

Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**Minutes of March 17, 2005**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Fernando Berton, California Integrated Waste Management Board  
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
John McTaggart, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Michael Theroux, Theroux Environmental Consulting  
Ed Wheless, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Chris Mastro, County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates  
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Virginia Jauregui, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Shapoor Hamid, URS Corporation  
Paul Relis, CR&R

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from January 18th and February 18th were approved.

**III. DISCUSSION OF KEY POINTS AND OBJECTIVES FROM LAST MEETING**

Mr. Paul Alva mentioned the key points and objectives from the February 18th meeting. Most notable was the PowerPoint presentation by Mr. John Richardson of Community Recycling/Resource Recovery Inc. who stated verbally that his company could provide some financial incentive toward the development of a conversion technology facility if sited on its premises.

Mr. Coby Skye discussed next set of requests for proposals that will be developed. Based on the Subcommittee's direction to date, staff proposed developing two scopes of work, one to implement the Public Outreach Plan and the other to facilitate the development of a conversion facility. Staff has already begun preparing the first scope of work and plans to begin developing the second after the final report is adopted.

Mr. Theroux suggested the Subcommittee should form a response team to research grant opportunities. Mr. Alva commented that the Subcommittee website can set aside an area dealing with grant opportunities.

Mr. Berton recommended that the Task Force draft a letter to Joe Desmond, the Deputy Secretary of Energy, regarding the Governor's biomass issue. The Subcommittee agreed that this request would be forwarded to the Task Force.

**IV. CONTRACTOR UPDATE**

Mr. Shapoor Hamid from URS Corporation provided the committee with an update covering the company's activities for February 2005.

## **V. DISCUSSION ON CONTRACTOR DELIVERABLES**

Mr. Hamid addressed the following deliverables:

1. On or before February 28th, URS received 27 responses from conversion technology suppliers (16 thermal conversion and 11 bioconversion). URS is in the process of evaluating these response.
2. A fatal flaw table is included for discussion for the first screening of the technology suppliers' responses.
3. Draft ranking criteria for evaluation of conversion technologies and conversion technology suppliers/vendors was submitted to the County. The ranking criteria were revised after detailed discussion and were re-submitted to the County. URS is waiting for approval.
4. A draft *Summary of Conversion Technology* was submitted to the County on March 15, 2005 for review and comments.

For item two, URS noted that anyone found to be eliminated in the fatal flaw analysis was given an opportunity, if applicable, to provide additional information in order to remain in the running. URS requested feedback on the fatal flaw table from Subcommittee members, regarding criteria that needed to be added or modified.

For item three, some Subcommittee members raised concerns regarding the weight granted to each element of the ranking criteria. Mr. Alva requested URS to recommend how the ranking criteria for each of the elements should be weighted, and members should send their recommendations to URS by March 22, 2005. URS asked to have the ranking criteria approved in order to facilitate the creation of comparable tables.

For item four, URS is waiting for review and comments on the Summary of Conversion Technology. Mr. Theroux inquired if the template for adding technologies in the future had been developed. Mr. Hamid said such a template had not been completed at this time.

## **VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Currently there are three bills of interest to the Subcommittee. AB 177, AB 727, and AB 1090 deal specifically with conversion technology. Both AB 177 and AB 727 are in spot bill form. Of great importance is AB 1090, which modifies the solid waste hierarchy, redefining the second tier to include

conversion. It would repeal the definition of gasification, remove conversion from the definition of transformation, and provide jurisdictions diversion credit for utilizing conversion technology.

Mr. Berton recommended that if the definition for gasification in the public resources code is repealed, there should be a similar measure done for the definition of solid waste conversion in the Energy Resources section of State code. A motion to recommend this revision to the Task Force was passed, and Mr. Alva noted that Mr. Berton will work with Public Works staff to finalize this language.

## **VII. STATUS OF CIWMB CT REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE**

Mr. Berton mentioned that no significant modifications were made to the CIWMB report, and it was approved. He noted a summary of the executive summary will be given to legislative members. Mr. Berton also expressed that he will be tracking the development of a statewide Task Force and promoting its development. This will be priority since many issues cross different divisions within the Waste Board as well as other agencies within Cal/EPA and local government.

Mr. Berton expressed that the Waste Board cannot move forward on conversion related items in isolation of other issues. Even though there is no codified interagency task force, Mr. Berton noted that the Waste Board is actively pursuing other agencies involvement, such as with the Air Board and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment.

For regulations, Mr. Berton said that in April he will be going to the Waste Board or committee to ask direction on how to proceed. The opinion is that until these regulations are dealt with in the legislative session, the Waste Board will avoid making a decision.

Mr. Berton noted that the Waste Board is in the process of assessing the characterization of MRF waste residuals and feedstock. Information was forwarded to Nancy Carr and Thomas Rudy on what the County is doing in relation to conversion technology and MRF residuals.

## **VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

No open discussion ensued.

**IX. PRESENTATION BY MR. PAUL RELIS**

Mr. Paul Relis provided the Task Force with a discussion about CR&R, a privately held company which provides solid waste and recycling services throughout Southern California. CR&R has for four years operated a pilot anaerobic composting facility located in Stanton, and has invested their own money in researching conversion. CR&R has substantial infrastructure to host a conversion facility, and a state-of-the-art MRF that is scheduled to open in 2007; there will be an estimated 11 acres reserved for a conversion technology facility. They have up to now favored a gasification facility but are open to other options and are eager to work with the Subcommittee.

**X. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for April 21, 2005 at 10 a.m.

**XI. ADJORNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.