

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

**Minutes for October 20, 2022**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

Los Angeles County Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections  
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Kate Downey, Republic Services  
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.  
Ron Kent, rep by Flavio Da Cruz, Southern California Gas Company  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Darshna Patel, City of Los Angeles  
Fahim Rahimi, rep by Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech  
Janelle Auyeung, CalRecycle  
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech  
Dario Presezzi, Bioforcetech Corporation  
Eimon Smith, Burns & McDonnell  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Charles Darensbourg called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Ben Lucha seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.

## **III. PRESENTATION FROM BIOFORCETECH CORPORATION**

Mr. Dario Presezzi, CEO and co-founder of Bioforcetech Corporation, provided a [presentation](#) on the use of pyrolysis for biosolids and other organic waste.

Mr. Eugene Tseng asked what percentage of cement by weight is biochar. Mr. Presezzi responded that the cement used in the building shown in the presentation was 2.5 percent and this percentage was chosen to make it carbon-neutral. He stated that Bioforcetech has tested a biochar content of up to 30 percent and have seen an improvement in structural properties up to 20 percent. He concluded that a biochar content between 1 to 20 percent is safe.

Mr. Tseng stated that biochar cannot be reduced in size using mechanical processes to be as fine as carbon black made from oil using chemical processes. Mr. Presezzi agreed and stated that mechanically-reduced biochar can still be used safely for many applications.

Mr. Mohajer asked if fossil fuels are used to dry the biosolids prior to pyrolysis. Mr. Presezzi responded that fossil fuels are used. Mr. Mohajer commented that the use of fossil fuels is discouraged by State agencies. Mr. Mohajer asked about the land application of biosolids and whether components of the biosolids could be hazardous to human health. Mr. Presezzi responded that he could provide various articles on the issue and added that Europe has restricted land application of biosolids. Mr. Mohajer asked that the articles be shared with the Subcommittee.

Mr. Flavio Da Cruz asked which feedstocks the system uses besides organic waste or biosolids. He also asked whether the system produces a surplus of gas. Mr. Presezzi responded that biosolids do not have enough energy to produce a surplus of gas. He continued that the energy is used to power the system. Mr. Presezzi also indicated that the system can process additional feedstocks and that Bioforcetech prefers to process waste that cannot be processed through other technologies, including certain plastics. Mr. Da Cruz asked about the capacity of

the unit installed at Redwood City. Mr. Presezzi responded that the capacity is about 200 pounds.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the system has been approved by CalRecycle and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Mr. Presezzi responded that the system was approved by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Bioforcetech is also currently working with CalRecycle to obtain landfill diversion credit. Mr. Mohajer asked for a copy of the BAAQMD approval and correspondence from CalRecycle indicating that they may approve the process. Mr. Presezzi responded that discussions with CalRecycle are ongoing and he could not share any correspondence. He continued that the permit from BAAQMD is public and can be found on their website, and that he would also share the permit with the Subcommittee.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Christine Arbogast reported that Tetra Tech continues to support Public Works with the following:

- Senate Bill (SB) 1383 and other waste diversion planning efforts.
- Expanding evaluation of potential sites for organic waste processing or thermal conversion facilities at old landfill sites and other sites within the County.
- Reviewing responses to the Calabasas Anaerobic Digestion Facility Request for Proposals.

Mr. Mohajer asked if Tetra Tech makes any recommendations on processes, such as the technology presented in today's meeting. Ms. Arbogast responded that Tetra Tech has the expertise to review such technologies. She added there are many technologies currently available for processing various materials and Tetra Tech can provide support in researching the feasibility of implementing such technologies. Mr. Mohajer stated that political changes are needed to encourage the development of conversion technologies.

#### **V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

Mr. Darensbourg provided the following update:

- At CalRecycle's September 20, 2022, public meeting, CalRecycle stated that jurisdictions would be submitting their first electronic annual reports on October 3, 2022. The reports will include SB 1383 compliance data for the period of January to June 2022.
- CalRecycle is working with jurisdictions to develop SB 1383 compliance correction action plans.

- CalRecycle received eight applications for the Co-Digestion Grant Program, of which six projects received passing scores.
- At CalRecycle's most recent monthly meeting on October 18, 2022, CalRecycle stated that local assistance staff will meet with jurisdictions to review SB 1383 compliance program implementation and provide compliance assistance.

## **VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Darensbourg provided an update on events and conferences, which can also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee meeting minutes:

- Annual Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Conference & Exhibit: November 3, 2022, Ontario, CA
- California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 128th Annual Meeting: November 14 – 18, 2022, Anaheim, CA
- National Zero Waste Conference: November 30 – December 1, 2022, Virtual
- WASTECON 2022: December 5 - 8, 2022, San Diego, CA

Mr. Mohajer requested that a presentation describing the impacts of SB 54 and Assembly Bill 1857 on the development of conversion technologies in the State of California be placed on next month's Subcommittee agenda.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that the presentations should be concise to leave ample time for questions and the other agenda items.

No public comment.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2022, at 10 a.m.