

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

**Minutes of August 18, 2016 Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacques Franco, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy\*  
Timothy Hall, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)\*  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition  
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Benjamin Lucha, City of Palmdale Department of Public Works  
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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Jim Stewart, for Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Andre Schmidt, for Mr. Mark McDannel, County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles  
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company  
Eugene Tseng, University of California, Los Angeles, Solid Waste Program  
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Mackenzie Domann, 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  
Traecey Anthony, Alternative Resources, Inc.  
Tom Blank, Waste Management, Inc.  
William Heller, Organics Waste Logistics  
Matthew Mellino, United Kingdom Department for International Trade  
Mike Rosenfeld, United Kingdom Department for International Trade  
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

\*Designates participants over the telephone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 16, 2016 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2016 Meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Wayde Hunter, and it passed unanimously.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 21, 2016 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the July 21, 2016 Meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Mark McDannel, and it passed unanimously.

**IV. PRESENTATION, FROM WILLIAM HELLER OF ORGANIC LOGISTICS WASTE, INC., ON THEIR FOOD WASTE PROCESSING TECHNOLOGY**

Mr. William Heller, Chief Executive and Co-founder of United Kingdom based Organics Waste Logistics (OWL), provided the Subcommittee with a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the company's food waste processing technology. Mr. Heller discussed the company's Bio-Whale system, a mobile, sealed steel vacuum tank that could replace existing waste bins currently used by large food waste generators,. The Bio-Whale is to be located on the site of the generator in which source separated food waste is inserted inside and the Bio-Whale removes unseparated contaminants, such as cutlery, glass, and grit. The materials in the Bio-Whale are macerated and contaminants fall into a sump under the tank, which would typically be cleaned out twice a year. The food waste is hydrolyzed in the tank and stored under pressure for approximately 3-4 weeks while eliminating odors and vermin and decreasing the number of trips required of haulers to transport waste from the generator to food waste recycling facilities. The material is then extracted from the Bio-Whale as a slurry by a vacuum truck and transported to an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility.

Mr. Heller stated that OWL's strategy would be to establish an agreement with a local wastewater treatment plant to accept the food waste slurry and then work with waste haulers to secure food waste generating customers and transportation to the treatment plant. The company's objective would be to service between 25 and 40 customers generating approximately 5,000 and 8,000 tons per year of food waste.

## V. DISCUSSION ON COUNTY CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

Ms. Domann reported that the 2016 Southern California Conversion Technology (CT) Conference was a highly successful event with nearly 200 attendees and 20 speakers. The event was attended by a very diverse audience which included academia, local jurisdictions, regulators, elected officials, and community environmental groups, that engaged in each of the conference's four panel discussions and expressed willingness to learn more about CTs and the role each stakeholder can play in their advancement. The County's CT contractor, Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI), and their subcontractor, Innovate Marketing Group, Inc. (IMG), provided integral assistance from the event's initial planning stages through its full execution and closing logistics.

Ms. Domann informed the Subcommittee that staff disseminated a survey comprised of ten questions to conference attendees. Staff received responses from 22 attendees who, collectively, provided extremely positive feedback, including consistently high ratings for each of the event's speakers. In response to the survey's question addressing the respondents' overall experience with the conference, the average rating was 9.2 on a scale of 0-10. Additionally, responses to other questions indicated interest in the County hosting larger CT conferences in the future. At the close of her report, Ms. Domann thanked the Subcommittee members for their support with the conference and stated that staff was hopeful to host additional CT conferences in the near future.

Mr. Jim Stewart commended staff on the success of the conference. He commented that the success of the conference served as further affirmation of stakeholder interest in the advancement of CTs in the County and Statewide. He added that the conference has also served to build on previously generated momentum to advance CTs, adding that the aggressive circulation of the County's [Comparative Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis](#), published in January 2016, would play a vital role in further arguing an effective case for CTs in California.

Mr. Coby Skye commended Mr. Jacques Franco for his [PowerPoint Presentation](#) at the conference which highlighted the extensive and collective consistency of several environmental studies of CTs. Mr. Skye indicated encouragement that attendees of the conference had learned a great deal about the promise of CTs in California, adding that it was his hope that information presented at the event would find broad dissemination and reach through various public forums.

Mr. Mohajer added to Mr. Skye's remarks on Mr. Franco's presentation, stating his agreement with Mr. Franco that advancement of CTs, as a more embraced

alternative to current waste management practices, could be actuated upon greater political fortitude and consensus, which would come with broader awareness of the technologies, their effectiveness, and a more accurate scientific understanding of their relationship to GHG emissions.

#### **VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETING/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Stewart commented on his recent experience at the Waste Conversion Technology & Trade Show (WCTC) in San Diego that he and Mr. Clark Ajwani attended. He commended Mr. Ajwani on the [PowerPoint presentation](#) provided at the WCTC on behalf of the County.

Mr. Mohajer informed the Subcommittee of his recommendation for an article on the success of the CT Conference to be published in the upcoming edition of ISW.

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

Ms. Traacey Anthony of ARI reported to the Subcommittee completed a revised draft of the Request for Qualifications for Proposals (RFQP) for an anaerobic digestion (AD) project at the Pitchess Detention Center. ARI is currently working on proposal forms to be attached to the RFQP.

Ms. Anthony informed the Subcommittee that ARI has initiated updates to an economic model prepared in 2011 for a conceptual AD project at the Calabasas Landfill. ARI is also updating certain financial, cost, and performance parameters for present day scenarios.

Ms. Anthony informed the Subcommittee that ARI continues to monitor funding opportunities that could be applicable to CT projects in the County. In July, they participated in pre-application funding workshops for biofuels opportunities (GFO-15-605) and for biomass (including food waste) to energy opportunities (GFO-15-325).

#### **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.