

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

Minutes for July 21, 2022

WEB CONFERENCE

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ron Kent, rep by Flavio Da Cruz, Southern California Gas Company
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Kay Martin, rep by James 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, rep by Timothy Hoang, City of Los Angeles
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT:

Emmanuel Alloh, City of Los Angeles
Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Janelle Auyeung, CalRecycle
Will Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Alex Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Charles Darensbourg called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 16, 2022 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Ben Lucha made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Mark McDannel seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESENTATION – CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Mr. Emmanuel Alloh, Biosolids Manager of the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant (Reclamation Plant) provided a [presentation](#) on sludge management at the Reclamation Plant.

Mr. Mohajer asked what is the difference between land application of biosolids and landfilling biosolids. Mr. Alloh responded that biosolids are land applied for beneficial uses such as growing crops and that in landfilling the biosolids are buried. Biosolids used for land application must meet State requirements for beneficial reuse as well as federal regulations. Mr. Mohajer asked if there is any evidence of leachate in the land application going into the groundwater. Mr. Alloh responded that they have permits requiring yearly samples of the groundwater which includes tests for nitrate and chloride. Mr. Mohajer asked if they have a waste discharge requirement permit from the California State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board), and if so, if it could be distributed to the Subcommittee. Mr. Alloh confirmed they do have a requirement and he will e-mail it to staff. Mr. Mohajer also asked where the leachate currently goes from the Zoo Compost Facility. Mr. Alloh responded that he would research the inquiry and subsequently provide the information since he does not work at that facility.

Mr. James Stewart asked if studies have been done on the transport of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) through the land application of the sewage sludge to the fields where crops are grown, which affect the feeding of those crops to animals, and then to food products. Mr. Stewart questioned if markets for sludge or compost in the future would decline due to the presence of PFAS. Mr. Alloh responded that there has been no study, but that the University of Arizona contacted the City of Los Angeles to participate in a study on the issue of PFAS and the Greenacres Farm was also identified to participate in the study.

Ms. Michelle Dewey mentioned her understanding is that the Reclamation Plant would be expanding their operations to accept food waste slurry at their facility and asked if there were any updates on the project. Mr. Alloh responded that he would research the inquiry and subsequently provide the information since he is not involved in the project. Ms. Arbogast asked if the update could be provided to the

entire Subcommittee. Mr. Darensbourg requested Mr. Alloh send the requested information to either himself or staff so it may be disseminated to the Subcommittee.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Arbogast reported that Tetra Tech continues to support Public Works (PW) in SB 1383 planning efforts and has started an expanded evaluation of potential locations for organic waste processing facilities. Tetra Tech is also supporting PW with evaluating responses to the Calabasas Anaerobic Digestion Request for Proposal.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Darensbourg provided the following update:

- At the June 21, 2022 meeting, CalRecycle stated they approved the first round of funding for Senate Bill (SB) 1383 local assistance grants in May 2022. Checks totaling \$41.7 million are currently being sent to 393 jurisdictions to create or enhance their local programs. Communities of Southgate, Lakewood, Paramount, and Lynnwood received funds to provide organics collection containers for city facilities and countertop kitchen waste bins for residents. Funds may also be used to procure and provide mulch or compost for residents, businesses, schools, and parks. An additional 104 jurisdictions could potentially be awarded the second round of funding this fall.
- At the July 19, 2022 meeting, CalRecycle stated:
 - Local jurisdictions must submit their SB 1383 Electronic Annual Report covering the period from January to June 2022, by October 3, 2022. Jurisdictions must submit their SB 1383 Capacity Planning Report by August 1, 2022.
 - CalRecycle's Biomass Conversion 2021 Annual Report details the amount, type, and sources of biomass processed at biomass conversion facilities in California. In 2021, there were 24 active biomass conversion facilities in California, which decreased from more than 50 biomass conversion facilities in the 1980's.

Mr. Mike Mohajer asked to define biomass facilities because CalRecycle defines it in various ways, and he wants to make certain that the definition is aligned with the Public Resources Code (PRC). Mr. Darensbourg responded he would look into the PRC because he is only aware that biomass facilities include wood waste and agricultural wood waste. Mr. Mohajer also requested that PW staff look into Assembly Bill 1857 and the definition.

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

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

- 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
- CRRA Annual Conference and Tradeshow: September 6 - 9, 2022, Oceanside, CA

Mr. Mohajer mentioned the Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference at the Doubletree Hotel on November 3, 2022, in Ontario, CA.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 18, 2022, at 10 a.m.