

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

Minutes of February 18, 2010

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Conference Room C
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacques Franco *, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (Cal Recycle)
Rafael Garcia, Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc.
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Sun, City of San Marino Mayor
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kevin Chen, Southern California Edison
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Paul Alva, represented by Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Alex Helou, represented by Miguel Zermeno, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation
John Kaddis, represented by Jose Reynoso, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Duhamel, Waste Systems Technology, Inc.
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Hillary Gross Moglen*, Cerrell Associates
G. Vospher, GES

*designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2010

No minutes available to approve.

III. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mr. Mark McDannel reported that the County Sanitation Districts visited a Plasma Waste Recycling plant in Mobile, Alabama; they will also be visiting an autoclave facility in Salinas in March.

Mr. Franco informed the ATAS there is substantial amount of investment funds available to alternative and renewable fuel projects over the next 7 1/2 years through AB118. Mr. Franco also informed the ATAS that with the help of Ms. Kay Martin they have coordinated this year's Biomass Collaborative Forum that will be taking place in May 2010 at UC Davis. This year the Forum will be held in parallel with other renewable energy events at UC Davis to share diverse ideas regarding how renewable energy projects can be integrated in urban areas.

Mr. Mohajer informed the ATAS of the upcoming Southern California Waste Management Forum Spring conference in Downey that will be held on March 11 at the Sempra Energy Resource Center. Ms. Margo Reid Brown, currently the acting director of Cal Recycle, will be speaking at the conference and Professor William Welch from UC Riverside will be presenting on thermal conversion technologies around the world.

IV. REVIEW OF CARB DRAFT CONCEPT PAPER – LOW CARBON FUEL STANDARDS DATED 01/20/10

Ms. Mitchell provided a review of the Air Resource Board (ARB) Draft Procedures and Guidelines for Establishing New Fuel Pathways under the California Low Carbon Fuel Standard (Draft Guidelines). The Draft Guidelines describes the process that fuel providers must follow when reporting the fuel's carbon intensity, which refers to the greenhouse gas emissions in the life cycle of the fuel, as required under the Low Carbon Fuel Standard.

The Draft Guidelines identifies various examples of biomass that may be utilized in the production of low carbon fuels. Ms. Mitchell stated that staff reviewed the Draft Guidelines and found that it doesn't fully acknowledge the potential of organic

waste, in particular municipal solid waste (MSW), as a renewable fuel feedstock. Staff recommended sending a letter to the ARB requesting that the Draft Guidelines be expanded to clearly state that any biomass waste materials otherwise destined for landfills, such as MSW, could be utilized by a variety of technologies to produce a range of low carbon fuels with little or no indirect land use impacts. A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer that the Subcommittee ask the Task Force to send a letter to the ARB. The motion passed unanimously.

V. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH CONTRACT

Matt Gallager of Cerrell Associates provided an update on the Public Outreach Contract. Cerrell coordinated a meeting with representatives of various environmental groups that took place in early February. Professor William Welch from UC Riverside presented his recent study on emissions from thermal conversion technologies around the world. Cerrell has also been assisting staff with preparations as they get ready to present their recommendations on the demonstration projects to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board). Cerrell has been working on outreach strategies with Public Works' staff for the demonstration projects, which will be implemented immediately following the Board's decision.

Mr. Mohajer requested a summary of the meetings Cerrell has helped to coordinate with environmental groups to be sent to the ATAS members.

VI. UPDATE ON PHASE III & IV CONTRACTS

Mr. Skye announced a tentative date for the Board hearing is March 30, and invited the ATAS members to attend. The Board will be considering two major items: Memorandums of Understanding with the three technology development partnerships; and approval of the environmental consultant contract. The entire package will be published and available for review once the Board letter is filed, approximately two weeks before the meeting. Once final, details will be sent to all the Subcommittee members by email.

VII. "PRESENTATION ON ANAEROBIC DIGESTION" BY JEFF DUHAMEL, WASTE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY, INC.

Mr. Jeff Duhamel of Waste Systems Technology provided a presentation on a proposed anaerobic digestion project, which will be sited at the Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station (GCR) in the City of Industry.

Mr. Duhamel stated that GCR plans to use an Anaerobic Phased Solid Digester System developed by UC Davis and Onsite Power Systems. Feedstock for the system will come from 50 percent greenwaste and 50 percent food waste generated within the community that the hauling operator currently serves. Once operational, anticipated by 2013, the facility will be processing 250 tons a day generating 5000 therms of natural gas with a retention time for greenwaste and food waste of approximately 12 days, yielding an 85 percent reduction in mass. The byproducts of this process include heat, methane gas, water, and biosolids.

Mr. Duhamel stated that inexpensive landfill rates have been an impediment to the economic viability of alternative disposal technologies. However, due to the increasing landfill rates of 200 to 300 percent in the last few years, technologies such as anaerobic digestion are now financially viable and even competitive with composting and landfilling. A discussion ensued.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

ATAS members discussed hearing a future presentation from Kent Bioenergy.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for March 18, 2010.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.