

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

Minutes of January 21, 2016, Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Conference Room B
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacques Franco, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy*
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mark McDannel, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Jim Stewart for Kay Martin, BioEnergy Producers Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Brian Helmowski, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Larry Levin, Juniper Hills
Eugene Sun, Member
Eugene Tseng, University of California, Los Angeles, Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jalaine Madrid, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Timothy Hall, CalRecycle*
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

*Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 15, 2016, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Wayde Hunter, and it passed with Mr. Jacques Franco abstaining.

III. DISCUSSION ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE PROPOSAL

Mr. Coby Skye updated the Subcommittee on the status of the County sponsored Conversion Technology Conference. He informed the Subcommittee that Public Works' administration approved a Conversion Technology Communication Action Plan, which outlines a strategy to effectively communicate the benefits of Conversion Technologies (CTs) and the goals of the CT Program to key internal and external stakeholders. The Plan authorized Public Works staff to perform the following functions:

- Release the White Paper once finalized which summarizes the greenhouse gas emission benefits of an integrated CT facility
- Host a CT conference to highlight the findings of the White Paper and promote the development of CT projects in the County
- Work with the County's Sacramento legislative advocates to pursue a legislative proposal submitted to the County Chief Executive Office that would update Senate Bill 498 (Lara, 2014)

Extended discussion centered on the proposed legislation to augment the definition of biomass to include residue generated from composting. If the proposed legislation were chaptered into law, integrated facilities that are either co-located or generate residue from composting, anaerobic digestion, or waste water treatment, could then convert residue feedstock into renewable fuel using thermal conversion technology. This type of conversion would be considered diversion per Assembly Bill 939 (1989).

Mr. Skye reported to the Subcommittee the conference is planned to have four panel sessions covering a variety of CT related topics, including development of CT globally, environmental advantages, potential relationship to waste management sustainability, and legislative barriers to their development. Mr. Franco commented

that a greater emphasis of the conference should be placed on thermo-chemical processes, as opposed to bio-chemical processes. Mr. Skye commented that the incentives and regulatory environment in the State are less conducive to the advancement of thermo-chemical technologies and discussing these issues will be a major focus of the conference.

Mr. Skye informed the Subcommittee that the conference is tentatively anticipated to take place sometime in late Spring 2016. Mr. Hunter recommended the conference not be subject to a substantial fee. Mr. Skye commented that any fee charged for attendance would be modest. He added that plans are underway to finalize the conference agenda and begin the conference's promotion to interested groups.

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

Mr. Skye informed the Subcommittee of the staff's plans to attend the 2016 VerdeXchange Conference in Los Angeles during the final week of January. A panel assembled to discuss CT included representatives from Public Works, the City of Los Angeles, UCLA, Southern California Gas Company, CR&R, Inc., and the State Air Resources Board.

Mr. Franco informed the Subcommittee of an upcoming meeting in Sacramento discussing incentives for biomethane production. Mr. Skye commented that the State Budget Governor Brown signed at the beginning of the year includes an increase in funding from the State's Cap-and-Trade Program, along with other economic incentives, that has been directed toward CT, particularly bioenergy. The Program Budget includes \$100 million allocated to CalRecycle.

V. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Clark Ajwani updated the Subcommittee on progress made with the County Sherriff's Department for a potential anaerobic digestion (AD) project at the Pitchess Detention Center. Staff is currently working with the County's consultant, Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI), on completion of a Request for Proposal (RFP) document on the project. The preliminary draft of the document is currently being revised by ARI to confirm specific issues such as the project's location, size, and ownership. Upon completion, the RFP will be submitted to the County Chief Executive Officer for approval.

Mr. Clark Ajwani updated the Subcommittee on the status of the proposed anaerobic digestion project at the Lancaster Landfill. Discussions are underway for permitting of the proposed project.

Mr. Mark McDannel reported to the Subcommittee of an equipment demonstration at the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility. A ten day test press from Anaergia designed to separate organic material from municipal solid waste is being conducted at the facility. Mr. McDannel stated a test report would be generated at the completion with the findings of the project to be released at a later date.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Skye commented the next Subcommittee Meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 18, 2016. Presentations from CT developers are anticipated at future Subcommittee Meetings throughout the year.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.