

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

Minutes of April 21, 2016, Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Conference Room B
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Timothy Hall, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)*
Jacques Franco, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and
the Economy*
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mark McDannel, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Patrick Holland, for Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Works
Jim Stewart, for Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
~~Kay Martin, BioEnergy Producers Association~~
~~Eugene Sun, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force~~
Eugene Tseng, University of California, Los Angeles, Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tim Standke, MSolTec Energy Research, LLC
Traacey Anthony, Alternative Resources, Inc.
Ilesha Siler, Los Angeles Food Policy Council
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mackenzie Domann, 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

*Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2016, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2016, [Subcommittee](#) meeting was made by Mr. Rob Sherman and seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer, and it passed with Mr. Jacques Franco abstaining.

III. PRESENTATION BY TIM STANDKE OF MSOLTEC ENERGY RESEARCH, LLC, ON ENVIROPURE FOOD WASTE PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Tim Standke, Technical Director of MSolTec Energy Research, LLC, provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on a food waste decomposition technology operated by EnviroPure Systems, Inc. The technology applies a non-toxic, biodegradable nutrient mix called BioMix to source separated food waste that is then grinded and decomposed into a liquefied solvent. The liquid is then sanitized with an ozone based property and converted into greywater that may be used for irrigation purposes.

Mr. Standke inquired with the Subcommittee whether the technology would comply with standards set forth by Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826, Chesbro, 2014). Mr. Tim Hall commented that technology applying the use of a liquefier does not ensure compliance with AB 1826 unless it is applied in conjunction with composting or anaerobic digestion (AD), per guidance provided by CalRecycle. Mr. Mohajer highlighted the principal objective of ~~AB 1826~~ [AB 341 \(Chesbro, 2011\)](#) as being to substantially reduce the volume of ~~organic~~ material disposed at landfills or incineration facilities through means of ~~composting, recycling, or source reduction~~ [source reduction, composting, and recycling](#). He added that the definition of source reduction under the law has not been fully defined as of yet, [and is unclear of its role in eligibility for achieving AB 1826 compliance which requires 50% reduction in the amount of organic waste from disposal by 2020 as compared to 2014.](#) He further commented that EnviroPure's application could possibly comply with [requirements outlined in AB 341 and AB 1826.](#) ~~the law as such.~~

Mr. Franco inquired with Mr. Standke as to whether EnviroPure's technology had been evaluated by any independent (unpaid), third-party entities. Mr. Standke informed the Subcommittee that while no unpaid independent evaluations had been performed on the system as a whole, samples of the greywater effluent and

other elemental compounds produced by the system were tested by a third-party. Mr. Mohajer strongly suggested EnviroPure further investigate how the unconverted residual material left over from the technology's processing would be addressed.

Discussion returned to the subject of source reduction with Mr. Hall providing further clarification as to its definition under ~~AB 1826~~ [Public Resources Code \(PRC\) §40196](#), citing that source reduction does not include steps taken after the material becomes solid waste. Once disposable material formally becomes waste, it can no longer be technically described as having been source reduced. [PRC §40196 also states that source reduction does not include actions which would impact air or water resources.](#) He added that while AB 1826 does permit businesses to receive diversion credit for recycling their own organic waste onsite, [he questioned whether](#) material liquefied to greywater would ~~currently not~~ qualify ~~for as~~ onsite recycling credit, ~~nor would it qualify or~~ as source ~~reduction.~~ ~~reduced, per AB 1826.~~

IV. DISCUSSION ON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BIOENERGY PLAN

Mr. Ajwani reported to the Subcommittee on the recent publication of U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Bioenergy Technologies Office's Multi-Year Program Plan. The Plan is intended for use as an operational guide to help the Office manage and coordinate its activities for energy sustainability, including the use of bioenergy. However, staff identified that the plan only incorporated algae and biomass conversion without mentioning the utilization of municipal solid waste (MSW) for the creation of bioenergy. Staff recommended writing a letter to the DOE providing them information on the benefits of utilizing MSW to generate bioenergy.

V. UPDATE ON COUNTY CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE

Mr. Patrick Holland updated the Subcommittee on the status of the County sponsored Conversion Technology (CT) Conference. He informed the Subcommittee of staff's recommended date for the conference to be July 29, 2016. This date was recommended by staff as the date falls during the Legislature's Summer Recess which staff believes would provide an opportunity for legislators to attend the conference. The Subcommittee approved the suggested date, although Mr. Jim Stewart and Mr. Mohajer each expressed concern over whether sufficient time would remain in the current legislative session for the conference have meaningful impact on CT related bills in this current legislative session.

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

Mr. Ajwani provided an update on staff's current efforts to disseminate the County's Comparative Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis (Comparative Analysis), informing the Subcommittee of a draft press release currently pending Administration approval. Mr. Stewart commented that the document should be aggressively marketed and distributed to every available publishing outlet, as the document is a critical defense of CT and what the County, the County Integrated Waste Management Task Force, and other likeminded groups have been working very hard to promote for a substantial period of time.

Mr. Holland informed the Subcommittee that its Chair, Mr. Coby Skye, would be presenting at the Air and Waste Management Association (A&WMA) West Coast Luncheon Speakers Series on May 18, 2016. A&WMA is a co-sponsor of the upcoming CT Conference.

Kawsar Vazifdar reported to the Subcommittee that staff monitored a presentation entitled Biochar as an Alternative for Mine Site Remediation, delivered to US EPA agents by Greg Shipley from BioEnergy Development/Waste to Energy, LLC. Biochar is a by-product of pyrolysis, which is the application of heat to organic material in the absence of oxygen to produce bio-oil and syngas. Their research found that biochar that is designed and engineered has the ability to turn "dead soil" at a mine site contaminated with heavy metals, acids, and chemicals that prevent all plant growth into a field that can actively support specific crops with healthy soils.

Mr. Mark McDannel informed the Subcommittee that the food waste recycling program at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant will be featured on the May 17, 2016, edition of SoCal Connected on KCET.

Mr. Mohajer informed the Subcommittee that ReGreen Technologies, Inc., which previously presented to the ATAS, has offered to provide a tour of their technology in operation in Ontario (San Bernardino County). Mr. Holland commented staff would look into setting up a site visit.

VII. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Traacey Anthony of Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) provided an update on the County's conversion technology project development. Ms. Anthony reported

that in addition to its continued assistance with planning and coordination for the conference, work on a draft Request for Qualifications and Proposals (RFQP) for the AD project at the Pitchess Detention Center is being drafted. She also reported on ARI's efforts to illustrate the Pitchess project's structure and key contractual components with diagrams that map out the flow of funds and related obligations of the County and the contractor for both public and private ownership options. ARI has reviewed those diagrams with staff and has prepared a list of informational needs to further develop specific components of the RFQP.

Ms. Anthony commented that as ARI continues its support of the Pitchess project and other potential CT projects, the contractor also continues to work on summarizing potential recurring and/or pending grant and funding opportunities, such as the CalRecycle Organics Grant Program and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Loan Program. ARI has reviewed the proposed eligibility, scoring criteria and evaluation process for the FY 2016-17 Organics Grant Program, monitored CalRecycle's monthly meeting on April 19, 2016, via webinar, and provided assistance to staff in developing comments to submit to CalRecycle.

ARI will also be initiating work on a Request for Information to update the listings for the companies currently on the County's technology database, and to add new companies within the existing technology categories.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.