

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

Minutes for July 15, 2021

WEB CONFERENCE

Los Angeles County Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorcas Dee Daniel-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ron Kent, rep by Paul Ghougassian, Southern California Gas Company
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Kay Martin, rep by Jim Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Dennis Montano, rep by Chris Coyle (Sunshine Canyon), Republic Services
Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Nam Doan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Paulina Kolic, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Christopher Sheppard called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 17, 2021 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Wayde Hunter and seconded by Mr. Ben Lucha. The motion passed unanimously.

III. PRESENTATION – SB 1383 ALTERNATIVE RECOVERY RATE METHODOLOGY

Mr. Eugene Tseng, Technical Advisor of the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for the City of Los Angeles, presented on Alternative Methodologies for Determining Senate Bill (SB) 1383 Organic Waste Characterization and Recovery Rate. The presentation provided information on the work that the LEA is doing with CalRecycle to determine the organic waste recovery rate calculation and waste characterization protocols for mixed waste processing technologies. Mr. Tseng explained the protocols for an individual process line and for an entire facility and stated that the LEA is working with CalRecycle to clarify the guidelines and requirements for measuring organic waste recovered from mixed waste.

Mr. Tseng displayed a video showing the recovered material and commented that it may not be possible or safe to determine the amount of incompatible material. The LEA may approve, with concurrence from CalRecycle, alternative measurement protocols which will be used to develop field tests. Mr. Tseng will convert the alternative measurement protocol into a generic protocol that is applicable to all facilities.

Mr. Chris Coyle asked if the recovered material is further processed and diverted. Mr. Tseng responded that it is diverted at the Anaergia anaerobic digestion (AD) facility. The Sanitation Districts' Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) uses a similar process to produce a slurry from food waste and sends it to the Carson Joint Water Pollution Control Plant for co-digestion. Mr. Kevin Mattson added that Anaergia's Rialto Bioenergy Facility uses a polishing system to remove plastic waste from the recovered material before it goes into the digester.

Mr. Coyle asked if a lab analysis was performed on a half-liter sample of recovered organic waste. Mr. Tseng responded that it is Waste Management protocol and the industry standard to perform a lab analysis. Mr. Mark McDannel noted that the Sanitation Districts tests each load for pH and conductivity and requires haulers to leave behind a one-liter sample of slurry in case additional testing is needed.

Mr. Coyle asked what type of waste stream was analyzed in the waste composition study. Mr. Tseng responded it included source separated organic waste and wet commercial waste. Mr. Mattson commented that the goal for the facility is to process source separated organic waste, mixed organic waste, and residual organic waste.

Mr. Jim Stewart noted he is working on a project in Fresno, California that combines gasification and AD at the same facility. Gasification will be used to process the digestate and provide heat and power for the AD. The facility will include a new pretreatment process for green waste to increase renewable natural gas production. Mr. Stewart noted that the facility may obtain construction permits by October 2021.

Mr. Lucha asked how to differentiate organic versus inorganic textiles and carpets at a MRF. Mr. Tseng responded that sorting textiles and carpets is one of the largest sources of error and a significant challenge for SB 1383 compliance.

Mr. Sheppard asked if the dry fraction would be a suitable feedstock for a conversion technology (CT) facility. Mr. Tseng responded that it would, and this process has been implemented in other countries.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Nam Doan gave an update on policy and legislation.

- CalRecycle will be holding their public monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2021.
- An update on SB 1383, AB 341, and AB 1826 will be provided at next month's ATAS meeting.

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

Mr. Doan provided an update of 12 events that can also be found in the [Conversion Technology \(CT\) newsletter](#), and Subcommittee meeting minutes:

- SoCal SWANA Chapter Workshop: High Diversion Facilities: July 22, 2021, virtual
- Resource Recycling Conference & Trade Show: August 4 – 5, 2021, virtual
- Waste Conversion Technology Conference & Trade Show: August 16 – 18, 2021, San Diego, CA
- California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) Conference & Trade Show: August 16 – 19, 2021, virtual
- The International Conference on Thermochemical Conversion Science: September 14 – 16, 2021, Denver, CO
- CEAC Policy Conference: September 15 – 16, 2021, virtual

- Renewable Natural Gas Works Technical Workshop & Trade Expo: September 29 – 30, 2021, Nashville, TN
- Paper and Plastic Recycling Conference: October 20 – 21, 2021, Chicago, IL
- VERGE 2021 Conference: October 25 – 28, 2021, virtual
- WasteCon 2021: November 1 – 4, 2021, Kissimmee, FL
- National Recycling Congress: November 3 – 4, 2021, virtual
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Annual Conference & Exhibit: November 10, 2021, Ontario, CA

Mr. Mohajer noted that SCWMF provides scholarships for college students and they may contact SCWMF to fill out an application.

VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Christine Arbogast stated that Tetra Tech is:

- Supporting Public Works in preparing a report, due in September 2021, to the Board of Supervisors in response to a June 8, 2021 Board motion to Enhance Countywide Solid Waste Management through Expanded Programs and Infrastructure Investments. The report will include recommendations for waste diversion infrastructure and programs to achieve new State and County climate and waste management goals, particularly organic waste diversion requirements of SB 1383. The report will also include a discussion of CT facilities.
- Supporting Public Works in developing factsheets on different types of AD.
- Responding to the Subcommittee's comments on a fact sheet comparing AD in Europe versus the United States.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mohajer commented that last month's minutes needed to be corrected to show that Mr. McDannel was not in attendance.

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled remotely for Thursday, August 19, 2021, at 10 a.m.