

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

Minutes for May 19, 2022

WEB CONFERENCE

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Kay Martin, rep by Jim Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Mark McDannel, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Darshna Patel, City of Los Angeles
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Chris Coyle, Republic Services
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company

OTHERS PRESENT:

Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Leanna Swain, Shell

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Christopher Sheppard called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 21, 2022 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Eugene Tseng seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESENTATIONS – SHELL

Ms. Leanna Swain with [Shell](#) presented on their anaerobic digestion technology which processes agricultural waste to produce renewable natural gas (RNG). Shell is one of the largest suppliers of liquified natural gas (LNG). Natural gas makes up the majority of their global portfolio compared to crude and traditional petroleum sources. Shell is working to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

Shell is building a network of compressed natural gas (CNG) stations to service customers in an effort to support fleet conversion. Shell also has a large internal team called Shell Chemical focused on the delivery of pyrolysis technologies used to convert plastic waste into sustainable chemical products. Shell Chemical projects that they will create 100,000 tons of pyrolysis oil from plastic waste products by 2030.

Mr. Mohajer asked how Shell is advocating for legislation to allow development of their technologies in California. Ms. Swain responded that Shell has a large team that is advocating for legislative and regulatory support in Sacramento for technologies that can convert plastic waste and other items into consumer products.

Mr. Sheppard asked if Shell engages in plastic manufacturing or if they only sell the polymer resin and/or chemicals to manufacturers. Ms. Swain responded that they create polymer resins to replace plastic products.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that Los Angeles County (County) developed Infrastructure LA to encourage the development of new infrastructure in the County, but a recent Infrastructure LA panel discussion did not include the need for energy generation infrastructure. Mr. Sheppard responded that he would share a video of the panel and more information on Infrastructure LA with the Subcommittee members.

Mr. Mohajer added that he believes that Shell and other similar companies can make valuable contributions to regional infrastructure. He also shared concerns about new State codes to prohibit gas connections in new development starting in 2023. Mr. Sheppard commented that a motion was adopted by the Board of Supervisors to consider similar policies in Los Angeles County.

Mr. Sheppard asked if Shell has a plan for incorporating electrification policies into its decarbonization strategy moving forward. Mr. Mohajer commented that RNG is a critical energy source and that there is a lack of adequate renewable electricity nationwide. Ms. Swain responded that Shell supports electrification and renewable electricity and has made significant investments in offshore wind and hydrogen.

Mr. Sheppard asked if Shell plans to adapt their existing gas pipeline distribution network for other products such as hydrogen or if they plan to sell this asset. He also asked if Shell has any involvement in energy storage. Ms. Swain responded that Shell is considering building significant hydrogen infrastructure because hydrogen is not compatible with existing natural gas infrastructure. She added that Shell also closed an acquisition last year with a storage and micro grid technology company.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Arbogast reported that Tetra Tech continues to evaluate closed landfill sites for potential organic waste processing facilities and also continues to assist Public Works (PW) with the development of Request for Proposals for the Calabasas Landfill anaerobic digestion facility.

Mr. Sheppard mentioned that some of the sites are not suitable candidates for future development so PW is expanding the evaluation to include additional sites.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided the following update:

- At the May 17, 2022, meeting, CalRecycle stated that they recently approved 393 awards to local jurisdictions for the first round of the Senate Bill 1383 Local Assistance Grants. The County received \$1.4 million in grant funding. Checks will go out to local jurisdictions in the next few weeks. For the second round of awards in Fall 2022, other local jurisdictions may receive grant funding if they submit applications to CalRecycle by June 14, 2022.
- CalRecycle previously announced awards for new compost and anaerobic digestion projects. The combined projects will divert half a million tons of organic waste from landfills each year.
- CalRecycle is accepting applications for co-digestion projects to maximize the capacity of wastewater treatment plants to process organic waste. The deadline to submit applications is today, May 19, 2022.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned the Governor's revised budget includes a \$100 billion surplus, but that environmental priorities under the California Environmental Protection Agency will receive only \$65 million. Mr. Sheppard commented that the Governor's revised budget includes additional funding that was previously approved

last year for the circular economy and waste-related issues. He stated that this funding includes \$10 million for a compost pilot program overseen by CalRecycle.

Mr. Jim Stewart asked about the status of Assembly Bill 1857. Mr. Sheppard responded the bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee for hearing and that the hearings are approaching fiscal deadlines. Mr. Mohajer commented that the bill must move out of the Assembly by tomorrow.

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

Ms. Vazifdar provided an update on events and conferences, which can also be found in the [Conversion Technology newsletter](#) and Subcommittee meeting minutes:

- Biogas Americas 2022: May 23 – 26, 2022, Las Vegas, NV
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Business Meeting & Spring In-Person Conference: June 8, 2022, Buena Park, CA
- VerdeXchange 2022: June 19 - 22, 2022, Los Angeles, CA
- SWANA Workshop: June 23, 2022, Ontario, CA
- A&WMA 115th Annual Conference & Exhibition: June 27 – 30, 2022, San Francisco, CA
- The 13th Waste Conversion Technology Conference: August 10 - 12, 2022, San Diego, CA
- Resource Recycling Conference: August 15 - 17, 2022, Austin, TX
- 17th Annual CEAC Policy Conference: August 18 - 19, 2022, Sacramento, CA

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 10 a.m.