

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

July 20, 2023

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Michelle Dewey, rep by Janelle Auyeung, California Department of Resources
Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Kate Downey, Republic Services
Ron Kent, rep by Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident
Dee Hanson Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Kay Martin, rep by James Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
James Roska, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Loren Dubberke, Yosemite Clean Energy
Thomas Hobby, Yosemite Clean Energy
Robert Jackson, Yosemite Clean Energy
Michael Ostrom, Yosemite Clean Energy
Ed Rodriguez, Primoris
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Nicole Ward, Waste Connections
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fahim Rahimi called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2023, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the June 15, 2023 minutes and Mr. Ethan Simonoff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon from Tetra Tech provided the following update:

- Tetra Tech is continuing their ongoing efforts on the Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for the Antelope Valley required by the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92. The study will include a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for application of anaerobic digestion and thermal conversion technology facilities.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided the following update:

- CalRecycle's hosted a monthly meeting on June 20, 2023. CalRecycle stated that they hosted two Senate Bill (SB) 54 Informal Workshops on June 28 and 29, 2023, which focused on compliance for producers, recyclability and composability determinations, the covered material category list, and requirements for communities.
- CalRecycle hosted a SB 1383 chat on June 21, 2023. The meeting focused on procurement, including ideas and options for complying with the requirements.
- CalRecycle will host the next SB 1383 chat in August 2023. The topic will focus on organic waste recycling and food rescue.
- At the most recent CalRecycle monthly meeting on July 18, 2023, CalRecycle mentioned that they have appointed 15 out of 16 members for the SB 54 Advisory Board. The Board includes representatives from manufacturers, the recycling industry, solid waste enterprises, retailers, groceries associations, local government, environmental organizations, and the environmental justice community. The 16th member will be a representative from a producer responsibility organization which will be appointed by CalRecycle by 2024.

- CalRecycle mentioned that they will provide \$90 million dollars for SB 1383 Local Assistance Grants. The proposed grant criteria were sent to the public for review in June 2023. CalRecycle received 35 comments, mostly addressing application eligibility and eligible costs. Based on public feedback, the eligible cost for the grant was amended to include trailers, food dehydrator, mobile app development, and mobile pantries. The grant will be available to cities, counties, regional or joint powers authorities, and special districts that provide solid waste collection services. The application will be open from September 2023 to November 2023.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

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

- California Resource Recovery Association Conference and Tradeshow: August 13 - 16, 2023, Burlingame, CA
- Resource Recycling Conference: August 14 - 16, 2023, Orlando, FL
- County Engineers Association of California Policy Conference: August 24 - 25, 2023, Sacramento, CA
- American Public Works Association - Public Works Expo 2023: August 27 - 30, 2023, San Diego, CA
- Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Work Technical Workshop and Trade Expo: September 12 - 14, 2023, Nashville, TN
- Southern California Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA): September 21, 2023, Buena Park, CA
- WASTECON 2023: September 27 - 29, 2023, Boston, MA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference: November 8, 2023, Ontario, CA

VI. PRESENTATION BY YOSEMITE CLEAN ENERGY

Mr. Thomas Hobby of Yosemite Clean Energy (YCE), provided a [presentation](#) on their technology which uses gasification to produce hydrogen from biomass.

Mr. Ben Lucha asked what measures YCE was taking to address fugitive hydrogen. Mr. Hobby replied that there was still a lot to learn about the transportation and storage of hydrogen, but he felt that the small amounts, if any released, would not pose a huge threat to the environment. He stated that they are taking these concerns into consideration in their design process and will continue to work on improvements to minimize the concerns.

Mr. Ethan Simonoff asked how YCE's fueling stations would be operated. Mr. Hobby responded they would be working to develop their own network of fueling stations.

Ms. Kate Downey confirmed that YCE has two facilities in development in California and if both locations were undergoing air permitting. Mr. Hobby indicated they have not received full California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) approval but received preliminary approval. He added that, once they complete their full engineering design, they can pursue full permitting.

Mr. James Stewart asked if YCE was able to avoid completing the CEQA process for its proposed facility in the City of Oroville. Mr. Hobby clarified that YCE wanted to avoid completing a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR), not the entire CEQA process. They will still need to do the entire CEQA process. The facility may be able to complete CEQA with a mitigated negative declaration.

Ms. Downey asked who the lead agency was for the proposed facility in the City of Oroville. Mr. Hobby confirmed it was the City of Oroville. He also stated their two proposed facilities are in Butte and Tuolumne Counties because of grant funding received for projects in those areas.

Mr. Mohajer asked whether the EIR can override the CEQA process. Mr. Hobby responded that the CEQA will refer to the existing EIR. Mr. Mohajer asked whether the project received approval from the local air quality management districts. Mr. Hobby responded that the proposed facility received a permit from the Butte County Air Pollution Control District that will be included in the CEQA. Mr. Stuart also advised YCE consider environmental justice.

Mr. Ethan Simonoff asked if YCE had any projections on the cost to produce hydrogen before any subsidies. Mr. Hobby responded that the cost is approximately \$6 to \$7 per gallon, but that the cost may decrease in the future with the use of various federal pilot programs. Mr. Simonoff asked YCE if the need to transport large loads of wood feedstock will be an obstacle for facility development. Mr. Hobby responded that their feedstock sources will be located within a 50-mile range, and they are developing a thirty-year supply plan.

Mr. Wayde Hunter asked what the footprint of a YCE facility would be. Mr. Hobby stated that the footprint would be 30 acres which would include storage of a half-year supply of feedstock. Mr. Hunter asked what the facility footprint would be if co-located without the need for feedstock storage. Mr. Hobby responded that the footprint would be three to five acres. Mr. Hunter asked if YCE facilities could process municipal solid waste. Mr. Hobby stated that their focus is on wood and wood-based waste streams.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 17, 2023.