

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

**Minutes of January 15, 2015**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works)  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition  
Eugene Sun, Mayor, City of San Marino  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force)  
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association  
Scott Beckner, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)\*  
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD)  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Jim Stewart for Kay Martin, BioEnergy Producers Association\*  
Gregory Brown for Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company\*  
Miguel Zermeno for Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Larry Levin, Juniper Hills

OTHERS PRESENT:

Samantha Foley, Cerrell Associates  
Victor Le, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Kevin Best, Real Energy  
Stephen Britz, Real Energy  
Dave Czerniak, LACSD  
Vanessa Olivas, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Patrick Holland, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Carlos Slythe, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Clark Ajwani, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Rob Silver, MSolTec  
Tim Standke, MSolTec  
Jacque McMillen, Clements Environmental

\*Designates participants over the telephone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Skye called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 20, 2014 MEETING**

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2014, Mr. Sherman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with one abstention.

**III. PRESENTATION BY MSOLTEC ENERGY RESEARCH, LLC.**

Tim Standke and Rob Silveria of MSolTec Energy Research LLC, made a presentation about their involvement in the Phillip K. Wrigley Marine Science Center (WMSC) proposed Energy Technologies Demonstration Park (ETDP) which would be located on Catalina Island. The WMCS is the centerpiece of the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. ETDP would be a permanent site dedicated to development, testing, and demonstration of alternative and renewable energy technologies. The site will serve as a research and educational setting for emerging energy technologies and as a practical platform for developing new energy ideas. Slides used for the presentation are available [here](#).

**IV. PRESENTATION BY REPUBLIC SERVICES REGARDING CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE**

Mr. Rob Sherman, General Manager of Republic Services' post collection services in Los Angeles County, made a presentation about Republic Services' efforts associated with conversion technologies. Republic Services operates Sunshine Canyon Landfill and is obligated by way of a requirement in the Conditional Use Permit for the landfill to provide support for the development of conversion technology projects and facilities as well as provide a representative to the ATAS. Mr. Sherman informed the ATAS that Republic Services has strongly supported composting and organics diversion legislation, including support for Senate Bill 498 (Lara, 2014), Assembly Bill 1826 (Chesbro, 2014) and Assembly Bill 1594 (Williams, 2014). Republic Services is currently testing how to collect and pre-process organics. Mr. Sherman added that since Republic Services is a public company with many competitors, he cannot disclose some of the efforts the company is taking towards supporting conversion technologies. Slides used for the presentation are available [here](#).

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

Mr. Skye informed the subcommittee members that Public Works has been coordinating meetings related to the implementation of the Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future (Roadmap) which was adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in October 2014. A lot of the discussion at these meeting has been and

will continue to emphasize organics processing and facilities, and conversion technologies. Public Works will continue to provide updates to ATAS on these activities.

Mr. Skye mentioned Public Works' participation on the upcoming VerdeXchange Conference in Los Angeles, which will be held on January 26 and 27. Pat Proano of Public Works will moderate a panel discussion on the state of conversion technologies with a number of participants including Julia Levin of the Bioenergy Association of California, Enrique Zaldivar of the City of Los Angeles, Marie-Hélène Labrie of Enerkem, and Christian Felske with the City of Edmonton in Alberta, Canada.

Samantha Foley of Cerrell Associates informed the ATAS that Cerrell has been working with Mr. Patrick Holland's team on the Countywide Siting Element, Conversion Technologies, and the Roadmap. Since the Roadmap was approved by the Board of Supervisors, Cerrell has been working with the Roadmap working group and assisting with the coordination of the subcommittee meetings. Ms. Foley added that Cerrell continues to work on a video for Public Works regarding their efforts towards implementation of sustainable practices. Cerrell will begin work towards a marketing and roll-out plan for the Conversion Technology White Paper developed for the County.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE CONCEPT**

Mr. Skye acknowledged and thanked Mr. Jim Stewart's efforts to draft the proposal for a conversion technology conference slated to be held at UCLA sometime in the spring or summer of 2015. ATAS members were asked for feedback regarding the draft proposal which was distributed to ATAS members prior to the meeting. The conference could be an opportunity to highlight the Conversion Technology White Paper, which examines the greenhouse gas emission benefits of using an integrated material recovery facility with conversion technology system compared to traditional transport and disposal of waste at a landfill. Ideally, the conference would coincide with breaks in the legislature's calendar in order to allow legislative representatives to attend. Several members of ATAS had comments on the specifics of the White Paper and several other members stated that they had not received the White Paper in order to provide comment. The White Paper will be distributed to ATAS members once all the original peer review comments have been incorporated.

Mr. Mohajer questioned the County's plan to continue to expend funds for consultant services contracts without first analyzing the results of the County's conversion technology project development efforts since the County initiated its interest in conversion technologies in 1999. New and/or revised strategies may be identified as a result of an analysis of the County's conversion technology efforts to date. Proponents of conversion technologies may need to shift their focus on the Governor rather than the legislature which may help getting a conversion technology bill through the existing legislature. Mr. Mohajer and Mr. Zermeno recognized that there is a need for coordination between the City of Los Angeles' waste-to-energy efforts and the County's efforts towards conversion technologies. Mr. Mohajer identified a number of inaccuracies in the draft proposal for a conversion technology conference, particularly its absence of recognition of the enactment of Assembly Bill 1826 (Chesbro, 2014). The concept document is available [here](#).

A motion was made by Mr. Mark McDannel, seconded by Mr. Eugene Sun, to revise the conference concept based on the comments received, and to recommend to the Task Force to move forward with Public Works staff to develop the conference, as summarized in the concept paper. The motion was unanimously approved, with an abstention from Mr. Stewart.

#### **VII. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Skye mentioned that the Public Works conversion technology technical assistance contract with Alternative Resources Inc. was delayed by the Board of Supervisors in December. The item is expected to be considered on the January 27, 2015 Board of Supervisors agenda.

Mr. Skye reported that Public Works staff recently visited the CR&R anaerobic digestion project in Perris, CA, where they were able to see the results of construction efforts to date. The project is scheduled to begin operation later this year and it is seen as a major success, being the first commercial scale conversion technology project that Los Angeles County has been involved in.

#### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

#### **IX. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Tentatively scheduled for February 19, 2015

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.