

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

**Minutes for July 16, 2020**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

Los Angeles County Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections  
Tim Hall, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.  
Ron Kent, Rep by Paul Ghougassian, Southern California Gas Company  
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management  
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Chris Coyle, Republic Services – Sunshine Canyon Landfill  
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Carolyn Watson, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Rob Williams, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Traacey Anthony, Alternative Resources, Inc.  
Larry Condon, True North Renewable Energy  
Bernard Fenner, True North Renewable Energy  
Jim Osborn, Alternative Resources, Inc.  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sarah Solomon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Elizabeth Zaragoza, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Christopher Sheppard called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 18, 2020 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 18, 2020 meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Wayne Hunter. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. PRESENTATION – TRUE NORTH RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Mr. Bernard Fenner and Mr. Larry Condon gave a presentation on True North Renewable Energy (TNRE), a development company that develops, builds, owns and operates facilities that produce renewable energy and compost from organic waste. Mr. Fenner stated that TNRE uses a continuous high solids anaerobic digestion process. He stated that they would like to develop facilities in Southern California due to insufficient existing organic waste processing infrastructure that is needed to meet Senate Bill (SB) 1383 goals.

Mr. Fenner stated that TNRE can process different types of organic waste, including source-separated food waste, source-separated green waste, mixed green waste and food waste, or packaged food waste. He stated they can accept commercial or residential organic waste. Mr. Fenner commented that TNRE's process produces compost that can be used for agriculture and renewable natural gas (RNG) that can be injected into the pipeline or used as transportation fuel.

Mr. Fenner stated that TNRE plans to develop multiple receiving sites in Southern California with a goal to develop a large-scale facility operating by the year 2023. He commented that energy-rich organic waste would be processed in the anaerobic digester and the other organic waste, such as woody material, would be ground and mixed with the digestate. Mr. Fenner stated that they will use a material recovery facility (MRF) to pre-process the material and remove contaminants using equipment such as de-packagers, star screens, and metal removers.

Mr. Tseng commented that waste characterization studies show that source-separated material contains up to 30 percent contamination. He added that the City of San Francisco could provide more information regarding their contamination studies. Mr. Tseng asked how TNRE plans to address State contamination limits for land application of compost. Mr. Fenner stated that he is hoping that SB 1383 education will reduce contamination, but that their system can handle high levels of contamination.

Mr. Sheppard asked about the footprint of the planned facility and how much they plan to charge for feedstock. Mr. Fenner commented that a 600,000 ton per year

facility would be about 80 acres. Mr. Fenner stated that they cannot disclose their target tipping fee.

Mr. Tseng stated that compost has a relatively low value in Southern California and that the amount of compost can be minimized by converting as much of the volatile solids as possible. Mr. Fenner stated that their facility will have an off-taker for compost and will only produce as much compost as is needed. He stated that they could further reduce the amount of compost by separating the digestate into a liquid and solid fraction but it would be cost prohibitive. Mr. Fenner added that SB 1383 requires jurisdictions to procure recycled organic waste products such as compost. Mr. Tseng expressed concerns about how the amount of contamination in compost will be determined and how contamination limits will be enforced. Mr. Tim Hall commented that CalRecycle is encouraging preprocessing to reduce contamination and added that the SB 1383 regulations require local jurisdictions to conduct outreach and education to address contamination issues.

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

Ms. Sarah Solomon provided the following update:

- The California Office of Administrative Law (OAL) has disapproved the SB 1383 rulemaking package.
- CalRecycle revised the regulations and held a 30-day comment period from April 20, 2020 – May 20, 2020.
- Governor Gavin Newsom has extended the rulemaking package resubmission deadline to September 2020.
- On June 25, 2020, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) approved a resolution to adopt the Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) regulation, which:
  - Requires manufacturers to sell an increasing percentage of electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles from 2024 to 2030.
  - Requires large fleet owners to report on existing fleet operations in 2021.
  - Directs CARB staff to develop regulations to require public and private entities to purchase electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles by 2045, as well as to transition refuse trucks and government fleets by 2040.

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

Ms. Solomon mentioned the following conferences that are also listed in the Conversion Technology Newsletter.

- California Resource Recovery Association 44th Annual Conference and Trade Show – August 16-20, 2020, will be held virtually.
- Waste Conversion Technology Conference – postponed to August 16-18, 2021, in San Diego, CA.

- County Engineers Association of California Policy Conference – August 19 and 20, 2020, will be held virtually.
- Biogas: Driving the US Circular Economy Conference – September 10, 2020, and will be held as a live Webcast held in Washington D.C.
- 2020 NetZero Conference – September 15 and 16, 2020, and will be held virtually.
- RNG WORKS 2020 Technical Workshop & Trade Expo, September 30 and October 1, 2020, Nashville, TN – in person conference with registration limited to 250 people.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned the Southern California Waste Management Forum will be held on November 5, 2020 and will be virtual. He added that it will include four sessions and that more information will be available at the end of the month. Mr. Mohajer recommended visiting the website for updates and information.

Mr. Hall stated that CalRecycle is working on a date for the SB 1383 workshop and that the analysis is in the review process. He commented that a notice will be sent out to the SB 1383 Listserv when the virtual webinar is scheduled, and that the webinar will review progress toward meeting SB 1383 goals. Mr. Hall stated that CalRecycle is using the 2018 waste characterization study, which was released in April or May of 2020, in the analysis and that there is no requirement for CalRecycle to develop a statewide waste characterization study for 2020.

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

Mr. Jim Osborn of Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI) gave the following update:

- Subcontractor Clements Environmental commented on the impact that compost and mulch giveaways from haulers in the residential franchises and garbage disposal districts would have on the County achieving the SB 1383 procurement target.
- Subcontractor UltraSystems commented on the emissions estimates for the Health Impact Analysis for the Green Zones Ordinance, which was prepared by the Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning).
- ARI prepared information on site area needs for anaerobic digestion and composting of source separated organic waste.

Mr. Sheppard commented that Regional Planning, in an effort to streamline permitting pathways and have clear zoning requirements within the County, is creating a new Green Zones Ordinance for solid waste facilities, including anaerobic digestion and composting facilities. Mr. Sheppard stated the ordinance is currently in the public review process.

Mr. Tseng mentioned that NASA recently released a paper that found landfills to be the single largest point source for methane in the state, accounting for almost 41 percent of methane generation. Mr. Tseng commented that the findings from

this study show that solid waste infrastructure plays an important part in climate change and that he would like to present NASA's work with Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled remotely for Thursday, August 20, 2020, at 10 a.m.