

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

Minutes of July 15, 2010

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Jacques Franco *, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Rafael Garcia, Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc.
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Sun, Council Member City of San Marino
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Traecey Anthony, ARI
Jim Binder, ARI
Antonia Castro, Pomona
Chip Clements, Clements Environmental.
Mike Dye, UWS
Matt Gallagher*, Cerrell Associates
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Angélica SantaMaría, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Chris Salomon, LACSD
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Jamshed Yazdam, City of Lancaster

*designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2010.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of June 17, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

III. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mr. Jacques Franco reported that the California Resource Recovery Association will be holding its annual conference on August 9-11 at the Sacramento Convention Center. One of the guest speakers will be coming from Toronto and will address anaerobic digestion of municipal waste.

Chip Clements informed the ATAS members that Huell Howser recently featured the anaerobic digestion project at Gills Onions in Oxnard, CA. Their project converts 150 tons of onion waste a day by extracting juice from onion peels and treating them in a high-rate anaerobic reactor to produce methane-rich biogas. The biogas is then treated and used to power two fuel cells that provide electricity for the processing plant. As a result of this project, the owner has achieved increased energy independence, elimination of a waste stream, reduced operational cost, and a smaller carbon footprint.

Jeff Yann reported that at the recent meeting of the Puente Hills Landfill Citizens Oversight Committee, he provided an update on the County's CT phase III/IV progress and the City of LA's progress.

Ms. Mitchell reported that she will be replacing Mr. Skye at the upcoming Waste to Energy Finance and Investment Summit that will be held in San Diego on July 19-21. Mr. Skye will be attending a meeting in Sacramento on July 20 regarding amendments to AB 222.

IV. AB222 OUTREACH STRATEGY

Mr. Skye provided an update on this bill. He reported that the bill had passed out of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee with a unanimous vote; however the bill was amended to take out any reference to diversion credit and RPS credit and would equate biorefineries with transformation facilities. At this time staff is waiting to see the official language in the bill before officially responding to it.

Mr. Skye reported that staff to the Task Force has been actively seeking support for AB 222 by contacting all 88 cities and providing technical support to the bill sponsors upon request.

V. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

Mr. Matt Gallagher with Cerrell Associates provided the update on the Public Outreach Contract. Cerrell continues to work with staff on the outreach efforts for AB 222. In addition, Cerrell has participated in the meetings with the demonstration project development teams CR&R/Arrow Bio, Burrtec/IES, Rainbow Disposal/Entech and have remained in contact in order to assess their public outreach needs.

VI. UPDATE ON PHASE III & IV CONTRACT

Jim Binder with ARI provided an update to the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee was introduced to Ms. Traacey Anthony, the new local project coordinator with ARI, prior to coming to work for ARI. Ms. Anthony worked with San Bernardino County Public Works Solid Waste Division where she was leading their CT effort. Mr. Binder reported that in the past month, ARI and DPW have met with several interested cities and have completed site visits in order to identify potential sites for the Phase IV project. Visits and meetings will continue throughout the summer with interested parties. Subcommittee members were provided with copies of a short term action plan and schedule as well as an outline for funding the Phase III & IV Projects. In addition, ARI has been working with staff in formulating an interim report to the Board of Supervisors to provide them an update of what is happening with this project. ARI anticipates having the draft report in September for staffs' review

Mr. Skye reported that ARI and their subcontractor Clements Environmental have submitted a draft outline for the Siting Feasibility Study being submitted to the Board, as well as a schedule for project siting. Copies of the documents were distributed to ATAS members. In addition, Mr. Skye also provided members with drafts of letters to be sent to local municipalities as well as solid waste facilities such as MRFs and landfills, to explore interest in developing a Phase IV project.

Mr. Chip Clements with Clements Environmental reported to the ATAS members that a number of diverse cities have expressed interest in the Phase IV project. These cities have expressed interest prior to staff sending out letters to inform them of the project, therefore it is expected that even more cities will express interest once the letters are issued. Mr. Clements informed that Subcommittee that the cities have not only expressed interest but have also proposed possible sites and identified potential waste streams that could be managed. Most cities are looking at this project for sustainability as well as possible revenue resources. Meetings will continue throughout the summer to assess possible sites for Phase IV projects.

Subcommittee members asked that in subsequent meetings updates be provided on how these interested cities plan to support legislation such as AB 222. Discussion ensued regarding outreach strategies for AB 222.

Jim Binder provided an update regarding efforts to pursue funding opportunities for the projects. In particular, ARI has been tracking proposed legislation to extend the deadlines for the Federal stimulus bill, if the legislation were to pass the demonstration projects would be more likely to be able to apply for this funding. A motion was made by Mr. Paul Alva to recommend to the Task Force to write a letter to Congress requesting that the application deadline for grant funding be extended by two years. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Mohajer provided an update and background on a recent action by the US EPA to give credit to only the biogenic part of MSW by conversion. After discussing the impacts of these proposed regulations on local governments, a motion was made by Mr. Mohajer to recommend the Task Force send a letter to Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the US EPA, expressing concerns regarding this action. The motion was approved unanimously.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for August 19, 2010.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.