

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

**Minutes of May 18, 2017 Meeting**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Conference Room B  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Blank, Waste Management, Inc.  
Jacques Franco, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment  
and the Economy\*  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition  
Mark McDannel, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Brian Helmowski, for Tim Hall, California Department of Resources  
Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)\*  
Jim Stewart, for Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association\*

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles  
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health  
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company  
Benjamin Lucha, City of Palmdale Department of Public Works  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.  
Eugene Tseng, University of California, Los Angeles, Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Traacey Anthony, Alternative Resources, Inc.\*  
Daniel Dela Cruz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gerald Ley, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee  
Troy Weber, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)\*

\*Designates participants over the telephone

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **II. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 20, 2017 SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2017 Meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Mark McDannel, and it passed with Mr. Jacques Franco and Mr. Brian Helmowski, alternate to Mr. Tim Hall, abstaining.

## **III. DISCUSSION ON 2017 COUNTY CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY LEGISLATIVE WORKSHOP**

Mr. Patrick Holland and Mr. Clark Ajwani shared with the Subcommittee the Southern California Conversion Technology (CT) 2017 Workshop Plan. The plan serves to demonstrate to Public Works Administration the need for CTs in the County and how the Workshop would advance efforts towards getting CT facilities developed. The plan also demonstrates alignment with the County's waste management goals and priorities, notably those highlighted in Section 2.7.2 of the County's 2017 – 2018 Legislative Agenda, which calls for support of legislation and policies that promote alternatives to landfills, including CTs.

The plan also includes a preliminary outline for the proposed Workshop and how it can serve to facilitate collaboration and action among industry leaders and policymakers to advance CTs in Southern California. At present, the focus of the Workshop will be to address, among other subjects, some of the following areas:

- Concerns and misconceptions about CTs
- Legislative and regulatory impediments
- Strategic actions to overcome the barriers to CT advancement
- Roles for stakeholders to implement solutions that enable responsible development of CTs in California

Mr. Patrick Holland indicated that a potential timeframe for the Workshop would likely be early Fall 2017 to allow sufficient time in planning and scheduling speakers.

The Subcommittee provided suggestions for how the Workshop Plan could more effectively communicate the Workshop's objectives. Among the suggestions included a more positive reinforcement within the document's language to emphasize the benefits of CT; distinguishing between the various types of CTs

while noting that the Workshop focus is on thermochemical and biological CTs; and the role CTs can play in the State meeting its greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction and landfill diversion directives/goals, notably those identified in AB 341 (Chesbro, 2011) and SB 1383 (Lara, 2016).

Mr. Mohajer reminded the Subcommittee that advancement of CTs is a policy position the County Board of Supervisors has directed Public Works to undertake. Mr. Mohajer argued that the collective stance on the issue, as adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the Task Force, and the County's 88 incorporated cities, should make a compelling case with Public Works Administration for the need for the Workshop to be held.

Mr. Holland commented that the core purpose of the Workshop should not be to educate attendees on the technical aspects of the technologies and barriers to their advancement, but rather to have professionals who are currently versed in CTs to engage in discussion on how CTs can effectively provide solutions to the growing dilemma confronting the State's current waste management and landfill diversion mandates.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETING/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

The Subcommittee was informed of the following upcoming events:

- AB 876 Workshop, May 23, 2017, Alhambra, CA (County Public Works)
- 2017 SB 1383 Stakeholder Workshops, May 25, 2017, Oceanside, CA
- Waste Conversion Technology Conference & Tradeshow, August 21 – 23, 2017, San Diego, CA
- Biofuels and Bioproducts from Wet and Gaseous Waste Streams: Market Barriers and Opportunities Workshop, June 6 – 7, 2017, Berkeley, CA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF): Annual Conference & Exhibit, November 8, 2017, Pomona, CA

Mr. Mohajer informed the Subcommittee that Senator Ricardo Lara, Chair of the State Senate Appropriations Committee, has been invited to speak at the SCWMF Conference & Exhibit. Mr. Holland encouraged members of the Subcommittee to attend the event and, if possible, to participate as panelists.

#### **V. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Traacey Anthony of Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) provided an update on recent CT developments in the County. Ms. Anthony informed the Subcommittee of preparations for an upcoming meeting with County Supervisorial staff regarding a potential anaerobic digestion project at the Calabasas Landfill. Preparations are focused on disposal data associated with the Landfill's wasteshed.

Ms. Anthony informed the Subcommittee that ARI is currently reviewing options for updating the County's existing SoCalConversion.org technologies database, addressing database management issues with information technology staff, and evaluating the benefits of the database to the County and other stakeholders. ARI is also compiling contacts from jurisdictions, haulers, and solid waste facilities, to solicit information of potential sites available for CT projects in the County. The County has also been in preliminary discussions with representatives of the Sierra Madre Environmental Committee regarding their potential CT project.

Mr. McDannel informed the Subcommittee that the food waste demonstration project at the County Sanitation Districts' Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson, has evolved from a demonstration project to a full-scale CT project, processing 62 tons per day of food waste. The Sanitation Districts also has three additional projects currently under development, two specialized to manage food waste and the other designed for energy recovery. Mr. McDannel plans to provide a presentation on the projects at the next Subcommittee Meeting, currently scheduled for June 15, 2017.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no public comment.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.