

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

October 16, 2025

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sharon Bronson, Republic Services
Jonathan Caruso, Waste Management
Kate Logan, Waste Connections
Will Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas
Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Heather Rose, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Siya Araumi called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2025, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the September 18, 2025, minutes, and Mr. Jonathan Caruso seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon stated that Tetra Tech:

- Submitted a draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92, which includes a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for conversion technology (CT) facility options.
- Submitted a revised workplan based on the finalized Countywide Siting Evaluation Report for the development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal CT facilities within Los Angeles County (County). This initial site assessment identified areas across the County with high development feasibility based on established siting criteria. Next steps include further evaluation of parcels identified as part of the initial site assessment.
- Will present the findings of the potential community compost hub, site and partner identification report.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Tran Kiem provided the following update:

- Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 70 (Aguiar-Curry), which directs CalRecycle to adopt a pathway for diverted organic waste to pipeline biomethane. AB 70 also defines "pyrolysis" in statute.
- The Governor has also signed Senate Bill (SB) 86 (McNerney), which extends the sales tax exemption for bioenergy, recycling and advanced manufacturing.
- CalRecycle will host their next monthly meeting on October 21, 2025.
- Currently, there are no SB 1383 chats planned.

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

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

- The National Zero Waste Conference: October 22 – 23, 2025, Virtual.
- RCon Powered by Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA): November 12 – 15, 2025, Columbus, OH.
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Annual Conference & Exhibit: November 19, 2025, Ontario, CA.

VI. PRESENTATION BY TETRA TECH

Mr. Cesar Leon from Tetra Tech provided a [presentation](#) on a proposed community compost hub in the County.

Mr. Hunter asked why paper is not included as suitable material for composting. Mr. Leon replied that communities primarily target food waste for composting, with green waste being secondary. Mr. Hunter expressed concern about accepting solely food waste, as food waste can include non-compostable materials such as bones or fat. Mr. Leon stated that acceptable food waste excludes these non-compostable materials.

Mr. Will Chen asked if there is national need for community composting. Mr. Leon replied that there are various social benefits, such as the promotion of personal efforts to divert waste. Mr. Leon added that community composting can also supplement SB 1383 procurement requirements.

Mr. Hunter asked about staffing requirements for community composting and who would provide the staff. Mr. Leon replied that most projects are at a small-scale, requiring at most two to three people. Mr. Leon stated that the community itself is primarily responsible for conducting composting.

Ms. Bernadette Halverson stated that the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation partners with LA Compost and that they provide fourteen sites for people to drop off their food waste. Ms. Halverson added that the food waste is transported to local community compost hubs.

Mr. Chen asked how the County gets SB 1383 procurement credit. Mr. Araumi replied that CalRecycle established the SB 1383 procurement target of 81,000 tons of recovered organic waste for unincorporated Los Angeles County and that the

amount of organic waste composted at community hubs is eligible to receive SB 1383 procurement credits toward achieving the target.

Mr. Caruso stated that large composting facilities typically deal with significant amounts of contamination due to incoming feedstock. Mr. Caruso added that the County can meet the 81,000-ton target by partnering with brokers that can use organic waste on behalf of individual jurisdictions.

Ms. Halverson stated that organic waste curbside collection programs accept both green waste and food waste. This contrasts with waste dropped off at farmers markets, which is limited to food waste. Mr. Halverson added that industrial composting facilities are better equipped to handle various types of organic waste, compared to the equipment they have at community composting hubs.

Mr. Hunter asked about the equipment needed to set up a community composting hub. Mr. Leon replied that when community compost hubs were first established, basic equipment such as shovels and crates was used. Mr. Leon added that hubs would be set up to efficiently process the compost and limit any odors.

Mr. Ethan Simonoff asked if a tour can be provided for a community composting hub. Mr. Araumi replied that tours can be provided in the future and will be announced.

Ms. Halverson asked if community composting facilities help fulfill SB 279 requirements. Mr. Araumi replied that the facilities are multi-faceted in purpose, and primarily fulfill SB 1383 requirements.

Mr. Araumi asked about the processing limit of composting facilities. Mr. Leon replied that small facilities such as urban and school farms can compost up to 200 cubic yards, and will not need to apply for a permit. If the operation is agricultural, the limit goes up to 500 cubic yards.

Mr. Hunter asked about the process to remove community composting hubs if constituents express they do not want the facility. Mr. Araumi replied that the County corresponds and engages with constituents to determine whether the composting hub or facility is needed. Mr. Leon added that the community composting hubs still need to meet conditions under the local zoning ordinance and obtain site plan review approval.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025.