

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

November 21, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Steve Cassulo, rep by Nicole Ward, Waste Connections
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Rachelle Huber, Republic Services
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Heather Williams, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dee Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jordan R. Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association
Basil Cantu, Long Beach Public Works
Jim Miller, James R. Miller and Associates (JRMA)
Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kim Yapp, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Siya Araumi called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19 AND OCTOBER 17, 2024, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

There was no quorum, so the approval of the minutes was postponed to the next Subcommittee meeting on January 16, 2025.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon stated that Tetra Tech is:

- Are presenting to the Task Force and ATAS. The presentation will provide a broad perspective on regional organic waste management challenges, anaerobic digestion (AD), and thermal conversion technologies (CTs).
- Have submitted a first Draft AD White Paper, which provides an objective overview of AD technologies and the state of the industry.
- Have submitted a Countywide Siting Evaluation Report for the development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities within Los Angeles County (County). This initial site assessment identified parcels throughout the County that met screening criteria based on State and local siting and permitting guidelines. The next steps include further evaluation of the feasibility of developing infrastructure at parcels identified in the initial site assessment.
- Have submitted a Draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92, which includes a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for CT facility options.
- Are performing further evaluation of three closed landfill sites to assess the limits of waste and surrounding utilities for the potential development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities.

Mr. Wayne Hunter asked the names of the three closed landfill sites. Ms. Christine Arbogast responded that the three sites are: BKK Carson, Gardena Valley No. 6 and Torrance Municipal Dump.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Kim Yapp provided the following update:

CalRecycle Meeting

During the November 19, 2024, monthly meeting, CalRecycle:

- Welcomed the new Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Ms. Allegra Curiel, and acknowledged that CalRecycle received several calls from community members in the Antelope Valley regarding illegal dumping of organic materials.
- Provided an update on the draft Senate Bill (SB) 54 regulations released on October 14, 2024.
 - The extended public comment period for the updated draft SB 54 regulations closed on November 4, 2024.
 - The Draft SB 54 Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was released on November 4, 2024, for public review and comments will be accepted until December 19, 2024. A public hearing on the PEIR was held on November 19, 2024.
 - The SB 1383 Advisory Board met on November 1 and 15, 2024.
- Recommended the amended Contra Costa County Countywide Siting Element for approval. The Siting Element was amended to include Raven SR, a steam/carbon dioxide reformation facility in City of Richmond. This facility uses gasification to process organic waste into hydrogen for transportation fuel.
- Reminded stakeholders that producers must prove that all expanded polystyrene packaging and food ware meets a 25 percent recycling rate as of January 1, 2025, in order to continue selling plastic foam food ware in the State.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Yapp provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences, which may also be found in the [CT Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- California State Association of Counties 130th Annual Meeting: November 17 – 22, 2024, Los Angeles, CA
- Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Conference 2024: December 9 – 12, 2024, Dana Point, CA
- Compost 2025: January 27 – 30, 2025, Phoenix, AZ
- The 38th Southeast Recycling Conference & Trade Show: February 16 - 19, 2025, Miramar Beach, FL

VI. PRESENTATION BY TETRA TECH

Ms. Arbogast and Mr. Jim Miller provided a [presentation](#) on CTs and their development in the County.

Mr. Wayne Hunter asked how much of the 40 million tons of waste generated statewide is generated by Los Angeles County. Mr. Miller replied that the information should be available on the CalRecycle website. Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar noted that the County makes up about 25 percent of California's population and therefore, should generate about 25 percent of the total waste generated in the State.

Ms. Rachelle Huber said permitting and capital costs for composting can be extremely burdensome and there is not much demand for the product. She also pointed out that "compostable material" is not always compostable and must be disposed of as waste. Mr. Miller replied that the changes might be needed at the State level to better facilitate SB 1383 implementation and cited the European model of thermal processing as an appropriate solution for materials that cannot be composted. Ms. Huber asked what becomes of the AD digestate. Mr. Miller replied that it depends on the AD technology; for example, high solids AD digestate is generally mixed with green waste and composted.

Mr. William Chen asked if there is anything that we can do now to demonstrate that thermal CTs should be considered waste diversion and whether it can help with the growing problem of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Mr. Miller replied that substantial changes are needed in the State regulatory environment to allow thermal CTs to count towards waste diversion that he does not view it as a short-term solution even though thermal CTs are very successfully used in Europe. Ms. Arbogast agreed that there is a need for thermal CT advocacy and education with the State Legislature. She added that research and development shows that thermal CTs destroy PFAS and believes that they can be an effective complement to composting.

Mr. Ron Milo asked about strategies that should be employed to help implement thermal CTs. Mr. Miller replied that upfront source separation to keep the contaminants out of the waste stream is critical. He also recommended working with the State Legislature and regulatory agencies to encourage them to amend laws and regulations to allow thermal CTs to be implemented.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2025.