

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

**Minutes of August 17, 2017 Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Blank, Waste Management, Inc.  
Tim Hall, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)\*  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition  
Benjamin Lucha, City of Palmdale Department of Public Works  
Mark McDannel, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
(Task Force)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Jacques Franco, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy  
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles  
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health  
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company  
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.  
Eugene Tseng, University of California, Los Angeles, Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Daniel Dela Cruz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gerald Ley, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee  
Troy Weber, CalRecycle\*

\*Designates participants over the telephone

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 19, 2017 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Due to insufficient members being present to meet a quorum, approval of the Minutes from the July 19, 2017 Meeting was postponed to the next Subcommittee Meeting.

Extended discussion ensued regarding the frequent absences of some Subcommittee members. Staff indicated it would increase efforts to encourage more consistent attendance on the part of all Subcommittee members and/or their alternates, in addition to exploring new members.

## **III. DISCUSSION ON 2017 COUNTY CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP**

Mr. Patrick Holland provided an update on the proposed 2017 Conversion Technology (CT) Legislative Workshop (Workshop). The Workshop Plan was discussed with Public Works Administration (Administration) and although Administration was supportive of the plan to host the Workshop with staff from the State Legislature, staff has been directed to delay its planning until Spring 2018. Administration plans to meet with legislative stakeholders regarding water and transportation issues later this year; thus, waste related legislative discussions should wait until after those meetings. In the meantime, Public Works staff plans to research and gather information on past CT legislative efforts and discuss with legislative committee staff their understanding of CTs. If any other organizations would like to initiate discussions with legislative stakeholders, Public Works staff can help prepare information and possibly participate in those discussions.

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

Mr. Clark Ajwani provided the Subcommittee with an update on the following upcoming conversion technology (CT) events:

- Waste Conversion Technology Conference (WCTC), August 21-23, 2017, San Diego, CA
- California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA), August 21-23, 2017, San Diego, CA
- SB 1383 Organics Regulations Workshop August 31, 2017, Riverside, CA
- WasteCon 2017, September 25-27, 2017, Baltimore, MD
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF), November 8, 2017, Pomona, CA

Mr. Ajwani noted that Subcommittee member Mr. Jim Stewart and Public Works staff Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar will each be providing presentations at WCTC. Mr. Scott Smithline, Director of CalRecycle, will be the keynote speaker at SCWMF. The event will also feature several other important attendees who will be speaking during the event's energy recovery from waste session, including:

- Julia Levin, Bioenergy Association of California
- Mark McDannel, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
- Tim Cesarek, Enerkem, Inc.

## **V. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Staff will be disseminating a letter to the waste industry for their input on any potential locations for future CT facilities. Once those locations are identified, staff will begin discussions with the cities where potential locations are identified. If confirmed by the Cities, the potential locations will be listed in the County's Countywide Siting Element (CSE) that is currently being revised and is expected to be released for public review later this year. The CSE is the County's long-term planning document outlining its projected disposal capacity over the next 15 years.

Mr. Mohajer commented that staff should also request information on locations or projects for anaerobic digestion (AD) and composting operations in addition to thermal CTs, as the County is required to identify organic waste processing infrastructure, per AB 876 (McCarty, 2015). Mr. Holland added that Public Works will consider requesting that information, as part of the letter, but believes that research has been completed as part of the Countywide Organic Waste Management Plan, which is expected to be submitted to CalRecycle later this year.

Mr. Ajwani also discussed a grant application recently announced by the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Public Works had previously commented on the potential grant criteria, suggesting that the grant provide funding for projects that produce biochar. However, when the final grant application was announced, biochar production was not eligible.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

A brief discussion was held regarding the Subcommittee's position on posting Subcommittee member information onto the Task Force website. The Subcommittee instructed staff to consult with County Counsel to determine the legality of posting Subcommittee information onto a web-based public domain and report back to the Subcommittee with its findings.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.