

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

**February 15, 2024**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Kate Downey, Republic Services  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.  
Ron Kent, rep by Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas  
Kevin Matson, rep by Kimberly Ohrt, Waste Management  
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections  
Dee Hanson Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Heather Williams, CalRecycle  
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kim Yapp, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fahim Rahimi called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 18, 2024, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the January 18, 2024, minutes and Mr. Ron Milo seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

## **III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Cesar Leon from Tetra Tech stated that Tetra Tech:

- Submitted to Public Works (PW) for review a draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92; which includes the performance of high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for conversion technology (CT) facility options.
- Is performing a Countywide siting evaluation for the development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal CT facilities within the unincorporated County areas and 88 jurisdictions in the County.
- Is performing a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will investigate land availability and land use compatibility.
- Is finalizing a Fact Sheet and PowerPoint presentation for the proposed AD facility at Calabasas Landfill in support of community outreach.

## **IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

Ms. Tran Kiem provided the following update:

The most recent CalRecycle monthly meeting was on January 16, 2024. Staff provided a summary to the ATAS at the previous month's meeting. CalRecycle's next meeting is on February 20, 2024, and staff will provide a summary to the ATAS at next month's meeting on March 21, 2024.

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

Ms. Kiem provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- Global Waste Management Symposium: February 25 – 28, 2024, Indian Wells, CA
- Zero Waste Symposium: February 28, 2024, San Diego, CA

- International 17th Annual Biomass Conference Expo: March 4 – 6, 2024, Richmond, VA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Spring Conference: March 14, 2024, Ontario, CA

## **VI. PRESENTATION BY TETRA TECH "COUNTYWIDE SITING EVALUATION FINDINGS"**

Mr. Leon provided a [presentation](#) on a Countywide siting evaluation that Tetra Tech is conducting to identify feasible locations for solid waste processing infrastructure, such as AD and thermal CT facilities.

Mr. Ethan Simonoff asked if Tetra Tech is considering the potential impacts of the transportation of waste in its siting evaluation. Mr. Leon responded that Tetra Tech is not currently incorporating transportation impacts into its siting evaluation but agreed that transportation impacts should be considered as part of facility development.

Mr. Simonoff stated that the scope seemed to focus on centralized larger-scale facilities and asked if the siting evaluation considered the potential for permitting smaller-scale facilities. Mr. Leon stated that, in the future, Tetra Tech may also analyze the feasibility of locations identified in the evaluation for smaller-scale facilities. He added that Tetra Tech will be looking at the potential siting of open windrow composting, covered aerated static piles, and community composting.

Mr. Rahimi asked what the minimum parcel size can be and if a potential location should be vacant in order to site a facility. Mr. Leon responded that the minimum lot size, as required by the Green Zone Ordinance, is three acres. He added that identification of a desirable location should consider numerous factors, minimize impacts, and comply with all requirements.

Ms. Kate Downey asked if the requirements of other regulatory agencies, such as the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, will be considered in the siting evaluation. Mr. Leon responded that the requirements of these regulatory agencies were not included at this stage of the siting evaluation, but that all regulatory requirements should be considered as part of facility development.

Mr. Milo asked if surveys have been conducted in the communities neighboring the potential locations in order to gauge public opinion. Mr. Leon responded that no surveys have been conducted at this stage of the siting evaluation, but that community engagement should be incorporated as part of facility development.

Mr. Rahimi asked if the siting evaluation is a high-level analysis. Mr. Leon confirmed it is a preliminary high-level analysis to identify potential locations that could potentially be feasible for the development of AD or thermal CT facilities. He explained that additional analyses, including field work, potential inclusion of facilities in the Countywide Siting Element, land use entitlements, and environmental reviews, may also be needed to confirm the feasibility of these locations.

Mr. Simonoff asked how much additional organic waste processing capacity that potential new AD or thermal CT facilities developed at the locations could provide. Mr. Leon responded that the current siting evaluation does not quantify potential organic waste processing capacity and only identifies potential locations.

Mr. Hunter asked when the final siting evaluation will be available. Mr. Leon responded that the final draft should be available by the next Task Force presentation. A draft report with the findings will be submitted to PW for review and will be made available to the ATAS upon PW approval. Mr. Rahimi commented that Mr. Leon presented preliminary findings and that Tetra Tech will be invited to provide an update to the ATAS in the future.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024.