

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

Minutes of April 21, 2011

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rafael Garcia, Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc.
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Kay Martin, BioEnergy Producers Association
Eugene Sun, Council Member, City of San Marino
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Alex Helou, represented by Miguel Zermeno*, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Paul Alva, represented by Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Ron Goodman, represented by Gary Bautista, Southern California Gas Company

OTHERS PRESENT:

Traecey Anthony, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
Jim Binder *, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
David McKenzie *, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
Matt Gallagher *, Cerrell Associates
Jacqueline Maddox, Clements Environmental
Sevak Khatchadorian, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Pat Proano, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY RELATED EVENTS & MEETINGS

Mr. Coby Skye provided a report submitted by Jacques Franco from CalRecycle, to the subcommittee. Mr. Skye reported that the Biomass Collaborative Forum held in Sacramento was well organized and presented event. Although new information on conversion technologies did not get presented, the presentations given reinforced the importance of conversion technologies.

III. UPDATE ON PHASE III & IV CONTRACT

Mr. Jim Binder with ARI provided an update to the Subcommittee on Phases III and IV of the CT project. Mr. Binder reported that they have worked with Public Works' Staff to develop the 6 month status report to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. David McKenzie provided an update on the Calabasas Landfill economic options analysis, that analyzes different size facilities utilizing various technologies including anaerobic digestion, thermal conversion, and a combination of AD with thermal. The purpose of this analysis is to determine which type of CT facility would be most economically feasible to be sited at the County-owned Calabasas Landfill.

Regarding Phase III, Mr. Binder noted that the gap analysis for CR&R is almost complete. ARI has maintained communications with Rainbow and is finishing up the options model for IES. ARI will also be looking for availability of state funds and other funds for the demonstration projects and planning assessments.

Discussion ensued regarding the Calabasas base economic model and the findings according to ARI.

IV. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

Mr. Matt Gallagher, with Cerrell Associates, reported on their April activities to the subcommittee. Among the activities that Cerrell is working with County staff and ARI to complete is an economic model template that can be used by multiple stakeholders to analyze multiple sites. Cerrell also assisted staff with the 6 month status report to the Board and outreach efforts to several cities. Discussion ensued regarding the achievements of the outreach efforts to date. Mr. Mike Mohajer requested a summary of these achievements to highlight the work of Cerrell and County staff.

V. REGULATORY STATUS OF PROPOSED SALINAS VALLEY GASIFICATION PROJECT

Mr. Coby Skye reported that Salinas Valley Waste Authority selected Plasco, a plasma gasification conversion technology company, as a viable alternative to manage the Authority's solid waste. In November 2010, Plasco received confirmation from CalRecycle that their proposed project would be designated as a gasification project under existing State statute. This determination was recently opposed by a coalition of environmental groups, who are requesting that John Laird, the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, instruct CalRecycle to rescind the letter issued. In addition, Kip Lipper, chief of staff to Senate President pro Tem Darrel Steinberg, sent an email to the Governor's office threatening dire consequences if the letter is not rescinded. Discussion ensued on the implications of this request. A motion was made by Mr. Mohajer to have the Task force send a letter to Secretary Laird refuting claims made by the environmental groups and Kip Lipper, if Counsel confirms the email can be referenced officially, and requesting Secretary Laird support CalRecycle and the California Energy Commission in the issuance of the designation letter to Plasco and the Salinas Valley project. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Miguel Zermeno reported that the City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation evaluated and made their final decision on which technology vendor they will select in the commercial phase of their alternative technology program. The Bureau will seek approval from the City's Public Works Board in the next two weeks. Updates will be given as they become available.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE??

Next meeting dates is May 26, 2011

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.