

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

October 19, 2023

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

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
Darren Kwan, 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 10:04 a.m. He announced that the Great California Shakeout was scheduled for 10:19 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2023, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the September 21, 2023, minutes and Mr. Wayde Hunter seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

- Finalizing the Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92; which includes a high-level review of economic, environmental and technical considerations for anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facility options. A draft report is being prepared for Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) review.
- Performing a Countywide siting analysis for the development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities.
- Performing a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will investigate land availability and land use compatibility.
- Preparing a Fact Sheet and Power Point Presentation for the proposed AD Facility at Calabasas Landfill in support of community outreach.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Tran Kiem provided the following update:

- At CalRecycle's most recent meeting on October 17, 2023, they announced additional workshops are coming for Senate Bill (SB) 54. Organizations can now apply to become a SB 54 producer responsibility organization. The application deadline is January 1, 2024. CalRecycle is working to release SB 54 draft regulatory language and hold additional workshops this fall before starting formal rulemaking in early 2024.
- CalRecycle held an SB 1383 Chat on October 18, 2023, with jurisdictions peer-sharing their enforcement requirements and processes. Additionally, \$90 million in SB 1383 Local Assistant Grants remain available. Applications are due by November 15, 2023.

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

Ms. Kiem provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- National Zero Waste Conference: October 25 – 26, 2023, Virtual
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Annual Conference: November 8, 2023, Ontario, CA
- California State Association of Counties 129th Annual Meeting: November 14 – 16, 2023, Oakland, CA
- The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Inspire 2023 Conference: November 16 – 18, 2023 Arlington, VA
- North American Renewable Natural Gas Conference: December 11 – 14, 2023, Dana Point, CA

Mr. Ethan Simonoff announced that Southern California Gas (SoCalGas) would be hosting the Power of Waste – Renewable Natural Gas for California 2023 Seminar at the SoCalGas Energy Resource Center in Downey, CA, on October 25, 2023.

VI. PRESENTATION BY TETRA TECH

Mr. Leon provided a [presentation](#) on their potential sites for organic waste processing facilities.

At 10:19 a.m., the scheduled Great Southern California Shakeout earthquake drill occurred and all attendees at the ATAS meeting, except for those who physically could not participate, took cover under their respective tables until the drill ended.

Mr. Mohajer stated that, a few years ago, Public Works prepared siting criteria for CTs, landfills, transformation, and composting facilities. He asked how Tetra Tech's criteria compared to that developed by Public Works. Mr. Leon responded that they started with the siting criteria in the Countywide Siting Element and added criteria from the Green Zones Ordinance. Mr. Leon added that Tetra Tech also included CalRecycle requirements and limitations for facility siting, such as CalRecycle's required set-backs from Holocene faults. Mr. Mohajer suggested that Tetra Tech also consult the Non-Disposal Facility Element to find out whether it includes siting criteria for facilities other than landfills and transformation facilities.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the distance from residences was included in the siting criteria. Mr. Leon confirmed that the distance from residences was included and that if a parcel was located within 1,500 feet of a sensitive receptor, including residences, the parcel was eliminated. Mr. Mohajer asked how the 1,500 feet threshold was determined. Mr. Leon responded that it was established by the Green Zones

Ordinance. Mr. Mohajer noted that the Green Zones Ordinance does not apply for sites outside of the County Unincorporated areas and he recommended consulting with the City in which each site is located. Ms. Arbogast commented that one of their next recommendations is to meet with the Cities in which the sites are located to ensure that each site conforms to the siting and zoning requirements of the City in which it is located. Mr. Leon added that the Cities have not been contacted yet because Tetra Tech is only conducting a feasibility evaluation at this time, and no developments are being proposed yet.

Mr. Rahimi asked if the feasibility evaluation was still in progress, and Mr. Leon confirmed that it was. Mr. Rahimi commented that the feasibility evaluation would investigate all local siting, zoning, and other criteria. Ms. Arbogast responded that Tetra Tech has been providing Public Works with status updates and was asked to provide a progress report at the Subcommittee meeting. She added that Tetra Tech's findings are not final, and the comments provided by the Subcommittee would be incorporated into Tetra Tech's evaluation and next steps.

Mr. Mohajer asked how much organic waste processing capacity is needed. Mr. Leon responded that 1.6 million tons of food waste processing capacity are needed. Mr. Mohajer also asked how much organic waste is generated in the County. Ms. Vazifdar stated that Countywide organic waste disposal is about 4.5 million tons. Mr. Mohajer commented that it would be useful to include this information in the report.

Mr. Wayne Hunter noted that the sites were located in Cities and may be owned by the Cities or other entities. He noted that, since no discussion with any of the Cities had occurred, it is possible that none of the sites would be available.

Ms. Kimberly Ohrt appreciated the status report and suggested that the report include the next steps in the process as well as the list of sites that were omitted due to criteria. She added that the report should include information about whether the Cities were notified and when they were notified. Ms. Arbogast responded that Tetra Tech would continue working on the feasibility evaluation beyond the initial screening.

Mr. Leon added that Tetra Tech is working on two studies in parallel: 1) feasibility evaluations of closed landfill sites, and 2) initial screening of Countywide sites, including parcels in the unincorporated area and Cities, for compliance with the siting criteria.

Mr. Mohajer stated that planning and development of new facilities should be conducted in accordance with Section 40900, Subsection C of the [Public Resources Code](#). He requested additional updates to the Subcommittee and the Task Force. Mr. Rahimi responded that there would be future updates.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 16, 2023.