

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

**February 20, 2025**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Siya Araumi, rep by Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sharon Bronson, Republic Services  
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.  
Ron Kent, rep by Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas  
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program  
Heather Williams, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections  
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident  
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management  
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jim Philipps, Sevana Bioenergy  
Basil Cantu, Long Beach Public Works  
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Lusine Shrivastava, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, OCTOBER 17, 2024, AND NOVEMBER 21, 2024, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

Mr. Eugene Tseng made a motion to approve the September 19, 2024, October 17, 2024, and November 21, 2024, minutes. Mr. Wayne Hunter seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

## **III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Cesar Leon stated that Tetra Tech:

- 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 conversion technology (CT) facility options.
- Submitted a workplan based on the finalized Countywide Siting Evaluation Report for the development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal CT facilities within Los Angeles County. This initial site assessment identified areas across the County with high development feasibility based on establishing siting criteria. Next steps include further evaluation of parcels identified as part of the initial site assessment.
- Submitted a Phase 2 evaluation of three closed landfill sites, which evaluates the limits of waste and surrounding utilities for the potential development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities.

## **IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

Ms. Lusine Shrivastava provided the following update:

### CalRecycle Meeting

During the February 18, 2025, monthly meeting, CalRecycle:

- Provided an update on fire recovery from the wildfires in Los Angeles County:
  - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is conducting Phase 1 household hazardous waste removal from burned properties.
  - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will conduct the Phase 2 clearance of burned debris.

- CalRecycle is providing technical support and assistance for these efforts and continues to work closely with local enforcement agencies on emergency waivers for wildfire debris disposal.
- Provided an update on the implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 54, the Plastic Pollution Prevention Act:
  - There is an Advisory Board Meeting on February 21, 2025.
  - CalRecycle is accepting nominations for Advisory Board Members through their online application portal. Nomination categories include environmental, community, and industry representatives, and are due on March 28, 2025. Appointments will take effect on July 1, 2025.
- Provided an update on CalRecycle Funding Opportunities:
  - A CalRecycle Grants 101 Workshop will be held on March 10, 2025, where staff will give an overview of the grant application process and share helpful resources.
  - \$1.4 million in Zone Incentive Funds (ZIF) will be awarded to thirty-three Recycling Market Development Zones (RMDZ). Each RMDZ that applied will receive \$42,000 in ZIFs to support local recycling businesses.

Applications for the Local Conservation Corps (LCC) Grant Program will be open from March 2025 until April 2025. The LCC Grant Program will award \$29.6 million to the 14 state-certified LCCs to provide recycling jobs, education, and career training for people ages 18 – 26.

Mr. Ron Milo asked whether the USACE has identified the wildfire debris disposal sites. Mr. Will Chen said that the County Sanitation Districts is making plans to accept disaster debris at the Calabasas Landfill. Mr. Tseng replied that there is published list of 17 disposal facilities that the USACE may use for disaster debris disposal. Discussion ensued.

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

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

- 12th Annual Zero Waste Symposium: February 26, 2025, San Diego, CA (Public Works' staff will be attending this conference).
- 2025 C&D World Conference & Exhibition: March 11 - 14, 2025, Dallas, TX.
- 18th Annual International Biomass Conference & Expo: March 18 – 20, 2025, Atlanta, GA.
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Spring Conference: March 19, 2025, Ontario, CA (Public Works' staff will also be attending this

- conference).County Engineers Association of California Spring Conference 2025: March 19 – 21, 2025, Universal City, CA.
- 18th Annual VerdeXchange VX2025 Marketmakers' Conference: April 6 – 9, 2025, Los Angeles, CA.

## **VI. PRESENTATION BY SEVANA BIOENERGY**

Mr. Jim Philipps from Sevana Bioenergy (Sevana) provided a [presentation](#) on the Rialto Bioenergy Facility, including re-start, recent improvements, and their current approach to the market for renewable natural gas (RNG).

Mr. Tseng asked if Sevana could meet the 75 percent organic waste recovery rate required to obtain the SB 1383 certification for high diversion from municipal solid waste (MSW). Mr. Philipps replied that they cannot and that is the reason that they are only receiving source separated organic waste (SSO), although equipment is capable of recovering organic waste from mixed MSW. Mr. Tseng asked if Sevana plans to work with the State on this issue. Mr. Philipps agreed that the State would have to change the measurement protocol for certifying high diversion organic waste processing facilities. He said that jurisdictions may still receive AB 939 diversion credit for material diverted by their facility even if it does not qualify as SB 1383 organic waste disposal reduction. Mr. Philipps also noted that there are other technologies that can recover the organic material in addition to the Organics Extrusion Press (OREX). Mr. Philipps stated that Sevana recently conducted a successful test to process organic fines through the AD resulting in an additional 80 tons of organic material being recovered. Mr. Tseng noted that processing the fines through AD would create more digestate and Mr. Philipps agreed but said that it can still be cost effective due to the increased gas production.

Mr. Hunter asked if the Rialto Bioenergy Facility is open to tours for the Subcommittee. Mr. Philipps replied that they are. Mr. Hunter asked for the definition of "LOI" and "SSO." Mr. Philipps replied that LOI stands for "letter of interest" and "SSO" stands for "source-separated organics."

Ms. Vazifdar asked if the facility had expanded the accepted feedstock to include fats, oils, grease and liquid food waste, and if it made the RNG ineligible for certain USEPA renewable identification numbers (RINs). Mr. Philipps replied that by expanding the accepted feedstock the RNG is now ineligible for D3 RINs, but that the subsequent loss in value is offset by increased demand for SB 1383-compliant RNG. He added that because the RNG is ineligible for D3 RINs, it is now available on the voluntary market where it is available for any party for purchase, not limited to obligated parties such as refiners and importers of diesel and gasoline.

Mr. Milo asked if food waste combined with green waste is accepted at the Rialto Bioenergy Facility. Mr. Philipps replied that their facility uses low solids AD that cannot process the high amount of cellulose in green waste. He added that a high solids AD could process green waste.

Mr. Ethan Simonoff asked if the resulting RNG from waste processing is used on-site. Mr. Philipps replied that some of the RNG is used on-site, and most of it is injected into the pipeline. Mr. Simonoff asked why they are producing more RNG than they are injecting and whether there is an issue with the pipeline being able to accept all the RNG. Mr. Philipps replied that the facility is experiencing a process problem that requires much of the RNG to be flared. He added that they are actively troubleshooting this issue to reduce the amount of excess RNG. Mr. Simonoff asked how carbon dioxide is removed from the waste processing stream. Mr. Philipps replied that the facility is open for tours and that the engineers on-site can explain how it is removed.

## **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, March 20, 2025.