



**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (ESAC)
WASTE DIVERSION, COLLECTIONS, AND
EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Minutes

**Approved on June 1, 2022
Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 3:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Subcommittee Chairperson Garcia at 3:01 P.M.

Those present and absent were:

Present:

Kris Yarter

Representative, Ward 6

Margot Garcia, Chair

Representative, City Manager's Office

Absent:

Yolanda Herrera

Representative, Ward 5

Staff Members Present:

Pat L. Tapia

Deputy Director, Environmental & General Services
(EGSD)

Cristina Polsgrove

Public Information Officer, EGSD

Laurie Pumphrey

Management Assistant, EGSD

Lucy Lucero

Recording Secretary, EGSD

2. Approval of Minutes for April 6, 2022

The minutes for April 6, 2022, were approved with corrections.

3. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Garcia summarized about various articles related to the solid waste industry. Some of the articles were a letter to the editor about garbage (methane) gas going unused, profits from recyclables, and electric vehicle batteries.

4. Waste Diversion

Cristina Polsgrove, EGSD Public Information Officer, reported on the following items:

• **MRF Report**

The material recycling facility (MRF) report was reviewed and discussed. The high contamination rate has been an ongoing concern and they spoke about how to hold landlords/property owners accountable for not utilizing their recycling container correctly. Other topics the subcommittee talked about educating residents and hiring bin inspectors.

Committee Members asked if the pilot program that inspected recycling bins for contamination resulted in any outcome. Staff members shared that the department

has not yet shared the final results with Mayor & Council but will. Chairperson Garcia suggested writing a letter of support to Mayor and Council to hire bin inspectors to lessen the contamination rate, to educate residents and to be more involved with the community. A motion was made by Chairperson Garcia to bring to Full ESAC to write a letter of support to implement the pilot bin inspection program and to hire bin inspectors. Committee Member Yarter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Feet on the Street Tagging Report**

The final report was reviewed and discussed. The Feet on the Street Tagging program provided tools, printed materials, and container tags to conduct site recycling container audits for contamination. Plastic bags were the highest contaminate reported. Data collected from the pre, and post sort showed contamination was lowered in the piloted areas. While valued information was gained, not all residents were agreeable to have their recycling bin inspected bi-weekly. Most residents were understanding of the inspections after learning the high cost for contamination in the blue barrel.

5. Collections

Pat L. Tapia, EGSD Deputy Director, reported on the following items:

- **Los Reales Landfill Update**

SCS Engineers is the consultant that will work on the design and construction of Cell 4B at the Los Reales Landfill. A plan with the final details is being finalized.

Other projects that are underway at Los Reales Sustainability Campus (LRSC) are the construction of additional storage at the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) site. A Notice to Proceed was issued and construction should be completed by October 2022. The HHW site at Sweetwater Road has been used for storage only, once all the remaining items are relocated to HHW at LRSC, the Sweetwater site will be closed and transferred

The Paradigm Scalehouse software was implemented at the LRSC, processing a transaction went from 2:38 minutes to 30 seconds per transaction, reducing the lines at the landfill entrance. Cash is still not being accepted but other payment methods like debit and credit cards are accepted, or customer accounts can be established for monthly billing.

- **Routing**

Starting in June, Monday routes will be evenly distributed. Doing this will change customer pick-up times, customers will be sent a general notice of the change. A new GIS Specialist was hired and is working on route efficiencies.

- **Homeless Camp Protocol**

Collaboration amongst several City departments about homeless camps and having the resources, funds, and better protocols are taking place bi-weekly.

- **Recycling Contamination**

A new amendment to the MRF agreement is being negotiated. Some changes EGSD is requesting will be a fair share of the Average Commodity Rate (ACR), clarification

on audit procedures, processing requirements and other items. This amendment would last until June 2027.

Deputy Director also gave a quick update on equipment.

6. Public Outreach Update

Cristina Polsgrove, EGSD Public Information Officer provided an update on the departments Public Outreach efforts.

- **Zero Waste Collection Event**

About 175 vehicles went through the Zero Waste Collection Event, a lot of materials were collected like old bicycles, scrap metals, unwanted medications, clothing, and other items. There is interest to set-up another event in the fall.

- **Earth Day**

Earth Day was held at the Children’s Museum this year. Informational brochures and promotional give-a-ways were handed out to participants.

The upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Community Collection event will be held at the Rodeo Grounds, 4823 S. 6th Avenue, on May 14, 2022, from 8 am – noon.

Ms. Polsgrove shared that an intern has been assisting her with updating the social media pages and other items. It was also shared that the City’s website will be rebranded and information on EGSD’s page is being reviewed.

7. Code Enforcement Update

Laurie Pumphrey, EGSD Management Assistant reported on the following items:

- **Food Vendor Guidelines/Safety Concerns**

Code Enforcement will be enforcing rules and regulations for vendors set-up at 12th Avenue/Drexel Road while using the opportunity as training for the two new code inspectors.

- **Independent Audit and Performance Commission Update**

The Independent Audit and Performance Commission is finalizing their report with any finding or improvements for Code.

The training for three new Code Enforcement inspectors will soon begin.

8. Future Agenda Items for Next Meeting (June 1, 2022)

Future agenda items for the following:

- Electric Vehicle Batteries/Disposal
- Routing
- Homeless
- Los Reales Landfill
- MRF Contract
- CE Case/IAPC

9. Call to the Audience – None.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 P.M.