

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

Minutes for August 18, 2022

WEB CONFERENCE

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michelle Dewey, rep by Scott Beckner, California Department of Resources Recycling
and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Kay Martin, rep by James Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Mark McDannel, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Valerie Moore, Republic Services
Darshna Patel, rep by Timothy Hoang, City of Los Angeles
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale

OTHERS PRESENT:

Scott Martin, Burns and McDonnell
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Will Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Charles Darensbourg called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2022 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended, including taking those actions as outlined by Mr. Mike Mohajer. Mr. Jim Stewart seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Darensbourg introduced Mr. Fahim Rahimi, who heads the Planning and Policy Development Section in Environmental Programs Division at Public Works (PW) and will serve as the new Subcommittee Chair.

III. PRESENTATION – BURNS & MCDONNELL

Mr. Scott Martin, Project Manager at Burns & McDonnell, specializing in biogas utilization and environmental engineering, provided a [presentation](#) regarding markets on renewable natural gas (RNG) created from organic waste.

Mr. Stewart commented that the presentation did not specifically mention perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). He mentioned that the use of compost for agriculture may not be advisable because of potential impacts of PFAS on food. He added that he is working on a project in the San Joaquin Valley that includes anaerobic digestion and gasification and will be fully permitted by October 2022. Mr. Stewart stated that the gasification process destroys PFAS in the materials it processes. Mr. Martin agreed that PFAS may be present in soil amendments and mentioned a project in Minneapolis that may incorporate high temperature pyrolysis as a way to reduce PFAS. He also commented that in some jurisdictions, incineration is not allowed as a technology to destroy PFAS.

Mr. Mark McDannel commented that the County Sanitation Districts have many closed landfills in California and that the landfill gas may not be of sufficient quality to create marketable products. He asked Mr. Martin if there is a threshold for the lowest methane and highest hydrogen or oxygen content gas that can be recovered in an economically- and technically-feasible manner. Mr. Martin responded that a greater hydrogen and oxygen content correlates to a higher cost for upgrading the gas. He said that the nitrogen to oxygen ratio in the gas must exceed ten-to-one.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Rahimi provided the following update from CalRecycle's August 16, 2022 meeting:

- The State provided \$270 million in funding for the circular economy. This funding will be used for organic waste infrastructure, green business, Senate Bill (SB) 1383 local assistance, wastewater treatment co-digestion, surplus food recovery, and community composting.
- CalRecycle awarded \$8.8 million in SB 1383 local assistance grant funds to 22 Cities on August 22, 2022.

Mr. Scott Beckner stated that the \$270 million was a two-year funding package which CalRecycle received in last year's budget. He added that CalRecycle has provided approximately \$90 million for SB 1383 local assistance grants and community composting grants and that CalRecycle is currently administering the co-digestion grants. He stated that CalRecycle will announce a \$70 million organics and infrastructure grant program at the November or December public meeting.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that SB 54 was recently signed by the Governor and the bill prevents the development of conversion technology facilities in California. He stated that SB 54 eliminates Conversion Technology which will affect jurisdictions' ability to comply with organic waste disposal reduction. Mr. Mohajer requested that a presentation on the impacts of SB 54 be added to next month's Subcommittee meeting agenda.

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

Mr. Rahimi provided an update on events and conferences, which can also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee meeting minutes:

- 17th Annual CEAC Policy Conference: August 18 - 19, 2022, Sacramento, CA
- CRRRA 46th Annual Conference and Tradeshow: September 6 - 9, 2022, Oceanside, CA
- SCWMF Annual Conference & Exhibit: November 3, 2022, Ontario, CA
- CSAC 128th Annual Meeting: November 14 – 18, 2022, Anaheim, CA
- National Zero Waste Conference: November 30 – December 1, 2022, Virtual
- WASTECON 2022: December 5 - 8, 2022, San Diego, CA

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon reported that Tetra Tech continues to support PW with the following:

- SB1383 and other waste diversion planning efforts.
- Expanded evaluation of potential sites for organic waste processing at old landfill sites and other potential sites within the County.
- Evaluating responses to the Calabasas Anaerobic Digestion Request for Proposal.

- Research on conversion technology air emissions.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter thanked Mr. Martin for his presentation.

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 10 a.m.