fact Sheet and PowerPoint presentation for the proposed Calabasas AD facility in support of community outreach.
- Preparing a Small-Scale On-Site Organic Waste Processing Management Options memo for a non-local facility in the County.
- Staff provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#).

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

Mr. Mohajer asserted his belief that due to the absence of the Task Force Chair, the Vice-Chair should run the Task Force meeting. In his opinion, an alternate for the Chair cannot run the meeting. He stated that he would only provide the report from the FPRS if asked by the Vice-Chair.

Ms. Esposito responded that he was out of order and asked if there was an alternate staff member to provide the report on the FPRS. In response, Mr. Dave Nguyen reported the following from the FPRS meeting:

- There was extended discussion about the chemical reaction at Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) and brief discussion on odors at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL).
- Concerns were expressed by Mr. Mohajer regarding the lack of information provided on the Chiquita Landfill's wells with elevated temperature. Staff will research information provided by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and Los Angeles County Public Health and will provide the information at next month's Subcommittee meeting.
- Additional concerns were expressed by Mr. Mohajer regarding the lack of agency coordination to mitigate the odor situation. Mr. Nguyen indicated that staff would research and provide the requested information at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Margaret Clark requested to hear comments from Mr. Mohajer since he was acting as the chair of the FPRS. Mr. Mohajer shared the following:

Any Task Force member may request an item to be placed on an agenda as well as request staff to disseminate respective correspondence to other Task Force members, and that staff must comply with the request. He further indicated that he sent an e-mail to staff on January 3, 2024, requesting the following agenda items that both the Task Force and FPRS agendas did not include:

- Temperature readings and oxygen levels at the extraction wells at CCL for the last six months.
- Temperature readings and oxygen levels at the extraction wells at SCL for the last six months.

Mr. Mohajer also noted the following discussions at the FPRS meeting:

- SCL's odor complaints in 2018 averaging approximately 1,790 for the year, and that AQMD issued an odor for abatement, which implemented an expanded landfill gas system that reduced odor complaints.
- Status Update on Environmental Measures at SCL and Finding of Conformance Reports were postponed due to time constraint.

Mr. Mohajer then made a motion and Ms. Clark seconded for the Task Force to send a letter to AQMD, requesting that they investigate the increased odor complaints at SCL and to consider issuing another Order for Abatement, similar to the one in 2018. Motion failed to pass with three voting no, two voting yes, and five abstaining.

Ms. Esposito cautioned that the Board of Supervisors (Board) has not taken an official position on whether the Task Force should be sending letters to AQMD and reminded everyone that the Task Force is an advisory body to the Board.

## **VI. SCHEDULING OF BROWN ACT TRAINING**

Mr. Jonathan Brazile of County Counsel informed the Task Force that in preparation for this year's upcoming meetings, there will be two Brown Act trainings scheduled for commissioners to assist with running meetings and to make certain the commission is complying with Brown Act requirements. Trainings will be held online and are aimed to be scheduled before the next Task Force meeting. In-person trainings can also be arranged if there is interest.

Ms. Clark asked if the training was required by all Task Force members and if proof of training is to be provided. Mr. Brazile responded it was required if commissioners have not had the training and does know if proof is necessary but would look into and noted he was open for discussion offline.

## **VII. REVIEW OF TASK FORCE PRIORTIES**

Ms. Genevieve Osmena proposed an update to the Task Force [2020 Priorities, Goals & Objectives Report](#) (Report) by either developing an ad hoc subcommittee or having Public Works staff update. The Report was established in 2019 by an ad hoc committee composed of Task Force members.

Mr. Sisson expressed his delight with what would be a refresher of Task Force responsibilities. Mr. Sisson believed it was worth reviewing and that County Code 3.67 may show where the Task Force stands on those objectives. He would also be delighted to see procedures since a variety of questions have been raised recently about how to take action and who takes action, and a revised Report may resolve those issues.

Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Mohajer for Public Works staff to review the existing Report and to utilize track changes, and to present at next month's Task Force meeting. Ms. Rowland amended the motion to include staff recommendations not already in the Report. Motion with amendment passed unanimously.

## **VIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Charles Darensbourg reported the following:

- The Legislature reconvened on January 3, 2024.
- January 19, 2024, is the last day to submit bill requests to the Office of Legislative Counsel and have until February 16, 2024, to introduce bills for this session.
- Any bills from last year that are still in the first house, must be passed from the first house floor by January 31, 2024.
- On January 10, 2024, the Governor released his budget proposal, projecting a very large deficit of \$38 billion much less than the \$68 billion deficit projected by the Legislative Analyst.
- The Governor is proposing to use some of the state revenues, delay some expenditures, and cut some or reduce many programs.

- Currently, there are no proposed cuts to Senate Bill (SB) 1383 infrastructure or local government assistance funding.
- This budget proposal kicks off a multi-month budget negotiation between the Governor and the Legislature. We should see the Legislature's budget proposals in the coming months.
- As a reminder, the Legislature needs to pass a budget by June 15, 2024.
- Staff will provide additional budget details at a future Task Force meeting.

With changes to the legislative review, Mr. Sisson asked if the Task Force will continue receiving a list of bills (Legislative Table) on a regular basis. He also indicated being very mindful of [County Code 3.67.080](#), and noted that Subsection G states that one of the Task Force's responsibilities is to monitor, analyze, and review legislative bills. Taking positions is not included, but plain language does say monitor, analyze, and review. Mr. Sisson expressed his hope that the process of providing the Legislative Table continues. Mr. Darensbourg responded that the Legislative Table could be provided in February.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the Legislative Table is an important item to the Task Force and indicated he requested staff to include Assembly Bill (AB) 817 on the agenda, which addresses teleconference, but that Public Works Management decided not to include it, disregarding all his requests as a member of the Task Force. Ms. Clark asked why AB 817 was not placed on the agenda and asked if the Task Force was allowed to place items on it. Ms. Osmena explained that the AB 817 request was not clear since the request included an amendment date in 2013, and staff saw a bill related to elections. Upon further review, staff found a bill that was amended in March 2023. Mr. Mohajer stated that he specifically asked for AB 817, last amended March 23, and that the bill was now out of the committee. Ms. Osmena responded that the Task Force must go through the Chief Executive Office process, and that the Board took a support position on AB 817. She indicated that staff would investigate the details of the bill. In response to Ms. Clark's inquiry on when the Board took the support position, Ms. Osmena responded December 19, 2023. Ms. Clark also asked if staff needed clarification on Mr. Mohajer's request, why did staff not just call him. Ms. Osmena responded that staff tried to get clarification. Mr. Mohajer commented that his issue as a member of the Task Force is that he requested a couple of items be included on the agenda, and suddenly after the many years of being on the Task Force, staff at the direction of Public Works Management, decided not to put his requested items on the agenda, nor would his request to staff to disseminate correspondence to Task Force members be done. Ms. Esposito responded they were moving beyond the scope of the agenda item.

Ms. Esposito asked Ms. Osmena to follow up with a report on what happened between the communications with Mr. Mohajer and staff.

During the public comment period for this item, Mr. Hunter commented that this meeting was getting very contentious. He looked up Robert's Rules which states if the Chairperson is absent, the Alternate takes over the meeting. If the Vice-Chair arrives late, the Alternate continues to preside over the meeting until the Chairperson or Vice-Chair arrives. Mr. Hunter believes this is the point that Mr. Mohajer was making. Also based on what the County authored about any sitting commissioner may suggest agenda items, he believed that the meeting was not being conducted properly.

#### **IX. CALRECYCLE'S ADOPTION OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT (CSE)**

Mr. Aric Rodriguez reported the following:

- At CalRecycle's monthly meeting on November 21, 2023, CalRecycle approved the Revised CSE that was approved by the County and the majority of cities within the County which contain the majority of the population in the incorporated areas of the County.
- The Revised CSE will replace the existing CSE that was approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board in 1988.
- Public Works will notify each of the cities via letter and e-mail of CalRecycle's approval of the Revised CSE and will provide a link to the approved document.

On behalf of Public Works, Mr. Rodriguez thanked the Task Force and FPRS for their efforts, direction, dedication, review, process, and approval of the Revised CSE. Mr. Sisson also gave kudos to Mr. Mohajer on his efforts in the FPRS, which is a big part of this legislative body, and thanked him personally for his leadership.

#### **X. CALRECYCLE UPDATE**

Adylene Gonzalez provided an [update](#) to the Task Force.

Ms. Clark asked for a summation on how the cities are complying with SB 1383. Ms. Gonzalez responded that there is a requirement in SB 1383 for contamination container monitoring and jurisdictions must do route reviews or waste evaluations. However, most jurisdictions' haulers are doing route reviews yearly for routes that have more than two-three containers, which entail manually looking into the

containers to make certain they are being used properly. Containers are chosen randomly, and enforcement varies by jurisdiction. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo asked if there was a high diversion facility in California. Ms. Gonzalez responded that there are and that CalRecycle is working on a list of facilities since many jurisdictions are asking. Meanwhile, CalRecycle has the Recycling and Disposal Reporting System online, which shows the diversion for each facility in the state. Ms. Gonzalez will provide an update next month on the accreditation of facilities. Discussion ensued.

## **XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Sisson made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Rowland for County Counsel to provide a report regarding Robert's Rules of Order vs. [County Code 3.67.060](#), clarification of officers who run the meeting (Chair, Alternate Chair, Vice-Chair), and which determines the precedence for meetings, and to present at next month's Task Force meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hunter commented that at the SCL-Community Advisory Committee meetings, they have an expert on Robert's Rule present, so questions are deferred to her on those issues. He suggested perhaps the County could have such a representative at Task Force meetings.

Lastly, Mr. Mohajer mentioned his e-mail communication with the Board and Mr. Brazile regarding determination of legislation authority that was sent last month to be distributed to Task Force members, which he stated was not. Staff notified Mr. Mohajer his e-mail was included in the January mailout to the Task Force and linked in the November 2023 Task Force minutes. Mr. Mohajer noted submitting a subsequent [e-mail](#) to Mr. Brazile that morning, January 18, 2024, at 3:37 a.m., and for staff to disseminate to the Task Force. He wanted to make certain the e-mail would be disseminated to the Task Force. Ms. Esposito responded that staff would make certain it would be in the mailout packet and that the Task Force would receive the information.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 1 p.m.