

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

**Minutes for July 18, 2018**

Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility  
13130 Crossroads Parkway South  
City of Industry, CA 91746

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tim Hall, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) \*  
Patrick Holland, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition  
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Mark McDannel, Los Angeles County Sanitation District  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Dennis Montano, Republic Services

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Tom Blank, Waste Management  
Jacques Franco, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy  
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles  
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company  
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Gladys Gallardo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Nam Doan, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
La Salle Duong, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Andrew Lee, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Vigen Abramyan, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Dorcas Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Dennis Montano, Republic Services  
Sonia Torry, Republic Services  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Janet Gallardo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Tim Eng, Kaiser Permanente  
Mitchelle Slocombe, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)  
Monique Brackette, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Daniel Dela Cruz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Dan Vukovic, Los Angeles County Sanitation District  
Troy Webber, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) \*

\* Designates participants over the telephone

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Holland called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 21, 2018 MEETING**

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2018, meeting was made by Mr. Mohajer and was seconded by Mr. Hunter. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Holland stated that Senate Bill 1440 is still going through the legislative process. The bill promotes alternative technologies that create renewable gas and includes a purchasing requirement for renewable gas.

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

Ms. Vazifdar mentioned upcoming conferences:

- California Resource Recovery Association 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference (CRRRA), July 26 - 29, Oakland, CA
- WASTECON 2018, August 20 - 23, Nashville, TN
- BioCycle Refor18, October 15 – 18, Raleigh, NC
- Resource Recycling Conference, October 22 – 24, St. Louis, MO
- US Biogas 2018, November 5 – 6, San Diego, CA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference, November 14, Pomona, CA

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

Ms. Vazifdar stated that Public Works and Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) have continued to work with staff from the County of Los Angeles Sherriff's Department (LASD) to explore on-site food waste management options for the Pitchess Detention Center (PDC). In June, staff from Public Works, ARI, and LASD met with a representative of the Big Hanna in-vessel composting system. Ms. Vazifdar stated that in early July, they conducted a tour of the FOR Solutions composting system installed at the Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank. Public Works and ARI are currently providing permitting guidance to PDC and evaluating the costs of the composting systems.

Ms. Vazifdar also stated that Public Works and ARI continue to communicate with the City of Avalon regarding a potential conversion technology project to extend the life of the Pebbly Beach Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Board of Supervisors (Board) is in support of the PDC project. Mr. Holland answered that this particular project has not been presented to the Board, who will be more involved when it is time to potentially invest in the project financially. Mr. Mohajer recommended discussing the importance of PDC in assisting the County to comply with the requirements of Senate Bill 1383 with the Board. Mr. Holland stated that Public Works Board Deputies receive updates on the development of SB 1383 regulations.

## **VI. PRESENTATION FROM THE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS REGARDING FOOD WASTE RECYCLING**

The County Sanitation Districts provided a [presentation](#) regarding DODA Food Waste Processing at the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

The Sanitation Districts receive food waste slurry from haulers to be co-digested at their Joint Water Pollution Control Plant (JWPCP) in Carson. Haulers who do not have the ability to process food waste into a slurry bring it to the MRF for processing. The construction of the DODA BioSeparator was completed in April 2018. It can process 165 tons per day (tpd) of food waste and currently processes 180 tons per week (tpw) of diverted food waste.

The food waste is presorted to remove as many contaminants as possible to minimize obstruction or downtime. The DODA uses two filters to remove additional contaminants from the food waste. Mr. McDannel stated that the MRF only accepts source separated food waste to reduce contamination from ultimately entering the digesters, which are shut down every eight years for one year for cleaning. Despite the pre-sorting, some contaminants such as plastic bags still enter the DODA, and the Sanitation Districts spend two hours per day removing the contamination with a pressure washer. They are considering purchasing a heat gun to remove the contamination.

The MRF transports 15 tanker trucks of slurry to JWPCP each week, which equates to about 60,000 gallons per week. The slurry contains 12-to-14 percent of total solids. The slurry goes into the existing liquid waste disposal station at JWPCP. Mr. Mohajer asked if slurry tanks will eventually be installed at JWPCP. Mr. McDannel stated that the Sanitation Districts are designing a 300,000-gallon slurry storage system that will feed five digesters.

Mr. McDannel stated that the MRF charges a tipping fee of \$70 per ton of food waste, and spends about \$78 to process and divert each ton of food waste. Mr. Vukovic stated that as the DODA processing becomes more efficient, the labor costs to operate the DODA will decrease.

Mr. Holland asked about the total project cost and if any grant funding was received. Mr. McDannel answered that the cost was about \$2 million and that they

received two grants, a \$2.5 million grant from the California Energy Commission for the DODA and the biogas upgrading system at JWPCP and a \$4 million grant from CalRecycle for a food waste receiving station at JWPCP. Mr. McDannel stated that another available program is the CAEATFA, which is a sales tax exclusion for recycling and renewable energy equipment that will save the Sanitation District about \$3 million on sales taxes for new MRF equipment.

Mr. Beckner stated that CalRecycle is often approached by companies developing liquefiers to allow food waste to be placed in the sewer system. CalRecycle is working with Greg Kester of the California Association of Sanitation Agencies to determine if the sewer and wastewater treatment system would be able to handle and process this food waste.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m. and the tour of MRF commenced.

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, 2018, at Public Works Headquarters Alhambra Room.