

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

**Minutes of November 20, 2014**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works)  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition  
Eugene Sun, Council Member, City of San Marino  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force)  
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association  
Jacques Franco, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)\*

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Matt Eaton for Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD)  
Jim Stewart for Kay Martin, BioEnergy Producers Association\*

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Larry Levin, Juniper Hills  
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program  
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles  
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Fernando Berton, California Energy Commission

OTHERS PRESENT:

Samantha Foley, Cerrell Associates  
Victor Le, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

\*Designates participants over the telephone

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Skye called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16 MEETING**

Mr. Eaton requested a revision regarding item IV to state that LACSD anticipates its pilot digester project to continue for two years as opposed to LACSD anticipates full scale activity in 2 years.

Mr. Mohajer requested an insert of the word "in" to item III line 8 to read "The project is in its initial stages and..."

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes of October 16, 2014, as amended, Mr. Sherman seconding the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with one abstention.

**III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Foley reported that Cerrell Associates has been assisting Public Works to complete the Sustainable Waste Management Future Roadmap, which was approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in October 2014. The Roadmap outlines a number of initiatives to reduce the disposal of waste in landfills, including the use of conversion technologies.

Cerrell Associates will be assisting Public Works to participate in the VerdeXchange Conference, where a panel will be moderated and an information booth will be hosted by Public Works in January 2015. The video outline which Cerrell Associates created about the Sustainable Waste Management Future Roadmap, Conversion Technologies, as well as the Siting Element and how these efforts interact with each other is pending approval with Public Works administration. Ms. Foley concluded her update by informing the Subcommittee that discussions regarding a conversion technology legislative effort for 2015 will begin shortly in Sacramento with Senator Lara possibly authoring a bill as he did for Senate Bill 498. The scope of the possible legislative effort is yet to be determined.

Mr. Franco reported that CalRecycle recently announced funding awards from California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction, Cap and Trade program. \$118 million was requested and approximately \$14.5 million was awarded for five projects; three of which are anaerobic digestion projects. The Bioenergy Association of California recently released a report on a proposal for renewable natural gas standard and is considering sponsoring a bill in the legislature that would require utilities to purchase a small percentage of biomethane to be injected into the natural gas pipelines over that next five

to ten years. Mr. Franco concluded his update by informing the Subcommittee that he participated at the Renewable Energy from Waste Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The conference was well attended and included a wide range of topics including biochemical and thermal chemical processes. Mr. Franco will distribute presentations from the event once they become available.

Mr. Skye mentioned that he was at the Decarbonizing California Conference held at USC earlier in the month. Julia Levin of the Bioenergy Association of California made a presentation regarding the renewable gas standard; LACSD made a presentation on their co-digestion pilot project; and there were several presentations on the role bioenergy and biofuels have in reducing the carbon intensity of the transportation and energy sectors to meet the long term goals of AB 32.

#### **IV. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY/PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Skye stated that the County recently distributed the final 6-month Conversion Technology Update to the County Board of Supervisors. The final report includes updates regarding conversion technology projects within Los Angeles County as well as demonstration projects such as the CR&R project which recently received a grant from the State's Cap and Trade program. The Report also mentioned the signing of SB 498.

Mr. Franco informed the Subcommittee about the status of projects within California for the last twenty-four months. There were five operating facilities twenty-four months ago, today there are thirteen facilities. There are two or three which are under construction now and should be starting operation within the next year. It is expected that some funding for a number of these projects will be available from AB 118 (2007) funds. Mr. Franco also announced that he has accepted a position with the University of California at Davis beginning January 1, 2015. He hopes to continue working with the Subcommittee in his new role.

#### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

#### **VI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The December meeting of the Task Force is expected to be deferred until January 2015, and Mr. Skye recommended the Subcommittee take the same approach. A confirmation will be sent to members via email.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.