

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

Minutes for January 16, 2020

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections

Chris Coyle, rep by Dennis Montano, Republic Services – Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Tim Hall, rep by Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling
and Recovery (CalRecycle) *

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.

Kay Martin, rep by Jim Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association *

Kevin Mattson, Waste Management *

Mark McDannel, rep by William Chen, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
County

Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

Eugene Tseng, rep by Vincent Holguin, Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles

Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company

Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale

Carolyn Watson, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Rob Williams, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tracy Anthony, Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI)

Clark Ajwani, Los Angeles County Public Works

John Cruikshank (New Planet Energy)

Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works

James Osborne, Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) *

Sarah Solomon, Los Angeles County Public Works

Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

Elizabeth Zaragoza, Los Angeles County Public Works

Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Christopher Sheppard called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 21, 2019, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2019 meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Wayde Hunter. The motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Sarah Solomon stated that CalRecycle intends to adopt Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) Regulations by January 18, 2020. She stated that SB 1383 requires CalRecycle to develop regulations to reduce organic waste landfill disposal 50 percent below the 2014 level by 2020 and 75 percent by 2025. She also stated that an additional requirement is to recover 20 percent of edible food currently disposed of in landfills for human consumption by 2025. Ms. Solomon reported that after CalRecycle's adoption of regulations, the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) has 30 days to conduct a review ensuring that CalRecycle has satisfied all requirements. She stated that after being approved by the OAL, the regulations will become effective January 1, 2022.

Ms. Solomon commented that Mr. Scott Smithline, CalRecycle's Director, announced his resignation on November 22, 2019, and left his position at the end of 2019. She reported that CalRecycle's current Acting Director is Mr. Ken DeRosa.

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

Ms. Solomon mentioned the following conferences:

- The Renewable Gas 360, January 22 – 23, 2020, Sacramento, CA
- The VerdeXchange Conference, January 25 – 28, 2020, Los Angeles, CA
- Compost 2020 Conference, January 28 – 31, 2020, Charleston, SC
- International Biomass Conference, February 3 – 5, 2020, Nashville, TN
- Recycling Market Development Workshop, February 11, 2020, San Diego, CA
- Zero Waste Symposium, February 11, 2020, San Diego, CA
- National Zero Waste Conference, March 18, 2018, Berkeley, CA
- SWANApalooza 2020, March 23, 2020, Atlanta, GA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum, March 24, Downey, CA
- Biocycle West Conference, March 28 – April 2, Downey, CA

V. PRESENTATION BY ALTERNATIVE RESOURCES, INC. – SUMMARY OF WORK LOS ANGELES COUNTY ADVANCED SOLID WASTE TECHNOLOGY – TRACY ANTHONY

Ms. Tracy Anthony gave a summary presentation of work done on conversion technology (CT) projects over the last several years. Mr. Sheppard noted that the contract with ARI is expiring and a Request for Proposal for a new contract has been released and will involve zero waste research and planning services in addition to CT. He stated that there was a bidder's conference the previous week.

Mr. Mohajer asked what the date was for the CT facility sizing study. Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar stated that the study was done in 2019.

Mr. Tim Hall asked if the deliverables for Task 3 are available. Mr. Clark Ajwani responded that staff is reviewing the deliverables, which will be available on the SoCalConversion website within the next few months. Mr. Sheppard commented that the Subcommittee will be notified once documents are available. Mr. Hall commented that he would review the projects list and request items of interest from staff.

VI. DISCUSSION ON ATAS GOALS AND PRIORITIES

Due to many changes in the last couple years on solid waste policies, laws and regulations, Mr. Sheppard stated that this new year would be a good time to assess the goals and priorities of the Subcommittee. Mr. Mohajer suggested that staff could prepare a list for the Subcommittee that could be discussed at future meetings.

Mr. William Chen suggested that green waste management be a priority, because the County Sanitation Districts receive a lot of green waste, which cannot be used as landfill cover and much of it cannot be processed through anaerobic digestion. Mr. Hall responded that CalRecycle is trying to address green waste management. He added that SB 1383 requires CalRecycle to perform an analysis by July 1, 2020 analyzing infrastructure needs and that the report will analyze pathways in addition to compost and anaerobic digestion. He said that CalRecycle would prepare a draft analysis by March 2020 and host a public workshop to get feedback from stakeholders. Mr. Sheppard asked if CalRecycle plans to hold workshops in other locations besides Sacramento. Mr. Hall answered that CalRecycle may consider hosting an additional workshop in Southern California, possibly at a Subcommittee meeting, if there is enough interest.

Mr. Jim Stewart commented that there are at least five projects in development in San Joaquin Valley that utilize gasification to handle biomass. Mr. Stewart recommended that statutory barriers to the use of such technologies to handle municipal solid waste (MSW) should continue to be the primary focus of the Subcommittee. He also suggested the Subcommittee pursue outreach activities, including setting up facility tours for Subcommittee members and stakeholders.

Mr. Mohajer recommended that the ATAS develop a legislative proposal to provide diversion credit to thermal CTs. Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Hall if gasification of green waste would count as reducing short-lived climate pollutants and reducing organic waste disposal under SB 1383. Mr. Hall responded that biomass conversion is considered a reduction of disposal under SB 1383 and Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939). Mr. Mohajer replied that he was confused why biomass gasification was excluded from the SB 1383 Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by CalRecycle and why CalRecycle did not address this issue in their responses to stakeholder comments. Mr. Hall stated that he was not involved in preparing or responding to comments on the EIR documents or preparing the EIR. Mr. Sheppard asked if the July report by CalRecycle would include existing and proposed biomass conversion facilities and if it would discuss barriers to the development of these facilities. Mr. Hall responded that it would.

Mr. Hunter asked if the Subcommittee would be interested in developing educational material for legislators and their staff. Mr. Sheppard mentioned past efforts to educate public officials, including fact sheets and the CT Conference. Mr. Hunter commented that developing a new comprehensive packet would benefit new legislative staff. Mr. Hall suggested that the Subcommittee develop a summary of all legislative and regulatory language that is a barrier to CT development, as well as how these barriers affect jurisdiction compliance with AB 939, SB 1383, and Assembly Bill 341 (AB 341). Mr. Mohajer recommended including a study on CTs conducted by CalRecycle in the packet.

Mr. Sheppard thanked the Subcommittee for all the recommended items and stated that staff will prepare a list of potential goals and priorities to discuss at the next meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room A of Public Works Headquarters.