

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE & LOCAL TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Michael Geyer, Joshua Mann, Maxwell Goossen, Orchel Krier, and Jacob Panero

Committee Members Not Present

Phillip Peters, Leticia Perez, Ken Weir, Tim Prado, Cathy Prout, Eric Arias, and David Couch

Agenda Item #1: Welcome & Rollcall

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

Mr. Geyer stated that the items for board member and public comments were removed from the agenda.

MOTION: *Add two items to the agenda for comments from board members and the public.*

Motion stated by Josh Mann; seconded by Max Goossen. Motion was unopposed.

Agenda Item #2: Introductions: New Member & County Staff – Chairman Geyer

Chairman Geyer introduced new committee board member, Jacob Panero, who will be representing the Metro-Bakersfield Franchise Haulers.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of Minutes

Mr. Geyer stated he appreciates staff's correction of the October 7th meeting minutes.

MOTION: *Approve minutes for the meeting held on October 7, 2022.*

Motion stated by Max Goossen; seconded by Orchel Krier. Motion was unopposed.

Mr. Geyer noted that at the October 7th meeting, item number 9, he requested, because of his concerns for the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (SWEF), a report on income, expenses, and the reserves. He stated we are six months later and asked if it is possible to move forward on that. Ms. Shreder stated there isn't a report ready for today, she thought Mr. Geyer would be making a report to discuss at some point. Mr. Geyer stated he does not know the status of the reserves; it was a request to staff and the report is outstanding. He further stated that the reserves and the SWEF are important because the State and EPA require us to have reserves to close our solid waste facilities, so he wants to make sure that fund stays healthy. Ms. Shreder responded stating at the next meeting, they can present information on the reserves. Mr. Geyer stated his question was on income, expenses, and reserves then thanked staff.

Mr. Geyer stated he noticed three omissions from the December 2nd minutes. He stated there was no mention of the beginning of the meeting where he discussed the omissions on the October 7th minutes. Secondly, on item number two, regarding Mr. Phill Hall's comment on conflict of interest in the committee, Mr. Geyer recalls Phill making a hypothetical that if there was a conflict of interest, that Mr. Josh Mann of Waste Management would be one that may not be able to sit on this committee or local task force. Mr. Geyer would like the minutes to be corrected to reflect what Mr. Hall said.

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

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Agenda Item #3: Approval of Minutes (cont'd)

The third item, agenda item number 3, Mr. Geyer stated there was a discussion about contaminated waste, red tagging, and residents having to potentially pay to have it fixed. He then had asked does code enforcement get involved, in which he thinks the response was yes and then the conversation went down a path of trash cops. As trash cops are a sore spot of the committee, Mr. Geyer stated he'd like that accurately reflected in agenda item number three, as having at least talked about code enforcement getting involved if contamination was found in people's trash.

Agenda Item #4: Discussion of Public Works Staff – Ms. Lisa Shreder

Ms. Shreder addressed Mr. Geyer's concerns expressed via email to the department, in which he stated he was concerned about a succession plan, the expertise of the staff, and the skill levels of the staff. Mr. Geyer thought Mr. Doug Landon had made a succession plan, however, department staff contacted Mr. Landon and he stated there was never a formal succession plan, there were some talks about making one at some point, but there was nothing ever officially done. Nevertheless, Ms. Shreder did want to make sure that staff was introduced to give some background so that everyone is aware of what the experience level of the staff is, what their experiences have been, and how long they have been here. Ms. Shreder started out by stating she has been named the Assistant Director of Public Works for the Solid Waste Division. She replaced Mrs. Lynn Brooks, although Mrs. Brooks had a slightly different organization than what Ms. Shreder has, she is solely responsible for solid waste. Ms. Shreder had 37 years with Chevron Corporation and is a Petroleum Engineer by degree. She managed large scale operations, people, management, production in both domestic and international operations. She retired from Chevron in 2017 and came to the County at the end of 2017. She has been with the County now, a little over 5 years, in that time she was hired as a Public Works Manager and oversaw the Landfill Operations group. She is SWANA certified as a MOLO, manager of landfill operations. She then moved on to oversee the groups for Reporting and Environmental, Diversion, Transfer Stations, nearly every group except for gatehouse staff. In her most recent position, she was the franchise hauler liaison, and that position has now been turned over to Michael.

Tony Bonanno has a BS degree in Mathematics and has 41 years of experience in managing and handling solid, liquid, and hazardous waste. He worked 19 years for an environmental laboratory as an analyst and has 18 years in the Waste Management and Public Works Departments as a waste management specialist. He has been responsible for recycling program implementation, transfer station operations, wastewater programs, wastewater lab director, diversionary administration, and development. He is also certified as a manager of transfer operations. Mr. Bonanno initiated the electronic waste recycling program, works with the following programs: countywide treated wood waste, waste acceptance, and drop-off recycling. He has conducted reporting of disposal and recycling to CalRecycle. He is the state liaison regarding all the department's regulatory compliance and handles environmental issues. Currently he has the gatehouse, permitting, burn dumps, and regulatory reporting sections. He has been a grant writer; CalRecycle electronic waste recycling, Department of Conservation grants, State Water Resources Board.

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

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Agenda Item #4: Discussion of Public Works Staff – Ms. Lisa Shreder (cont'd)

Mr. Bonanno handles all sorts of special projects including some landfill traffic queue studies, Caliente Creek stormwater mitigation, Kern County organics recycling, composting, capacity study, disaster degree manual and waste aide-tech promotional guidelines and process improvement team projects. His staff, he has Dave Lee and Christine Williamson here, who both have substantial amount of years with the department. Dave has 21 years and Christine has almost 20 years.

Mr. Chuck Magee has been with the County now for nearly 33 years. He started with Environmental Health as a landfill and transfer station inspector. He came to the Waste Management Department as a Waste Aide to work in the hazardous waste exclusion program. He then moved into the diversion and recycling programs and transfer station operations as a waste technician. He promoted to a specialist working in the regulatory, compliance, and permitting section. From there he moved to the operations of diversion and transfer stations. He set up several diversion programs and started the operations with the county staff at many of the facilities and all the transfer stations and became a Public Works Manager. He has an associate degree in Business Management from the University of South Carolina, a bachelor's degree in Geology from Cal State, and a graduate certificate in Hydrogeology from Cal State. He is certified through the University of Wisconsin as a solid waste operator and has SWANA certifications as a landfill technical associate, transfer station manager, and completion of hazardous waste screening at municipal solid waste landfills. Mr. Magee also has 40-hour compost facility operator training through the US Composting Council, 40-hour hazmat training, DOT hazardous waste manifest training, and federal asbestos registered environmental assessor training. Along with the aforementioned certifications and trainings, Mr. Magee also has a slew of equipment certifications such as forklift, heavy equipment operations, and commercial vehicles. He participates in SWANA's Central Sierra Section on their board of directors, as well as on their legislative task force, evaluating regulations. Lastly, Mr. Magee handles various programs, including millions of dollars' worth of grants.

Mr. Brandon Fontes graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering, he has licensed professional engineering standing in California. Prior to the County, he worked at various jobs which gave him substantial expertise in hydrology and stormwater management. He ran the design and construction division of a local water agency and oversaw the operations of their water delivery systems, groundwater banking, and groundwater monitoring sections. He was also responsible for constructing some of the new canals, both ditch and pipeline. Mr. Fontes has been with the County for nearly 10 years. He began with the Waste Management Department and has expertise in several different areas within design and construction, overseeing the design of three of the current modules liners and a fourth one is coming up in Taft. Additionally, he has expertise in road design, transportation, engineering, and traffic management. Mr. Fontes stated he has an excellent team that he works with, who he depends on. One of his staff members, Terence Dozier, was present and stated he has 21 years with the County. Mr. Fontes has other staff members who have been with the County anywhere from six months up to 25 years. They have experience in landfill management and oversee the active contracts and operation of all the landfills.

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

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Agenda Item #4: Discussion of Public Works Staff – Ms. Lisa Shreder (cont'd)

Mr. Fontes currently manages the landfills in the County and also has a team of science personnel who work with the landfill gas and groundwater for both active and closed landfills. This group of staff has extensive experience ranging from a few years to 32 years with the County and have several certifications. Mr. Fontes mentioned he also is MOLO certified and has additional credentials. He ended by stating one of the group's accomplishments he would like to mention is that all the landfills are currently in compliance with the rules, regulations, and permits.

Mr. Michael Dillenbeck introduced himself as a Public Works Manager who has recently returned to the waste division. He worked in waste management operations when it was a department and now in Public Works. He has 16 years of experience with the County, of which he has 11 years' experience in waste operations, specifically in regulatory compliance, landfill permitting, environmental regulations and compliance. He worked with the air board on their rules regarding composting operations and worked on the environmental impact reports for landfill expansions. He also has extensive experience in community education and outreach. He then moved over to the roads and transportation division where he developed experience with contract administration, public policy, and project management. A few of his staff members he mentioned are Dee Benson with 28 years' experience, Eric Campbell with 28 years' experience, and Denise Saucedo with 18 years' experience, who is in charge of the special waste operations.

Ms. Shreder stated while she does not have the depth of experience with the County that her direct reports do, she is really good at leveraging what she considers to be a group of subject matter experts. She mentioned that Mr. Geyer also asked what the department is doing to replace the current director leaving, Mr. Samuel Lux. She stated the department does not get to pick the next director, that is solely a decision for the Board of Supervisors, although, she does believe Mr. Lux made some recommendations to the Board. This will be an agenda item for the Board, next Tuesday (March 14th) in their closed session.

Mr. Geyer thanked Lisa for the staff presentation and stated he appreciated what was done. He also stated for those who are newer and may not recognize what the Waste Management Department was in the past, they were led by professional engineers in the leadership roles as director and had professional geologists and engineers. He said in 2015-2016 there was a reorganization where Waste Management was integrated into Public Works and there were 5-6 people who left the County's employment at that time, which led him to wonder where the backfill in the professional staff is. When he heard Sam Lux had tendered his resignation, Mr. Geyer stated he reached out to Lisa and asked where the leadership is, where are we going, and where is the expertise to run the waste management program. He again thanked Lisa and stated she has a team with some breadth and that is why he asked for this presentation.

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Agenda Item #5: Rate Setting Process – Mr. Michael Dillenbeck

Mr. Dillenbeck stated the department is currently working on updating the rate setting process. The gate fee and bin fee rates are being set and the informational documents will be mailed out no later than March 17th. The public hearing for this item is schedule for the Board of Supervisor's meeting on March 28th. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the rates are set to advance on July 1, 2023. For the hauler rate increases, Mr. Dillenbeck stated the mailers will be sent out to affected property owners between March 28th and April 4th. At the March 28th Board meeting, we will be setting the public hearing for May 23rd. In April and May, we will be conducting public information meetings around Kern County. The non-changing rates are the Hauler Admin Fee, as well as the Randsburg and Keene Alternate Collection Areas. Those are anticipated to go to the Board of Supervisors on May 23rd for a public hearing. Although there is no change, we still have to take these items to the Board and those unchanged rates will be effective July 1, 2023.

Mr. Jacob Panero noted that with the hauler rate setting, in order for the haulers to rollout their programs, they will need to have the containers in-hand to all customers by July 1st. He also asked if there were any comments on the timing of ordering containers. Ms. Shreder addressed this, stating the rates have a Prop 218 process, which is a process that takes a lot of time because there is a requirement to give the public 45 days from the public hearing. Therefore, May 23rd is the soonest date that can be done for the hearing. Mr. Panero stated he understands that, and the public information meetings have to happen, he wanted to ensure that all haulers are prepared for the program on July 1st with the containers.

Mr. Josh Mann stated that he has had discussions with Lisa about the public meetings and for those taking place in the areas that Waste Management service, he will be in attendance to address the rates going up, the additional services to be provided, and why we are having to go down this road. He also stated that we are all working together collectively to try and make this work for the better of the community.

Agenda Item #6: Receive City of Bakersfield Non-Disposal Facility Element Update – Mr. Barnes

Mr. Kevin Barnes gave a brief background of his history, working with the City of Bakersfield for 25 years in their Solid Waste Division. He has been retired from there for 3 years now. He is currently consulting for the City of Bakersfield and is here today to represent them and present on the non-disposal facility element update. Mr. Barnes stated the document is very minor, its purpose is to make sure that all the regional planning considerations have been made before solid waste permits are issued or concurred with CalRecycle. He stated he is working on the City's two solid waste permits; one is in regard to the Mount Vernon Facility and the other is regarding the City's Material Recovery Facility (MRF) on South Union Avenue. For the Mount Vernon Facility, they will be adding the refuse transfer function to it. He stated the City had to do temporary refuse transfer during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has now since ceased. However, he says if you went back 30 years, the original plan for the facility was for a transfer station when needed and the City sees that time approaching. Moreover, he said this is simply a routine update on the facility permit.

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Agenda Item #6: Receive City of Bakersfield Non-Disposal Facility Element Update – Mr. Barnes (cont'd)

Also, at the Mt. Vernon Facility, they've added new definitions for food waste and regulatory requirements for SB 1383 that will be worded into the permit.

Secondly, for the MRF, he stated it is being permitted as a solid waste facility as a technicality due to the way things have evolved. The facility begun 15 or 20 years ago as a strictly clean recycling facility, and at that time, the blue cart services in the Metro-Bakersfield area were volunteer paid subscription with less than 1% residual. However, he stated a technicality in the CalRecycle rules is that if a MRF has over 1% residual of reject material, it is now deemed a solid waste facility. Furthermore, Mr. Barnes stated with the evolution of universal blue cart in the Metro area, the reject contamination rate has exceeded 10%. Therefore, the City looked this over last year and questioned whether new permit paperwork was needed, so that is what Mr. Barnes has been assigned to.

Committee Member Comment:

Mr. Mann stated Mr. Barnes' presentation prompted him to think that the advisory committee should take some tours. Mr. Geyer asked Mr. Barnes if he could set up a tour for the committee. Mr. Barnes responded stating he believes the City would be okay with doing that and would reach out to him. He also told the chairman that Mr. Panero built the oldest MRF in town. Mr. Geyer asked Mr. Panero if he could set up a tour for that facility and as it is co-located with the sanitary facility, the committee could see both.

Mr. Geyer stated he had been to Bena on Tuesday or Wednesday and was distressed with the amount of trash he saw on the fence of the access road and the road itself that leads to the Bena landfill. He then questioned whose responsibility it is to clean up the trash on the roads and is this something that is occurring at all of the landfills. Mr. Fontes responded stating that the Bena landfill is an anomaly as opposed to the rest of the facilities. Unfortunately, this has been an ongoing issue and in the contractor's agreement, they are required to go out and make repairs to the fence of the Bena landfill's access road. However, if they cannot make repairs on hand, then it is up to the County to solicit third party vendors to make extensive repairs. In addition, he stated they are required to pick up the trash and windblown litter on the road, which they do that several times a week. Nevertheless, within two days of the contractor cleaning the road, customers will arrive outside of operating hours and tend to not take the trash back home with them. They will instead discard it along the access road. In regard to the state of the fence and getting repairs made, that is another constant struggle because to get third party vendors out there, it can take three months on average to put the capital improvement project together and send it out to bid. Mr. Fontes continued, stating that as soon as repairs are made, within one to two weeks, there are significant damages made by individuals who drive down the road and hit the fence line and do not inform staff at the gatehouse. Mr. Geyer then asked if staff is aware of the current amount of holes in the fence and stated he counted 11 holes and that there are holes wider than the public services building.

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Committee Member Comment (cont'd):

Mr. Terence Dozier stated that for this access road, staff is dealing with a combination of right-of-way and easement access issues. He cannot ask for someone to approach someone else's right-of-way to remove the debris or illegally dumped waste, so the contractor's main focus is the corridor. There are numerous concerns when it comes to repairing the fence, Mr. Dozier stated he works with his supervisors, they are aware of the issue and they try to address any roadside hazards. As the access road is an easement, it is difficult to maintain, but Mr. Dozier stated they also work together constantly with the neighbors to come up with a variety of solutions. Mr. Panero asked if there was a way to put a gate right after the train tracks on the access road. Mr. Dozier stated the department has looked into this before, but because there are farmers who need access to the easement, they cannot put a gate there. Mr. Fontes stated the solution that makes the most sense is unfortunately not feasible at this time as the County would need to acquire additional right-of-way access. Also, he stated the neighbor to the south of most of the roadway is Union Pacific, who have not been willing to discuss acquisition of additional right-of-way. Mr. Fontes said the County has also looked at the idea of removal of the fence side, however, if that fence were removed the problem would be exacerbated as the fence helps contain the illegal dumping and litter onto the County property, instead of blowing over to the farmers and railroad. He finished by stating that at this point, all the County can do is try to maintain it as best as possible. Mr. Geyer clarified that he did see some illegal dumping on Wednesday, but the majority of it was windblown trash and the fence cannot contain the waste when there are big holes in it. Ms. Shreder added that the department does have a penalty for those who arrive at the gatehouse without tarps on their load. She stated there is a charge twice the gate fee, or a minimum of \$20. Mr. Geyer stated it is a maintenance issue and although he understands the right-of-way issues, he believes it shouldn't be that difficult to get a surface right of access to pick up the trash. He suggested that Phill Hall or County Counsel could work on the issue.

Public Comment:

None

Agenda Item #7: Adjourning of the March 10, 2023 Meeting

MOTION: *Adjourn meeting.*

Motion stated by Orchel Krier; seconded by Max Goossen. Committee unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Next Meeting:

June 16, 2023 | 9:00 A.M. | PSB Public Meeting Room