

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

November 16, 2023

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Kate Downey, rep by Rachelle Huber, Republic Services
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ron Kent, rep by Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas
Kay Martin, rep by James Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Dee Hanson Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Dannan, Generate Capital
Suzanne Hunt, Generate Capital
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, 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 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 19, 2023, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Eugene Tseng made a motion to approve the October 19, 2023, minutes and Mr. Ethan Simonoff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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

Tetra Tech is currently preparing/finalizing:

- an evaluation of the closed Spadra Landfill for the potential development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and thermal conversion technology (CT) facility. The initial findings for the site is that it is non-desirable due to the proximity of sensitive receptors.
- a Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92; which includes the performance of a high-level review of economic, environmental and technical considerations for AD and CT facility options.
- a Countywide siting analysis for the development of an AD and/or thermal CT facilities within the unincorporated County areas and 88 jurisdictions in the County.
- a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will investigate land availability and land use compatibility.
- 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:

CalRecycle's most recent meeting was on October 17, 2023, and Public Works staff provided an update at the October 19, 2023, Subcommittee meeting. CalRecycle's next meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2023, and an update will be provided at the next Subcommittee meeting.

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:

- California State Association of Counties 129th Annual Meeting: November 14 – 16, 2023, Oakland, CA
- The American Society of Civil Engineers Inspire 2023 Conference: November 16 – 18, 2023 Arlington, VA
- North American Renewable Natural Gas Conference: December 11 – 14, 2023, Dana Point, CA
- Compost 2024: February 6 – 9, 2024, Daytona Beach, FA
- The 37th Annual Southeast Recycling Conference & Trade Show: February 18 – 21, 2024, Destin, FA

Ms. Rachelle Huber announced the Global Waste Management Symposium: February 25 – 28, 2024, in Palm Springs, CA.

VI. PRESENTATION BY GENERATE CAPITAL

Generate Capital (GC) provided a [presentation](#) on their whitepaper, Making Organics Diversion & Recycling Policy in California Work: Experience from Leading Investor/Operator.

Ms. Huber asked what average daily tonnage of feedstock and size of facility footprint needed for a successful operation. GC responded that they have existing sites within the United States including two in California, one in Michigan, and three in New York and they are all wet AD. They can take in source separated organics and have preprocessing at each site. They are approximately 15 to 20-acre sites and receive about 6,000 tons per day. They can also take in liquid and other industrial food waste. Ms. Huber asked how much energy they produce. GC responded that their renewable natural gas (RNG) production is about 400,000 MMBtu of natural gas per year. Ms. Huber asked if the operation is in-vessel, how is the size of the facility determined, and whether there are odor mitigation measures. GC responded yes the composting was in vessel, that the sizing of the site and design of the facility depends on local needs and conditions and that there is odor mitigation. Ms. Huber asked if the system accepts green waste and food waste. GC responded yes and that their current operations are a high solids digestate design that can take comingled yard and food waste.

Mr. Tseng asked what their definition of high solids was. GC responded that it is about 24 or 25 percent total solids. Mr. Tseng talked about contamination and how traditional wastewater treatment type of digestion is different than high solid and dry fermentation. From an enforcement standpoint, Mr. Tseng suggested they look at the 2019 land application standards that CalRecycle recently updated. He also mentioned that the regulatory legislative framework addressing organics seems to be only focusing on food waste, which is only a part of the organics targets in Senate Bill 1383.

Mr. Ron Milo asked what types of material comprise the 15 to 20 percent contamination. GC responded mostly plastics, packaging, and some metals such as forks. Mr. Milo asked if compostable plastic was accepted. GC responded yes but it had to go through a grinding process. Mr. Tseng advised that compostable forks and spoons in a feedstock load is considered contamination even though it is compostable.

Mr. Wayde Hunter suggested that they monitor proposed legislation and provide comment if the legislation will add more restrictions for alternative technologies. GC responded that part of the white paper was to educate policy makers and others.

Mr. Simonoff suggested that GC include more information, in their white paper, on their agreements for both power or RNG, whether the agreements were long term 20-year contracts and what incentives might be needed. GC responded that they appreciate the suggestion and made the point that AD facilities are a long-term investment. They also stated that they looked into what incentives were offered for successful AD projects in Europe.

VII. DECEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Tseng made a motion to cancel the December Subcommittee meeting, and Mr. Milo seconded. Motion passed with one voting no. Mr. Hunter felt that cancelling the December Subcommittee meeting should be contingent on whether the Task Force canceled their meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024.