

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

**Minutes for September 16, 2021**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorcas Dee Daniel-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Mark McDannel, rep by William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program  
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management  
Dennis Montano, Republic Services  
Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles  
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company  
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Miguel Zermeno, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech  
Mark Bragg, USA Renewable Energy  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Bob Kinghorn, Stellar J Corporation  
Paulina Kolic, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sarah Solomon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, 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 10:02 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2021 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Eugene Tseng. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. PRESENTATION – USA RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Mr. Mark Bragg, CEO of USA Renewable Energy, introduced the company's ventures in pursuing project sites, feedstock agreements, off-take agreements, and financing for conversion technology (CT) facilities. They work with Stellar J Corporation (Stellar J), which is an engineering, procurement, and construction contractor.

Mr. Bob Kinghorn, CEO of Stellar J, stated that his company is currently under contract to build two steam methane reforming hydrogen production plants in Northern California using green waste as feedstock. They are also building and designing a food waste digester and power generation project in San Bernardino, California.

Mr. Kinghorn described Stellar J's gasification project called West Coast Waste located in Fresno, CA, which processes woodchips as well as agricultural and green waste to produce electricity as part of the BioMAT program. They are building a 5-megawatt unit, which will provide enough power for 4,000 homes and improve air quality. He stated that their gasification technology can process a variety of waste streams, including food waste, and meets California air quality standards.

Mr. Mohajer asked if Stellar J would consider a field trip of the San Bernardino facility once it is open to the public. Mr. Kinghorn responded that the facility is under new ownership and is uncertain as to when they will allow visitors to tour the facility. Mr. Kinghorn will inform the ATAS members of any updates.

Mr. Tseng asked what kind of preprocessing of food waste is required for gasification. Mr. Kinghorn responded food waste typically comes in at about 5 to 10 percent concentration of solids. A screw press removes 50 percent of the water content from the food waste, which then goes through an evaporator leaving it at a 20-25 percent moisture content.

Mr. Tseng asked about the level of contaminants in source separated food waste, which can contain anywhere from 25-35 percent non-food waste materials.

Mr. Kinghorn responded that they use a cuber or pelletizer to reduce the size of the materials so that they can be gasified. Mr. Kinghorn added that contaminants such as plastics can be gasified as well.

Mr. Tseng asked about the maximum throughput for their basic commercial-scale module. Mr. Kinghorn responded that it processes about 175 tons per day, which produces enough energy for a 5-megawatt power plant with residual heat available.

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

Ms. Sarah Solomon provided an update on policy and legislation.

- At CalRecycle's monthly meeting on August 17, 2021, CalRecycle stated that they are continuing to develop new resources and planning tools for all agencies and businesses impacted by Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) requirements. This includes several new websites, a new hauler page that outlines the requirements for waste haulers collecting organic waste, a department-approved waivers page which outlines waivers available for SB 1383 collection, and a page dedicated to the determination of technologies that constitute a reduction in landfill disposal. CalRecycle's next public monthly meeting will be held on September 21, 2021.
- Mr. Sheppard will give a brief presentation at today's Task Force meeting on recent California Air Resources Board (CARB) workshops, including the 2022 Scoping Plan Update, the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation workshop, and the Draft Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Fourth Investment Plan workshop.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the Environmental Protection Agency released draft regulations for gasification and pyrolysis. Mr. Sheppard responded that staff would review the regulations and possibly provide an update at the next ATAS meeting. Mr. Sheppard also noted that the draft regulations could be published in the CT newsletter to give vendors and technology providers the opportunity to provide comments.

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

Ms. Solomon provided an update of events that can also be found in the [CT newsletter](#), and Subcommittee meeting minutes:

- Renewable Natural Gas Works Technical Workshop & Trade Expo: September 29 – 30, 2021, Nashville, TN
- Paper and Plastics Recycling Conference: October 20 – 21, 2021, Chicago, IL
- WasteCon 2021: November 1 – 4, 2021, Kissimmee, FL

- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Annual Conference & Exhibit: November 10, 2021, Ontario, CA

Mr. Sheppard mentioned the Air & Waste Management Association West Coast Section Annual Conference will be held virtually on October 28, 2021. Mr. Sheppard will attend the conference and provide a presentation on SB 1383.

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

Ms. Christine Arbogast stated that Tetra Tech is supporting Public Works in developing factsheets on different types of anaerobic digestion.

Mr. Sheppard mentioned that Public Works submitted a report to the Board of Supervisors regarding solid waste management infrastructure development in Los Angeles County and the region with recommendations for feasibility analyses at a variety of closed landfill sites within Los Angeles County. Public Works will be considering a request for proposals for an anaerobic digestion facility at the Calabasas Landfill. Updates will be provided as they become available.

Mr. Sheppard also mentioned that discussions are still pending regarding Brown Act requirements and virtual meetings. Subcommittee members will be notified as soon as details are confirmed regarding the October Subcommittee meeting.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:59 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 10 a.m.