

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE & LOCAL TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

October 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Michael Geyer, Joshua Mann, Maxwell Goossen, Orchel Krier, Ken Weir, and Tim Prado

Committee Members Not Present

Phillip Peters, Leticia Perez, Cathy Prout, Eric Arias, and David Couch

Agenda Item #1: Welcome & Rollcall

The Chairman, Mr. Michael Geyer, welcomed all members and guest present.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of Minutes

MOTION: *Approve minutes for the meeting held on December 10, 2021.*

Motion stated by Ken Weir; seconded by Max Goossen. Motion was unopposed.

Agenda Item #3: Hauler Update – Ms. Lisa Shreder

Ms. Lisa Shreder, Public Works Manager, provided an update on the current negotiations with all franchise haulers. The restated agreements are still in process, undergoing review and awaiting appropriate approvals. The agreements have been updated to reflect SB 1383 requirements and upcoming rates have not been finalized. The next meeting with franchise haulers is scheduled for October 26th. An amendment is in place with the Metro Bakersfield haulers, so if anything should occur, the County would be able to proceed with utilizing them. Public Works is currently looking into implementing the commercial portion of SB 1383 by January 1st instead of July 1st. This will be discussed with the metro haulers to hopefully accomplish commercial implementation effective January 1st. Also, SB 1383 is requiring additional areas of the County to be part of Universal Collection, which will cause a reorganization of current UCAs and will need to be established to get everything implemented by July 1, 2023.

Chairman Geyer asked if there are any graphics available to show the current UCAs and what the expansion will look like. Vice-Chair Mann stated it would be a good idea to review what the UCA is and what it looks like. Ms. Shreder stated a presentation consisting of this information will be done at the next meeting.

Agenda Item #4: Illegal Dumping Update – Ms. Lisa Shreder

Ms. Shreder stated there are currently two County crews approved, unfortunately individuals have left the County for better opportunities leaving only one active crew. However, interviews will be occurring the week of the 10th and there are plans to hire four individuals. In the meantime, Public Works is utilizing contractors to clean certain areas. ARPA funding totaling \$500,000 and supplemented with \$500,000 from the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund through the Land Use Fee increase is currently being used to provide three crews with the Open Door Network.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE & LOCAL TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

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Agenda Item #4: Illegal Dumping Update – Ms. Lisa Shreder (Cont'd)

These crews have been active since the middle of August, covering 240 miles so far. Current year totals for the R.A.P.I.D. crew: 4,067 dump sites cleaned, 884 mattresses, and 875.7 tons, with a monthly average of 97 tons. We have also cleared up 378 encampments. The Bulky Waste Program has held 11 events so far this year, gathering a total of 72.4 tons. These are done in conjunction with the participating haulers of the area. Events have occurred in Bakersfield, Taft, Lamont, Mojave, Lost Hills, Delano, Lake Isabella, Frazier Park, Ridgecrest, Wofford Heights, and Buttonwillow. There is one scheduled for tomorrow, October 8th in Bakersfield, at three locations: Roberts Lane, Kern Medical and the Fairgrounds. Ms. Shreder also thanked all the haulers for participating in these events as the department and the public truly appreciates it. Mr. Goossen announced that Westside Waste will also be holding an event this weekend in Maricopa. Lastly, Ms. Shreder stated there are also two upcoming department events, one in Shafter on the 15th and one in Rosamond on November 5th.

Mr. Prado stated a resident of Lamont wanted to know how they should deal with trash cans damaged by hauler vehicles. Ms. Shreder responded stating any trash cans damaged by hauler vehicles will be replaced by the hauler, free of charge. However, if the resident damages the trash can themselves, the first time is free, any damages afterwards will be the resident's responsibility.

Mr. Weir - How many clean-up crews does the department currently have for the whole county? How long does it take a crew to respond? Are there additional plans to expand the illegal dumping crew?

Ms. Shreder – Absent the vacancies, the County has two crews, plus the three crews from the Open Door Network, and independent contractors who are hired on occasion. A total of five crews is what we should generally have, for the whole county. We are intending to have three more department crews of four people; however, these cannot be filled currently due to the lack of availability of trucks. The moment we do have available trucks, we will hire the remaining crews that the department is approved for. Depending on the location, however, if it is an urgent matter, we can have a crew there on the same day. The public can contact the department in several ways, phone numbers and a work order form can be found on the website. Once reported a crew will respond to the location, generally within a week or sometimes even sooner. There are not additional plans to expand, other than the three crews the County is currently waiting to hire.

Mr. Weir – Do the crews take care of all the rubbish and houses/settlements?

Ms. Shreder – The County crews work within the unincorporated areas of the County. Each City has their own programs for dealing with illegal dumping within their limits. In addition, the County has an agreement with all the Cities, in which the County provides funds to do so.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE & LOCAL TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

October 7, 2022

Agenda Item #4: Illegal Dumping Update – Ms. Lisa Shreder (Cont'd)

Mr. Geyer – How do you get people to stop illegal dumping, is it an Outreach, Education, or a Marketing issue?

Ms. Shreder – The State has an Illegal Dumping Task Force, and they have the three E's of how to prevent illegal dumping: Eradication, Enforcement & Education. Perhaps we need to focus on or spend more money on Outreach and inform residents there are other options. There are signs in places like Alfred Harrell Hwy & Camino Grande informing people not to illegally dump and where they can take their waste with the operational hours of sites, yet there are still piles of trash around the signs, so maybe more education can help.

Mr. Geyer – How is the participation at the Bulky Waste events, is there very good participation?

Ms. Shreder – Yes, for the four hours that we are open there is a continuous stream of customers. The big ones are the events in Bakersfield, especially at the Fairgrounds location.

Agenda Item #5: Landfills Update – Ms. Lisa Shreder

The disposal rates at each facility continues to track at or above levels that we saw during the COVID shutdown, resulting in continued longer queue wait times. At Bena we are trying to resolve this by opening split dumping pad options to allow for more vehicles dumping at once. So far it seems to be effective, however, some customers are still frustrated due to wait times. Increased disposal rates are accelerating new modular cell and closure timelines. Construction of a new cell at Taft will begin in January 2023 and closure of Tehachapi is now in the initial design permitting phase. Unusually high levels of certain materials have been disposed recently due to the high temperatures last month. We saw a large increase in animal remains, chickens and cow carcasses. Due to the approval of several solar projects in East Kern, C & D has jumped considerably and will continue to do so. Lastly, an RFP is being drafted right now for the sale of beneficial reuse of the landfill gas at Bena. The County did have a prior agreement with Bena Power Producers but that one went to the wayside. We still have a desire to put it to a beneficial use and are looking forward to seeing what is proposed. We are hoping for the RFP to go out before the end of the calendar year. This is planned to be done at the other sites using flares once Bena's is up and running.

Mr. Geyer – Do you know how many cubic feet a day Bena is producing? Is it over a million cubic feet a day?

Ms. Shreder – Staff measures in standard cubic feet per minute. Mr. Fontes did not provide that number. From the last time I calculated it, I believe it was slightly less than a million in a day.

Mr. Geyer – That's usually, in my understanding, the threshold where it really makes it advantageous to hook it to the grid, but things may have changed.

Ms. Shreder – The department is not looking to convert it into electric energy, but there's other ways, like putting it down a pipeline to get it like the Mojave pipeline.

Mr. Geyer – For industrial use, hopefully that works out. I'm going to call a couple of the folks I know to say get this RFP because that's a good energy source.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE & LOCAL TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

October 7, 2022

Agenda Item #6: SB 1383 Update – Tony Bonanno

Mr. Bonanno stated they have started working with Tier 1 generators to check if they are running their programs properly. Also, there seems to be a misunderstanding about self-certifications, you can only self-certify for the MCR/MORE programs. However, there is a waiver system in place for SB 1383, which can be found on our website. The department's corrective action plan is still being reviewed by CalRecycle. We're under the notice of intent to comply and part of that is to have a corrective action plan. Like Lisa mentioned earlier, we are planning to have the rollout by July 1, 2023. The goal is to get the commercial entities in place beforehand in order to show progress on our corrective action plan.

Mr. Goossen – Does the January date, if it is missed, become July 1?

Mr. Bonanno – It is set for July, but we are aiming for January. We want to show progress with the rollout, so we would try to still start early.

Mr. Krier – Is there anything Sherry, with Labor of the Harvest, can go through to get funding to keep the program running?

Mr. Bonanno – Our suggestion was because the regulation is generator driven, in this case, they have to comply and find a food recovery network. They should be able to articulate that they are complying and also saving on behalf of.

Agenda Item #7: Cities Issues

None

Agenda Item #8: Public Comments

None

Agenda Item #9: Committee Member Comments

Mr. Mann mentioned he attended a meeting last month in the City of Ridgecrest as part of their rollout and education for SB 1383. He stated that it was quickly understood that the County should have been invited to the meeting to address several concerns of the residents. Those concerns being access to the Ridgecrest landfill and the changes to the Land Use Fee. Mr. Mann concluded by stating that the meeting overall was very positive, and the City of Ridgecrest is ready to roll out their curbside collection of organics starting January 1st.

Mr. Geyer is concerned with the health of the enterprise fund. He requests at the next meeting to have a simple spreadsheet showing revenue coming in from the land use fee, expenditures going out, and how much on an annual basis there should be in reserves. Mr. Geyer is concerned with the status of the reserves based on information from a couple of meetings ago. He'd like to see a spreadsheet containing the last 15 years with three graphs to show income, expenses, and the difference.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE & LOCAL TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES (CONTINUED)

October 7, 2022

Agenda Item #9: Committee Member Comments (cont'd)

Mr. Geyer's second concern is with the non-disposal facility element (NDFE) that was amended in February 2020. He does not recall this item being presented to the committee or the Local Task Force for their review. Dave Lee, Waste Management Supervisor for the department stated that the State changed their regulations on approvals for the NDFE to simplify the process on updating documents. Lastly, Mr. Geyer's final concern is with Ordinance G-9091, which was submitted by Public Works on March 1st as a consent agenda item. He stated there have been huge changes to the ordinance, the definitions have been highly modified, and specifications have been modified. Mr. Geyer stated the only people to review it was County Counsel. He requests that when substantive items like this, that require the LTF to advise the Board of Supervisors, the committee needs to have the documents for their review. Mr. Geyer would like to call for a Special Meeting to be held in the middle of November so that County Counsel can explain to the committee why they were the only one to review these huge changes to the ordinance.

Agenda Item #10: Adjourning of the October 7, 2022 Meeting

MOTION: *Adjourn meeting.*

Motion stated by Ken Weir; seconded by Tim Prado. Committee unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Next Meeting:

December 2, 2022 | 10:00 A.M. | PSB Public Meeting Room