

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

**Minutes of September 15, 2016 Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Blank, Waste Management, Inc.  
Jacques Franco, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and  
the Economy\*  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition  
Benjamin Lucha, City of Palmdale Department of Public Works  
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:

Brian Helmowski, for Tim Hall, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)\*  
Jim Stewart, for Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association\*

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  
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health

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  
Terry Levesque, Biogas Conversions, LLC  
Reg Renaug, Biogas Conversions, LLC  
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

\*Designates participants over the telephone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 18, 2016 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the August 18, 2016 Meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Mark McDannel. The motion was approved with Mr. Jacques Franco abstaining, pending revision to the Minutes to indicate Mr. McDannel was represented by Andre Schmidt at the Meeting.

**III. PRESENTATION, FROM TERRY LEVESQUE AND REG RENAUG OF BIOGAS CONVERSIONS, LLC, ON THEIR ORGANIC WASTE TO BIOGAS TECHNOLOGY**

Mr. Terry Levesque and Mr. Reg Renaug of Biogas Conversions, LLC, provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on their company's steam injected biomass reactor technology to convert organic waste into biogas. This technology is essentially anaerobic digestion with steam injected to aid in decomposition of the waste. Their pilot study at the Miramar Landfill in San Diego showed that steam injection into a landfill increased biogas production up to four times more than the original landfill gas collection system.

Biogas Conversions, LLC, is currently studying steam injection into a stand-alone vessel at a Universal Waste Systems, Inc., site in Perris, California. Mr. Renaug and Mr. Levesque offered to provide the Subcommittee with a tour of the facility. Mr. Skye accepted the invitation and replied that staff would coordinate the tour.

**IV. DISCUSSION ON COUNTY CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**

Mr. Coby Skye probed the Subcommittee for thoughts on the frequency for future conversion technology conferences hosted by the County, as well as what time of the year would be most tenable. Mr. Franco recommended future conferences be held annually at a minimum and remain one-day events so as to generate the strongest turnout and participation. Mr. Jim Stewart and Mr. Mohajer each recommended hosting future conferences earlier in the calendar year so as to influence legislation in the coming session. The Subcommittee agreed that staff should attempt for hosting the next conference on a Wednesday or Thursday in April 2017.

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

Mr. Mohajer mentioned the upcoming Southern California Waste Management Forum which will be held November 9, 2016, at the Sheraton Fairplex Hotel in Pomona. Among the topics discussed at the Forum will be Assembly Bill 901 (AB 901, Gordon, 2015) and other legislation effecting waste management in the State, as well a presentation on the current state of greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction in the metals and mining industry. There will also be a discussion on methods for food waste management. Mr. McDannel informed the Subcommittee that he would be among the event's speakers.

Mr. Skye shared with the Subcommittee his and staff's recent experience during a local tour of the Titus Secondary Material Recovery Facility (Titus) in South Los Angeles. The facility processes clean material recovery facility (MRF) residuals and MRF separated mixed plastics. He stated that the properties of the residual material from Titus are ideal for a thermal conversion system. He added that it is encouraging to see secondary MRFs, such as Titus, operating within the County, as these facilities serve to not only increase the County's overall recycling rate, but also reinforce the need for additional thermal conversion facilities to process non-recyclable plastics.

**VI. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

There was no discussion or update on this item.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.