

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste
Management Task Force

Minutes of February 18, 2021

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

WEB CONFERENCE

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Nick Morell, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
Kimberly Nilsson, Solid Waste Solutions
Dorcus (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Public Health
Vanessa Olivas, Los Angeles County Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Chanel Kincaid, City of Santa Monica
Teri Muse, Waste Management
Angela Williams, City of Inglewood
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Sarah Michael, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mike Mohajer called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2020 meeting was made by Mr. Nick Morell and seconded by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed unanimously.

III. NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

The following articles were provided to the Subcommittee for review:

- Los Angeles County Exclusive Commercial Franchise
- Public Works Food Waste Recycling Initiative
- Infrastructure LA
- Governor Newsom Appoints New CalRecycle Director
- Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future
- Senate Bill 1383 Regulations Update
- Statewide Recycling Commission
- Update to City of Long Beach Curbside Recycling Program
- Waste Management & Anaergia Sun Valley Facility

Mr. Mohajer began by stating that there is a total of nine articles for review, the first of which being the Los Angeles County Exclusive Commercial Franchise article. Mr. Morell suggested a verbiage change to the article to clarify that the franchise system would provide "high quality standardized services for trash recycling." Both Mr. Morell and Mr. Mohajer stated that there was a portion of the article concerning a Public Works December 2020 workshop that required an update.

While discussing the Public Works Food Waste Recycling Initiative article, Mr. Morell suggested a number of changes for clarity and updates to make the article current. Staff acknowledged these changes and based on consensus of the Subcommittee, modifications to the article would be made.

There were no supplemental comments while discussing the Infrastructure LA article. The Subcommittee moved on to discuss the next article, Governor Newsom Appoints New CalRecycle Director. Mr. Morell provided a few comments on verbiage and punctuation in the second paragraph of the article.

In discussing the Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future article, Mr. Morell wanted to confirm if the Roadmap had already been taken to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Vanessa Olivas responded that it has not and that there is no concrete date yet; however, a date would be included in the article if there were further developments before publishing.

While discussing the Senate Bill 1383 Regulations Update article, Mr. Mohajer stated that there was a letter sent to CalRecycle by the Task Force several weeks ago. Mr. Mohajer added that if CalRecycle responded to the mentioned letter, there would be a need to edit the article. Mr. Morell commented that most of his edits have already been incorporated in the article and suggested a minor verbiage change in the second paragraph.

The Subcommittee moved on to review the Statewide Recycling Commission article. Mr. Morell stated he agreed with the edits that have already been made and suggested a verbiage change in the second to last paragraph of the article for clarity. Mr. Mohajer agreed with the change and provided an expanded change. There were no supplemental comments while discussing the Updates to City of Long Beach Curbside Recycling Program and the Subcommittee agreed to publish as submitted by the City of Long Beach.

The Subcommittee then reviewed the final article, Waste Management & Anaergia Sun Valley Facility written by Waste Management. Mr. Mohajer noted that there was a portion of the article that required clarification from Waste Management regarding using County or Los Angeles. Ms. Dee Lugo also added editorial comments on rewording a few sentences for clarity. Mr. Mohajer then added a few comments regarding clarity of the article and whether the facility was located in Sun Valley or Rialto. Mr. Morell agreed. Ms. Kimberly Nilsson also noted that there should be some edits to make the article current. Ms. Carol Oyola, stated that staff to the Task Force will reach out to Mr. Kevin Mattson of Waste Management for updates and edits to the article.

In discussing additional articles to be written, Mr. Mohajer requested that staff conduct a telephone survey of jurisdictions in Los Angeles County to see if there has been any impact to waste haulers operations due to COVID-19. Ms. Carol Oyola confirmed it will be brought up to staff and provided updates to several articles that are in progress: EPR Article, New Commercial Franchise Fellows, RMDZ, Buy Nothing program, and AB 1826 by staff and CalRecycle.

IV. CHAIR REPORT ON TASK FORCE ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Mohajer gave an update on items from the previous Task Force meeting. The Task Force had a presentation on the questions and comments that were submitted to CalRecycle in reference in Senate Bill 1383. Mr. Mohajer explained that due to a lack of response from CalRecycle, there was a letter sent from the Task Force to CalRecycle that stated that the Task Force would like to receive a response from CalRecycle in reference to the questions submitted. The Task Force also submitted a letter in support of Assembly Bill 323, as well as a letter to the Department of Food and Agriculture inquiring about contaminated green materials or organics that may go from one jurisdiction to another and what the state is doing to ensure the contaminants remain in the particular regions.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled remotely on Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 9 a.m.