

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

Minutes of April 16, 2009

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
Rafael Garcia, Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc.
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association*
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates*

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kevin Chen, Southern California Edison
John McTaggart, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Fernando Berton, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Christine Urbach, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Ben Gibson, Cerrell and Associates*
Jim Guthrir, VIRESCO Energy
Tom John, Tom John, PE Inc
Chisun Lee, Forcebel USA Inc
Cesar A. Leon, Bas and Associates
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Joe Norbeck, UC Riverside
Arun Rajo, VIRESCO Energy
Angélica SantaMaría, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Michael Yim, SSSAC
Peter Zorba, City of Lancaster

*designates a call-in attendee

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2009 AND MARCH 19, 2009

The minutes for February 26, 2009 were approved with amendments. The minutes for the March 19 meeting were held for consideration until the next Subcommittee meeting.

III. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

Ms. Mitchell provided an update on upcoming conferences in which staff from Public Works will be presenting on the County's Conversion Technology Efforts, including BioCycle in San Diego April 27-30, and the Biomass Collaborative Annual Forum in Sacramento May 12-13. Staff has also been monitoring Federal environmental legislation as well as workshops coordinated by the CA Air Resources Board and CA Energy Commission. Mr. Mohajer also mentioned Mr. Skye's participation as speaker at this year's SWANA conference held April 6-9 in Palm Springs.

Mr. Mohajer reported on AB 222, authored by Assembly member Adams, and asked the Subcommittee to make a motion to ask the Task Force to support AB 222. This bill would define "in-state renewable electricity generation facility to include a facility that uses conversion at a biorefinery. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH CONTRACT

Ben Gibson provided an update on the Public Outreach Contract. Mr. Gibson reported that they have been working with County staff in developing a comprehensive air emission factsheet aimed at regulators, elected officials and environmental organizations. The document shows how conversion technologies are clean and would have enormous environmental benefits to California. This document is still being developed and has been circulated to several environmental groups to make sure everything is covered.

Outreach in Riverside County has been ongoing and as a result a meeting has been scheduled for April 22, 2009, in Riverside with Supervisor John Tavaglione and the head of the Riverside County Department of Waste Management.

Mr. Gibson mentioned that they have continued monitoring legislation, including AB 64 and AB 222 in Sacramento, as well as maintaining communication with Assembly Member Fuentes. Mr. Skye will be meeting with the Assembly Member's office on May 1st to discuss conversion technologies and how to achieve a regulatory pathway.

Mr. Mohajer expressed the importance to get out the air emissions factsheet now that AB 222 is moving forward. Wayde Hunter provided some written comments regarding the fact sheet, and staff requested that any additional comments be provided no later than April 20 with the goal of having the fact sheet finalized by that afternoon.

V. UPDATE ON TECHNICAL EVALUATIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS

Ms. Mitchell provided an update on the technical evaluation and negotiations and informed the Subcommittee that staff is working with County Counsel on the language of the agreements and to finalize negotiations with each conversion technology company. Staff anticipates taking the agreements to the Board for approval this summer.

VI. PRESENTATION BY JOE NORBECK, ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, REGARDING UC RIVERSIDE'S FUEL PRODUCTION FROM BIOMASS PROJECT

Mr. Joe Norbeck Director of the Environmental Research Institute at University of California at Riverside and Dr. Arun Raju of Viresco Energy presented an overview of their conversion technology project. This project consists of a hydrogasification process utilizing both biomass and biosolids as feedstock to create energy. The project is currently being reviewed for a PIER Grant by the California Energy Commission and presenters requested a letter of support from the Task Force to the Energy Commission.

After the presentation and Q&A session a motion was made for the Task Force to send a letter of support for this project While the Subcommittee has not directly evaluated this project, support was recommended for the application for PIER grant funding because the project would:1) convert biomass and biosolids (that would otherwise be disposed in landfills) into biofuels, 2) assist the State in meeting its progressive environmental and energy goals and specifically the goal to create highly skilled jobs, and 3) partner with a local California university (University of California at Riverside), which has already completed valuable and respected research for the California Integrated Waste Management Board. The motion was made by Mohajer, second by Alva, and approved by all present.

VII. REVIEW OF CSE CHAPTER 5

Ms. Mitchell shared that the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee is responsible for revising the chapters of the Countywide Siting Element, however chapter 5 addresses Alternative Technology and therefore staff is asking Subcommittee members to submit any technical comments they may have regarding this chapter by April 27.

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

Mr. Tseng had comments on the goals that were e-mailed to all Subcommittee members including staff. Staff will make changes accordingly and return with the goals next month looking for a motion to adopt. We are asking Subcommittee members to submit all additional feedback by end of the month. Staff noted that the document is a living document and is not permanent; therefore changes can be made as needed.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

None.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for May 21, 2009.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.