

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

August 17, 2023

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Kate Downey, Republic Services
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident
Dee Hanson Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Kay Martin, rep by James Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association
Barbara Romero, rep by Ronaldo Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ron Kent, Southern California Gas
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stephen Hawkins, S.E. Hawkins Company
Michael Nakamura, S.E. Hawkins Company
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fahim Rahimi called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2023, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the July 20, 2023, minutes and Mr. Wayde Hunter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon from Tetra Tech provided the following update:

- Tetra Tech is continuing their efforts with the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92 Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley. The study will include a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for application of anaerobic digestion and/or thermal conversion technology facilities.
- After completing preliminary analysis of three old landfill sites in the County, Tetra Tech is moving into a more detailed analysis to determine if these sites are suitable for organic waste processing facilities.
- Tetra Tech is also conducting a preliminary analysis of an expanded list of potential sites for organic waste processing facilities to determine their zoning and compatibility with local land use regulations.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Tran Kiem provided the following update:

- At CalRecycle's most recent meeting on August 15, 2023, CalRecycle announced that CalRecycle and the California Air Resources Board reviewed H Cycle's application to be considered an organic waste disposal reduction technology under Senate Bill (SB) 1383 Article 2 and determined that the application was complete. CalRecycle will proceed to the next phase, which is to give the public 30 days to comment on the application, which may be found on CalRecycle's website for viewing.
- CalRecycle will release a draft of SB 54 regulatory language and will hold additional workshops in Fall 2023, prior to starting the formal rulemaking at the beginning of 2024.
- The monthly SB 1383 chat with CalRecycle will be held on August 23, 2023, and will focus on the challenges and successes in implementing residential SB 1383 programs.

Mr. Mohajer commented that CalRecycle accepted this application from H Cycle after the previous application was denied. Mr. Rahimi concurred that H Cycle first submitted their application earlier this year.

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

Ms. Tran Kiem provided an update on events and conferences, which can also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee meeting minutes:

- County Engineers Association of California Policy Conference: August 24 – 25, 2023, Sacramento, CA
- American Public Works Association - Public Works Expo 2023: August 27 - 30, 2023, San Diego, CA
- Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Work Technical Workshop and Trade Expo: September 12 - 14, 2023, Nashville, TN
- Southern California Solid Waste Association of North America: September 21, 2023, Buena Park, CA
- WASTECON 2023: September 27 - 29, 2023, Boston, MA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference: November 8, 2023, Ontario, CA

VI. PRESENTATION BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS REGARDING FRAMEWORK FOR GASIFICATION AND OTHER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL PROCESSES THAT RECYCLE/CONVERT SOLID WASTE

Mr. Charles Darensbourg of Public Works provided a [presentation](#) regarding a draft framework for gasification and other advance technological processes that recycle and convert solid waste.

Mr. Stephen Hawkins with S.E. Hawkins Company stated the importance of revising the definitions of gasification and other thermal technologies in State code. He continued that, if the definitions were revised, these technologies could be used if they meet the local Air District design standards.

Mr. Michael Nakamura with S.E. Hawkins Company encouraged the Subcommittee to focus on eliminating the barriers to gasification, while remaining protective with public health and safety. He added that these changes are needed to allow California to develop gasification facilitates, similar to Europe and Japan, and encourage a circular economy.

Mr. Eugene Tseng noted the following problems with the definition of gasification:

- The definition states that gasification does not use air or oxygen in the conversion process, which is not possible with current technologies. Existing non-combustion technologies use small amounts of air or oxygen.
- The definition states that gasification may not have any discharges of air contaminants or emissions. Existing non-combustion technologies will have a limited amount of emissions despite meeting stringent air emissions requirements.
- The definition states that gasification produces no hazardous waste, which is an impossibly high standard. To put it into context, even hazardous waste facilities produce hazardous waste in the treatment process.

Mr. Tseng specified that State code needs an overhaul because existing non-combustion technologies cannot meet the standards. He discussed that the public perception of gasification and thermal technologies is that they reduce source reduction and recycling, but that countries that use gasification also have the highest rates of recycling. Mr. Tseng stated that he has traveled internationally to visit existing non-combustion facilities and that the laws implemented in other countries include technical standards that allow for such facilities being built and operated.

Mr. Mohajer suggested that staff review a study conducted in the late 1990s by the University of California Riverside and the University of California Berkeley. The study concluded that existing laws establish standards that existing gasification technologies cannot meet. He stated that changes must be made in State laws in order to for conversion technologies to move forward in California.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Tseng announced that he received an invitation to participate in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Vermont later this year, and that they are adopting a zero solid waste component to address climate change. Conversion technology and reducing trash in landfills is currently a high priority to address climate change.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 21, 2023.