

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

Minutes of January 18, 2007

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Conference Room C, Main Building
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Fernando Berton, California Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
John McTaggart, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association
Ed Wheless, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
P. Christine Urbach, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Michael Theroux, Theroux Environmental Consulting
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS

Alex Helou, Represented by Miguel Zermeno, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dorothy Austin, Alternative Resources, Inc.
Bernard Benedini, Holland and Knight
Jim Binder, Alternative Resources, Inc.
Sue Higgins, Alternative Resources, Inc.
Virginia Jauregui, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
David McKenzie, Alternative Resources, Inc.
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Brenda Smith, California Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Teno West, Holland and Knight

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 16, 2006 AND JANUARY 4, 2007

The minutes of November 16, 2006 was approved. Mr. Mohajer commented that at the meeting of January 4, 2007, a motion was made to have a draft copy of the minutes supplied within one week after the meeting date. Mr. Alva clarified that he made a commitment that staff would make every effort to provide a draft copy of the minutes to the Subcommittee within one week, however this was not a formal motion. Mr. Mohajer therefore made a motion that Staff will make every effort to provide a draft copy of the minutes to the Subcommittee within one week, and notify the Subcommittee if this timeframe cannot be met. The motion passed unanimously.

III. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

On January 11, Mr. Berton attended a renewable energy conference hosted by the Consulate General of Sweden. Mr. Skye attended a related conference on January 12, in which the Swedish Minister for the Environment was a featured speaker. It was noted that Sweden uses a combination of recycling, alternative technologies and incineration to successfully divert 90% of waste from landfills. On January 16, Mr. Skye, Mr. Clements and members of ARI held a meeting with Jay Chen of the AQMD, to discuss the permitting process for a conversion facility.

On January 4, 2007, the Waste Board responded to a letter sent by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, requesting clarification on the steps a proposed conversion technology project would need to take in order to receive approval from the State. The Waste Board's response explained that the Waste Board relies on a "three part test" to determine if a facility requires a solid waste facilities permit or not.

In regards to upcoming events, Biocycle will be hosting its Annual West Coast Conference April 16, 17, and 18 in San Diego; Mr. Berton and Mr. Skye will be featured speakers. In addition, on March 14, Wesley Chesbro, the newest member appointed to the Waste Board, will be speaking at the Southern California Waste Management Forum in Downey, and conversion technology topics will be discussed.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FUNDING RESEARCH FOR FACILITATION PROJECT

ARI is continuing to assist in identifying funding resources for a conversion technology project, including grants, loans and other funding mechanisms. At present, ARI is reviewing private financing alternatives based on information submitted by the technology suppliers. Teno West of Holland and Knight mentioned that his team has reviewed a number of public funding opportunities, special appropriations opportunities, and bonding structures that can be used for the project. Mr. West noted that because of the specifics of the project are still not identified, public funding options are limited; however, possible State and Federal funding sources have been identified and can be applied for once a specific partnership has been selected. David McKenzie of ARI stated that the technology suppliers have acknowledged the necessity of private investment, and three companies have financed or are in the process of financing projects with private funds.

V. UPDATE ON MRF EVALUATIONS

At present, the MRF evaluation team is working to review MRF/technology facility integration, as well as refining and applying evaluation criteria, and reviewing possible permitting pathways for a facilitation project. Mr. Clements affirmed that talks have been held with LEAs in Riverside and Ventura Counties, and the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Mohajer reiterated his concern regarding County franchises and noted that all but one MRF locations are outside Los Angeles County, and suggested this criterion be removed. However, if this criterion were to be included, it should be revised to include all the jurisdictions that sit on the Board of the County Sanitation Districts.

VI. UPDATE ON RFI RESPONSES

Ms. Higgins stated that ARI is continuing to evaluate the technical responses received from technology suppliers. A new schedule has been created and follows the format issued to the Subcommittee back in September. The schedule has been extended by approximately one month in order to accommodate the February and March touring schedule. As a result, issuance of a draft report is extended until late May/early June.

VII. DISCUSSION OF INTERVIEWS FOR FACILITATION PROJECT

Interviews for the facilitation project will be taking place January 23 and January 24. Guidelines for the presentations were provided to the suppliers, and each supplier is allotted a two-hour period of which 30-45 minutes are devoted to the presentation itself, and the rest to questions and answers.

VIII. DISCUSSION ON UPCOMING TOURS

Currently, facility tours are planned for February and March 2007. Their primary purpose is to allow the Subcommittee and ARI to verify, support and supplement the information provided by the technology suppliers, observe the technologies in operation, and meet with public officials and local regulators served by these facilities. ARI recommended that each tour be limited to six individuals including three members of the Subcommittee, two representatives of ARI, and one representative from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. In addition, ARI recommends a core group of three participate in all tours, consisting of one representative each from the Subcommittee, the County DPW, and ARI, in order to insure continuity and uniform evaluation of all technologies. The other tour participants can vary for each trip to accommodate schedules. Mr. Mohajer motioned to request the Sanitation Districts send a tour representative. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. SCOPE OF WORK FOR CIWMB GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS–BRENDA SMITH

Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed at the next meeting.

X. OPEN DISCUSSION

Due to provisions in the Sunshine Canyon CUP, Subcommittee membership may be expanded to include representatives of BFI and the North Valley Coalition; the CUP is awaiting adoption by the Board of Supervisors. In addition, former State Senator Wesley Chesbro was appointed to the Waste Board on January 4, 2007. Finally, Coby Skye noted that this meeting represented the 3-year anniversary of the Subcommittee, and congratulated the team on a fine record of accomplishments.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled to meet January 18, 2007 at 10 a.m.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.