

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

Minutes for July 18, 2019

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Tim Hall, rep. by Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources
Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) *
Patrick Holland, rep by Clark Ajwani, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale *
Kay Martin, rep by Jim Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles
Chris Coyle, Republic Services – Sunshine Canyon Landfill
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Rob Williams, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tracy Anthony, Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI)
Nam Doan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Norma McDonald, Organic Waste System
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative

* Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ajwani called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 20, 2019 MEETING

A motion to approve, as amended, the minutes from the June 20, 2019 meeting was made by Mr. Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Kaddis. The motion passed with one abstention.

III. PRESENTATION BY ORGANIC WASTE SYSTEMS WASTE RESOURCES, INC. – NORMA MCDONALD

Ms. McDonald provided a [PowerPoint](#) presentation on Organic Waste Systems (OWS), an international anaerobic digestion (AD) facility developer. She stated that OWS partnered with Waste Resources, Inc. (WRI), a waste hauler and processor in the County on a proposed project at Scholl Canyon Landfill in the City of Glendale called the Scholl Canyon Organics Recovery to Energy (SCORE). She stated that SCORE was designed to process source separated organics, including paper, in addition to municipal solid waste (MSW). She stated that the concept for SCORE included a materials recovery facility (MRF) and an AD facility, along with the post-processing to remove contaminants from the digestate.

Ms. McDonald reported on two different types of facilities OWS could develop to assist jurisdictions in complying with Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383). She stated that the first approach is a High Diversion Organic Waste Processing Facility, which can recover 90 percent of organic waste from MSW. She stated that the second approach is a Designated Source Separated Organic Waste Processing Facility, which can recover 95 percent of organic waste from a source-separated organic waste stream. She stated that the OWS technology requires a minimal amount of pre-treatment and does not require the addition of water.

Ms. McDonald spoke about the challenges with developing SCORE, including the significant additional capital cost of 25 to 30 million dollars due to construction in a hilly area and the need to develop a site plan where the facility was not visible from viewpoints surrounding the landfill.

Ms. McDonald presented OWS's DRANCO AD technology. She explained that waste materials do not have to be separated before the AD process, which is unique to their AD technology. She explained that the clean compost, inert materials, and materials that can be used for refuse-derived fuel are separated after the AD process using the OWS SORDISEP technology.

Mr. Mohajer asked about the difference between the OWS process and traditional AD such as the ArrowBio process. Ms. McDonald responded that OWS separates non-organic materials from the finished compost after digestion, ensuring that all of the organic waste is digested. She explained that in traditional AD such as the ArrowBio process, organic waste is separated from non-organic waste before digestion and some of organic waste may be disposed as a result of the separation process.

Ms. Dewey asked about the process for dewatering the digestate to recover the compost and inert materials. Ms. McDonald responded that during the SORDISEP process, gravity helps separate the materials. She added that the remaining slurry goes through a centrifuge and produces organic cake and process water, and the process water is then recycled to dilute additional influent digestate.

Mr. Stewart asked about the range of tipping fees. Ms. McDonald responded that each project will have unique economic factors that impact the tipping fee.

Mr. Mohajer asked about the status of developing an AD project with the City of Glendale at Scholl Canyon Landfill. Ms. McDonald responded that exclusive negotiations with WRI and OWS and the City have been terminated, but that OWS is open to any possibility of resuming the project or developing projects at other locations in the Los Angeles County.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Doan reported that SoCalGas announced it will continue its grant program offering a total of \$100,000 in grants to help cities prepare for climate change risks, such as flooding, wildfires, and other extreme weather events. He stated that the competitive grant program provides \$50,000 to each of two municipalities in the utility's service territory and that the deadline to submit proposals is September 20, 2019.

Mr. Doan reported that the Task Force and Public Works submitted comments on the second formal draft of Senate Bill 1383 regulations. He stated that CalRecycle presented the second formal draft at a public workshop on June 18, 2019 in Diamond Bar, California and that comments were due on July 17, 2019. He stated that CalRecycle expects to release the third and final formal draft of the regulations for public review in September.

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

Mr. Doan mentioned the upcoming conferences:

- California Resource Recovery Association Conference, August 11 – 14, 2019, Rancho Mirage, CA (Public Works will attend and present)

- Resource Recycling Conference, August 26 – 28, 2019, New Orleans, LA
- RNG Works 2019 - Technical Workshop and Trade Expo, September 11 – 12, 2019, Nashville, TN
- US Biogas Conference, October 1 – 2, 2019, San Diego, CA
(Public Works may attend and present)
- WASTECON 2019, October 21 – 24, 2019, Phoenix, AZ
- BioCycle REFOR19, October 28 – 31, 2019, Madison, WI
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Annual Conference & Exhibit, November 7, 2019, Pomona, CA

Mr. Mohajer added that the Southern California Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Chapter Workshop will be held on September 5, 2019 in Huntington Beach, CA.

VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Anthony, from Alternative Resources, Inc (ARI) stated that ARI reviewed and commented on the revised SB 1383 regulations focusing on the determination whether a technology constitutes a reduction in landfill disposal.

Ms. Anthony reported that ARI completed the preliminary background work to demonstrate the benefits of converting organic waste into renewable natural gas (RNG) including calculation of the regional RNG generation potential based on the gasification of organic waste disposed of in Los Angeles County. She stated that ARI subcontractor UltraSystems is reviewing documentation associated with the recently released EPA WARM Model Version 15 for potential application to estimate the greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits associated with RNG production

Ms. Anthony also reported that ARI is continuing to work on fact sheets highlighting facility sizing and emissions information. She mentioned that ARI subcontractor Clements Environmental has been requested to develop flow charts for permitting a composting facility and a gasification facility similar to the permitting flow chart they prepared for an anaerobic digestion facility.

Last, Ms. Anthony stated ARI is working with Public Works to develop a best management practices guideline for non-organic waste.

Ms. Landis asked if the respective acreages for composting and anaerobic digestion facilities would be included in the fact sheets and flow charts. Mr. Ajwani responded that ARI would include this information.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A questions was asked whether the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for non-organic waste will include particular industries for which Public Works will select

developers. Mr. Ajwani responded that the BMPs will not analyze particular industries, but will be mostly focused on solid waste management within jurisdictions.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room D of Public Works Headquarters.