

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

Minutes of March 19, 2009

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Fernando Berton, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Rafael Garcia, Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc.
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
John McTaggart, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates
Christine Urbach, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS

Alex Helou, represented by Miguel Zermeno, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Chen, Southern California Edison
Ben Gibson, Cerrell and Associates*
Cesar A. Leon, Bas and Associates
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Angélica SantaMaría, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*designates a call-in attendee

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, SEPTEMBER 25, OCTOBER 21, 2008 AND JANUARY 15, 2009

The minutes for August 21, September 25, and October 21, 2008 were approved. Mr. Mohajer abstained from voting on the September 25 minutes; Mr. Garcia abstained from voting on the October 21 minutes. The minutes of January 15, 2009 were approved with minor corrections. The minutes from February 26, 2009 were moved for review to the next meeting,

Mr. McDannel expressed that the Sanitation Districts were interested in the process in which the Tellis Letter was disseminated. Mr. Mohajer explained that the Task Force decided to issue the letter based on a recommendation made by the Subcommittee. Mr. Alva noted that staff appreciates the Sanitation District's expertise in greenhouse gas emissions and waste disposal and encourages them to continue to provide feedback regarding draft letters and other pending issues.

III. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mr. Zermano provided an update on the City of Los Angeles' alternative technology project. At present, HDR (the City's consultants) are in the process of evaluating proposals received for the City's RENEW LA project. It was noted that six separate proposals were received for the commercial technology project, which has the ability to process between 200-1000 tons of MSW daily. Of note, submittals include anaerobic digestion, advanced thermal recycling, gasification, and pyrolysis technologies. Two submittals were received for their proposed emerging technology facility, which is set to process between 10 and 200 tons respectively. The emerging technologies include plasma arc gasification as well as anaerobic digestion. It was noted that Mr. Mark McDannel is a participant in the City's evaluation panel. Discussion ensued regarding the City's proposed project.

IV. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH CONTRACT

Ben Gibson of Cerrell Associates provided an update on AB64 and AB222. Mr. Gibson also mentioned that they have been in contact with Assembly Member Felipe Fuentes. In addition, a meeting was set up with Mr. Skye and the California Chamber of Commerce to support conversion technologies. Cerrell Associates are also working to establish a coalition to support legislation that would include local government,

technology companies and industry partners. Cerrell is working proactively with top ranked companies from Phase II to implement the facility oriented outreach plan.

V. UPDATE ON TECHNICAL EVALUATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Skye provided an update on the technical evaluation and negotiations. Staff is working directly with each of the development teams and is now negotiating a framework to partner with those teams. Staff anticipates going before the Board of Supervisors in June for their approval.

Mr. Berton asked if the County is pursuing federal stimulus money or other grant opportunities for the County's work in assisting the companies. Mr. Skye confirmed that staff is looking at grants, including stimulus funding, but noted that the County has budgeted money for the demonstration project. Mr. Alva stated to the members that the Federal government is looking for "shovel ready" projects when awarding stimulus money, therefore it is necessary to identify the specific facilities when pursuing stimulus grants.

VI. CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye provided the legislative update, noting that there is pending legislation that impacts conversion technology both positively and negatively. Mr. Skye reported that the Task Force decided to support AB222, currently a spot bill, pending the release of final bill language. The Task Force took a position to oppose AB 64 unless amended, as a result of the bill's language that precluded any facility that is utilizing MSW from being eligible under the renewable portfolio standpoint. Mr. Skye stated that staff will continue to monitor the progress of this bill and keep the Subcommittee informed on the status.

Mr. Alva asked Mr. Berton about the status of conversion technologies in Sacramento. Mr. Berton informed the Subcommittee that the Waste Board's mission statement includes a clause that supports development of technology for bio-energy and bio-fuel production. Mr. Berton also noted that Waste Board's strategic directives were reviewed by the new Waste Board members, and some revisions were made including one directive to reduce the amount of acronyms used.

Mr. Berton stated that there are new members on the Waste Board, and tours have been scheduled for them to different project areas including to a bioreaction landfill project and an anaerobic digestion facility at UC Davis. A future tour will also include a gasification facility in Yolo County.

Mr. Skye inquired if Mr. Gary Petersen is still on the Waste Board or if his seat was vacant. Mr. Berton confirmed that Mr. Petersen's term had expired and that his seat is

currently vacant. Mr. Berton cannot say what the Governor's plan is regarding this vacancy.

VII. DISCUSSION REGARDING SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP, PARTICIPATION, AND 2009 GOALS

Mr. Alva noted that a copy of a rough draft list of goals and objectives compiled by staff has been provided to Subcommittee members for review. This item is intended to start dialogue with Subcommittee members regarding which priorities the Subcommittee should be focusing on.

Members provided comments and suggestions on the draft of goals. Among the comments heard from Subcommittee members, a suggestion was made to make these goals and objectives permanent and not just a specific year. Also, it was suggested the document mention the multiple policy goals the Subcommittee is helping to advance, including greenhouse gas emissions, the low-carbon fuel standard, and the Renewable Portfolio Standard. Staff will incorporate suggestions into the goals and will return to the next ATAS meeting with a revised draft for review.

Mr. Skye asked members how detailed they would like the goals to be. Mr. Alva requested that members forward their ideas to staff within the next two weeks in order to incorporate them into the draft that will be presented at the next meeting.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Alva stated that staff is still in the evaluation process of selecting a contractor for Phase III. Mr. Alva informed members in the audience that there is a vacancy on the committee and there is a recommendation to fill that vacancy. Once the recommendation is official, it will be made public.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2009

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.