

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

Minutes for August 16, 2018

900 South Fremont Avenue
City of Industry, CA 19746

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Chris Coyle, Republic Services – Sunshine Canyon Landfill
Daniel De La Cruz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Tim Hall, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) *
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Mark McDannel, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Tom Blank, Waste Management
Jacques Franco, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles
Patrick Holland, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sue Higgins, Alternative Resources, Inc. *
Tim Eng, Kaiser Permanente
Selena Loke Soo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Richard Ludt, Interior Removal Specialist, Inc.
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Jim Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association *
Sonia Terry, Public Citizen
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

* Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ajwani, returning from a six-month special assignment with Stormwater Planning Division is back in Environmental Programs Division and is filling in for Mr. Holland. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 19, 2018, MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes from the July 19, 2018, meeting as amended on Item V was made by Mr. Mohajer and was seconded by Mr. Hunter. The motion passed with two abstentions.

III. PRESENTATION FROM INTERIOR REMOVAL SPECIALIST, INC. (IRS)

Mr. Ludt gave a presentation on IRS, a commercial interior demolition contractor established in 1994 that specializes in demolition of interior office spaces as opposed to the demolition of full commercial and residential structures. IRS has their own recycling facility located on a 14-acre parcel in the City of South Gate. The facility receives an atypical waste stream with materials that are difficult to recycle, such as drywall, manufactured and treated wood, and commercial carpet, compared to materials received by standard construction and demolition recycling facilities. IRS also accepts appliances, e-waste, and tires.

Ninety to ninety-five percent of inbound material comes from IRS' own demolition and the other five to ten percent comes from small haulers. The facility is permitted to accept 3,000 tons per day of waste, including up to 500 tons a day of green waste and up to 2,000 tons per day of municipal solid waste.

IRS has also become a permitted hauler and has hauling contracts with the County in addition to 16 to 18 other cities in Southern California. IRS will also accept self-hauled waste from other cities. The facility also features a rail connection that can hold up to three cars for waste hauling. Last year, IRS took in over 57,000 tons of debris, with less than 7,000 tons going to the landfill.

Any residual material that cannot be recycled, totaling about 32 tons per day, is currently sent to landfill. At least 24 tons per day of this material is a suitable feedstock for a conversion technology facility. There is also a hammermill on the property that accepts steel cans. The paper waste from the cans could be included in the feedstock for a potential conversion technology facility.

Mr. Mohajer wanted to clarify that IRS aims to develop a conversion technology facility utilizing gasification or pyrolysis technology, and not a waste-to-energy facility using incineration. Mr. Ludt concurred.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Vazifdar stated that the California Air Resources Board recently released modified text for the Proposed Amendments to the Low Carbon Fuel Standard. Comments are due on August 30, 2018. Environmental Programs Division staff is reviewing and will prepare a Task Force letter in alignment with the two previous letters sent.

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

Ms. Vazifdar mentioned the upcoming conferences:

- WASTECON 2018, August 20 - 23, Nashville, TN
- BioCycle Refor18, October 15 – 18, Raleigh, NC
- Resource Recycling Conference, October 22 – 24, St. Louis, MO
- US Biogas 2018, November 5 – 6, San Diego, CA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference, November 14, Pomona, CA

Mr. Mohajer wanted to discuss Assembly Bill 3232 by Assembly member Laura Friedman. Mr. Mohajer stated the bill tries to prohibit the use of natural gas and renewable natural gas. The Task Force opposed the legislation because renewable natural gas can be produced by anaerobic digestion. Mr. Mohajer stated the bill was to be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee today and was likely to pass. If approved by the governor, it would discourage anaerobic digestion facilities by eliminating one of their marketable products. Mr. Mohajer also commented that waste hauling and processing companies, as well as agencies such as the Sanitation Districts, are assisting the County in promoting emerging technologies and new infrastructure, such as anaerobic digestion facilities, which are needed to comply with Senate Bill 1383. Mr. Mohajer recommended that each company or agency lobby against the bill starting today.

Mr. Mohajer motioned to send a template opposition letter for AB 3232 to all ATAS members requesting that they send an opposition letter on behalf of their organizations. Mr. Ajwani seconded the motion. The motion passed with three abstentions.

Mr. Lucha informed the subcommittee of the Used Oil and Household Hazardous Waste Conference being held September 18 – 21, 2018, in Garden Grove, CA.

VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Higgins stated that ARI's priority is to provide assistance to IRS on the technical and financial aspects of a gasification or pyrolysis facility. Public Works staff ran a preliminary analysis that did not analyze costs using an on-line calculator by Sierra Energy. ARI is working to develop a more robust economic model using site specific information provided by IRS for a gasification or pyrolysis facility that would handle a minimum of 75 to 100 tons of the captive waste that IRS has. ARI's expectation is to report findings at the next ATAS meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ajwani welcomed Mr. Coby Skye back to EPD after working in Public Works Traffic and Lighting Division. No other public comment was made.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room C.

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