

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

Minutes of October 15, 2015, Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Helmowski, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)*
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Mark McDannel, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Eugene Sun, Mayor, City of San Marino
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Jim Stewart for Kay Martin, BioEnergy Producers Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles
Larry Levin, Juniper Hills

OTHERS PRESENT:

Timothy Hall, CalRecycle*
Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Traeacey Anthony, Alternative Resources, Inc.
David Edwards, D. Edwards, Inc.
Gregg King, Debris Box
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Jim Miller, Jim Miller & Associates, Inc.
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

*Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 20, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the August 20, 2015, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Rob Sherman, and it passed with Mr. Eugene Sun abstaining.

III. PRESENTATION BY JIM MILLER OF JIM MILLER & ASSOCIATES, INC., ON ANAEROBIC DIGESTION SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

Mr. Jim Miller, CEO of Jim Miller & Associates, provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on anaerobic digestion (AD) systems and processes. Mr. Miller's presentation provided a detailed description of AD pre-processing; collection; post-processing; wet and dry AD systems; and the role AD plays in waste management and wastewater management.

IV. UPDATE ON STATE AIR RESOURCES BOARD SCOPING PLAN

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) updating the Subcommittee on the California Air Resources Board (ARB) Scoping Plan. Ms. Vazifdar reported that according to ARB's latest workshop, the State is on track to meet or exceed the current target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, as established in Assembly Bill 32, (AB 32, Nunez, 2006). On April 29, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-30-15 establishing a mid-term greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target for the State of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. If signed into law, Senate Bill 32, (SB 32, Pavley 2015) would also require ARB to approve a statewide GHG emission limit equivalent to 40 percent below the 1990 level to be achieved by 2030, pacing the State to reach its ultimate goal of reducing emissions levels to 80 percent under 1990 levels by 2050, as required by Executive Order S-3-05 signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2005. ARB was directed to update the AB 32 Scoping Plan to reflect the 2030 target and is currently moving forward with the update process.

According to the workshop, the 2030 Target Scoping Plan will focus on five main areas: increasing renewable electricity, reducing petroleum use, increasing

building energy efficiency, ensuring that natural/working lands are carbon sinks, and reducing short-lived climate pollutants

ARB's 2030 and 2050 vision includes minimizing the conversion of natural and working lands, pursuing synergies across other sectors such as bioenergy and waste management, enhancing carbon sequestration potential, and developing carbon sequestration targets. Ms. Vazifdar stated these aims can be achieved through several strategies, including building organic matter in the soil and biomass waste diversion to produce bioenergy, biofuels, and compost. She also discussed Senate Bill 498 (SB 498, Lara, 2014) which was sponsored by the County and which allows biomass to be used to make low carbon fuels, as well as renewable energy, heat, and steam, while providing waste diversion and renewable energy credit to such facilities.

Ms. Vazifdar reported to the Subcommittee that ARB has also developed a Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy, as recommended by the 2014 Scoping Plan Update and required by Senate Bill 605 (SB 605, Lara, 2014) which required the ARB to complete a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants, as defined. Ms. Vazifdar reported the 2030 Target Scoping Plan will also evaluate the economic impact of options for achieving the 2030 GHG target.

Public comments on the workshop are due October 16, 2015, with the first update due to ARB November 19, 2015. The Draft 2030 Target Scoping Plan will be released in Spring 2015, while the final draft is expected to be complete in Fall 2016.

Mr. Jim Stewart brought the Subcommittee's attention to recent statements from the automobile industry purporting that by 2025 every conceivable technological advance toward reduction in GHG from automobiles will have been exhausted, potentially creating increased demand for biofuels as a GHG reduction strategy. Mr. Mohajer commented on recent indications from ARB of plans to prohibit landfill disposal of compostable organic material by 2025.

Mr. Stewart inquired into whether ARB is attempting to gain a further reach in regional planning, zoning, and construction management. Mr. Skye noted that the State had begun to take more aggressive steps, beginning with the charter of Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg, 2008), at requiring, as well as and incentivizing, cities to approach their planning with a more collective, regional, approach toward combating climate change and becoming more environmentally sustainable.

Mr. Skye reported to the Subcommittee that staff would be requesting the Task Force to send a letter to ARB highlighting comments on the 2030 Target Scoping Plan Kickoff Public Workshop.

Mr. Ron Kent informed the Subcommittee the Southern California Gas Company is aggressively working toward strategies at creating renewable natural gas. The company is currently working to advance projects aimed at developing, among other things, biomass production, gasification, and AD, at several facilities across the region.

V. DISCUSSION ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

Mr. Coby Skye informed the Subcommittee of ongoing discussions with Mr. Stewart and Mr. Eugene Sun regarding the County sponsored Conversion Technology (CT) Conference. He reported that the County's CT White Paper is anticipated to be completed prior to the conference and would be presented to the Subcommittee. Mr. Skye also proposed the document be considered as a topic of discussion at the conference.

Mr. Jim Stewart commented that CT legislation would likely be a significant concentration of focus at the conference. Mr. Stewart stated that while future CT legislation is unlikely to include gasification, there is a growing consensus across the State that renewable natural gas will play an integral role in the State's long-term vision for significant reduction in GHG emission.

Mr. Eugene Tseng commented on his current efforts to invite qualified experts to speak on the advantages of public health and safety compliance in concert with an integrated approach with CT in waste management.

Mr. Skye informed the Subcommittee of Public Works' ongoing discussions in sponsoring new legislation in the second year of the 2015-16 State Legislative Session to extend the progress achieved by SB 498.

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

Mr. Mohajer informed the Subcommittee of the annual Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference, scheduled for November 18, 2015, in Pomona. He informed the Subcommittee that Scott Smithline, the newly appointed Director of CalRecycle, will be the forum's keynote speaker. The conference will host discussions on composting, waste diversion, and the varying

definitions of zero waste. Mr. Skye informed the Subcommittee he will be one of six speakers, including Californians Against Waste, to speak on the topic of Zero Waste.

VII. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Traecey Anthony of Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) provided the Subcommittee with an update on ongoing planning discussions for the CT Conference. Ms. Anthony also reported that in September 2015 ARI completed the first Working Draft of a Request for Qualifications and Proposals document for the proposed AD project at the Pitchess Detention Center. ARI also recently began research on small scale biodigesters and AD units to manage organic food waste from the Public Works Headquarters cafeteria. Mr. Skye added that the cafeteria has also begun worm composting food scraps as part of the agency's compliance with Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826) requirements for commercial establishments.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mike Mohajer commented on an [article](#) recently published in the Sacramento Bee where he stated he had been misquoted as asserting that the Task Force had been altogether opposed to the chartering of AB 1826. Mr. Mohajer clarified his statements to the newspaper as an attempt to convey the Task Force's concerns over the County's insufficient capacity to compost the approximately 5 million tons of organic material generated yearly while only containing permitted facility capacity to manage approximately 250,000 tons in the South Coast Air Basin.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.