

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

Minutes of January 20, 2011

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacques Franco *, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Rafael Garcia, Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc.
Ron Goodman, Southern California Gas Company
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Sun, Council Member, City of San Marino

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kay Martin, BioEnergy Producers Association
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Paul Alva, represented by Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Alex Helou, represented by Miguel Zermeno, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Becky Bendikson, SCL-CAC for City and County of LA
Suk Chong, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Sue Higgins *, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
David McKenzie *, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
Jacqueline Maddox, Clements Environmental
Hillary Gross Moglen*, Cerrell Associates
Andrea Harbin, Creative Environmental Solutions
Bereket Tadele, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Angélica SantaMaría, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2010

A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 18, 2010. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tobie Mitchell reported on the Pacific West Coast Biomass Conference held in Seattle. The conference was attended by a diverse cross-section of solid waste/biomass professionals. Ms. Mitchell presented on the County's efforts to develop conversion technology projects in a diverse and urban region. The County's projects were featured on a panel that represented all aspects of project development: there was an attorney that spoke on avoiding litigation through developing effective stakeholder relationships, a financier discussed ways for financing public-private partnerships, and an energy expert discussed the growing market for biogas.

Jacques Franco informed the members of the California Biomass Collaborative annual forum that will take place on the week of April 4, 2011 at UC Davis, more details to follow. Jacques also reported that the BioCycle Annual West Coast Conference will be held the week of April 11, 2011 in San Diego.

IV. UPDATE ON PHASE III & IV CONTRACT

Sue Higgins with ARI provided an update to the Subcommittee on Phase III & Phase IV of the CT project. For Phase III, activities continue to focus on the three demonstration project developers. Emphasis is focused on CR&R and Arrow Bio project effort, and ARI is preparing a gap analysis for staff's review as an economic model that will determine what level of funding support is needed to make the project viable. ARI is also working with CR&R in developing a New Market Tax Credit analysis, at this time it looks favorable. ARI continues to communicate with Rainbow Disposal to see whether or not they have made a decision to pursue the project with another technology, at this time they are still considering their options. Finally, IES made progress in getting their demonstration project operational. ARI is working on an option analysis for this facility to move it forward.

David Mackenzie with ARI provided an update regarding the funding activities for the demonstration projects. ARI coordinated several meetings in Washington, D.C. in December to discuss items that might come up in the 2011 budget.

For Phase IV, ARI is working on an economic model for the Calabasas landfill proposed site. ARI is also working on two informational documents, one on key lenders for conversion technology projects and the second one on conversion technology suppliers. Two separate Request For Expression of Interest (RFEI) questionnaires are being developed to solicit information from these two key groups.

Jacqueline Maddox, with Clements Environmental provided an update on Phase IV of the project indicating that an overall evaluation of the initial sixteen sites reported to the Board of Supervisors has been completed. Six sites have been prioritized based on the political, technical, and logistical feasibility of each site.

Discussion ensued regarding Phase III and Phase IV. A motion was made to request the Task Force send a letter to the Brown Administration, requesting a meeting with the appropriate representatives to discuss the County's conversion technology project.

V. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

Hillary Gross Moglen with Cerrell Associates provided the subcommittee with a brief update on outreach activities. Cerrell is working with County staff on updating the SoCalConversion.org website. Cerrell staff is also working with ARI on Phase III and IV outreach efforts, focusing on what assistance they can provide to each of the various projects.

VI. 2011 BIOENERGY ACTION PLAN

Tobie Mitchell, reported that a strong letter of support was sent by the Task Force to the California Energy Commission regarding the 2011 BioEnergy Action Plan. Ms. Mitchell reported that the Plan was developed by the Interagency Working Group, comprised of representatives from several state agencies. The purpose of this Plan is to determine the challenges BioEnergy facilities face and how the state agencies can work together to help overcome those challenges and foster growth in the biomass industry. Staff's review of the BioEnergy Action Plan found that this report appropriately identified the challenges and had several good recommendations.

Jacques Franco provided an update on the responses received from the Action Plan. Currently, the CEC is reviewing all responses and is expecting to have a working draft next month for review. He also noted that the City of LA letter was excellent.

VII. UPDATE ON ATAS GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Coby Skye noted the Goals and Objectives were adopted in 2009, and that it was important to periodically review them to ensure the Subcommittee remained on track. The purpose of this document was as a guide for Subcommittee members and staff to identify what the ATAS needs to focus on. Mr. Ron Goodman suggested adding a goal regarding the need for incentives for biogas injection into the existing natural gas pipeline network.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mark McDannel provided an update on the Calabasas Landfill Gas to Energy (LFGTE) facility and invited the Subcommittee to attend a tour of the facility.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is TBD. Members expressed interest in holding the next meeting in conjunction with a tour of the Calabasas LFGTE facility.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.