

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

November 17, 2022

WEB CONFERENCE

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Paul Koster, Republic Services
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
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Darshna Patel, City of Los Angeles
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christian Ferguson, Tetra Tech
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 20, 2022, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes, as amended, and Mr. Mike Mohajer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer asked if last month's presenter, Bioforcetech Corporation, had forwarded the articles to staff that were referenced in the presentation, as mentioned in the minutes. Mr. Charles Darensbourg responded that staff would follow up and would disseminate the information once received. Mr. Mohajer requested that this item be placed on the next agenda until the documents are received.

Mr. Mohajer asked staff to check the Bay Area Air Quality Management District website and download the permit that the presenter said he would provide to staff to disseminate to the Subcommittee.

Lastly, Mr. Mohajer noted that at the previous month's meeting, he requested a presentation on the impacts of Senate Bill (SB) 54 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1857 on the development of conversation technologies (CTs) in the State of California. He pointed out that Item III on the agenda was titled, "Impacts of New Legislation on Conversion Technologies" and did not reference the bills "SB 54" and "AB 1857" as he specifically requested.

III. IMPACTS OF NEW LEGISLATION ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided a brief [presentation](#) on two new State Laws, SB 54 and AB 1857, and their impacts on the development of CTs in California.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the County of Los Angeles and City of Los Angeles have spent significant financial resources to encourage the development of CTs, including forming the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS) and initiating several studies. He stated that efforts have not been successful due to State legislation creating barriers. He added that changing the minds of legislators and local governments is needed to encourage CT development.

Mr. Mohajer commented that SB 54 puts biomass conversion in the category of transformation under the Public Resources Code. State law requires that transformation facilities, including potential locations of such facilities, must be identified in the Countywide Siting Element (CSE). As part of the CSE development process, jurisdictions are required to conduct public hearings at the local level,

inviting Environmental Justice representatives to discuss the potential impacts of solid waste management facilities in the neighboring communities. Mr. Mohajer asked that the presentation be expanded to include the solid waste facility permitting process.

Mr. Jim Stewart stated that many regulations and statutory provisions do not apply to single-stream cellulosic waste, so CT providers are developing facilities in the San Joaquin Valley to address agricultural waste. He discussed a project in Fresno by West Coast Waste which processes the City of Fresno's green waste. He added that SB 1383 requires jurisdictions to procure recovered materials produced from their organic waste streams, which can further encourage the development of CTs. The materials include compost and renewable natural gas (RNG), but because jurisdictions may not need significant amounts of compost, they may prefer to procure RNG instead. The ATAS discussed the benefits of developing anaerobic digestion (AD) and gasification facilities on the same site.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Rahimi stated that on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion authorizing Public Works to enter exclusive negotiations with Anaergia for the development of a proposed anaerobic digestion facility at the Calabasas Landfill.

Mr. Christian Ferguson stated that Tetra Tech has not yet been able to find any County-owned landfill properties that are available or feasible for developing organic waste infrastructure. However, the County will be providing a list of additional sites for further analysis.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Rahimi provided the following update:

- At CalRecycle's November 15, 2022, public meeting, CalRecycle stated that additional outreach tools are available for jurisdictions. There is a new webpage called I Recycle Smart with instructions on how to recycle various materials, as well as other useful information. The website includes information on California's Climate Food Fight Campaign that is focused on reducing and recycling food waste.
- CalRecycle hosted their first SB 1383 chat on November 16, 2022. The webinar discussed funding opportunities, including an upcoming Organics Grant Program that will be released in early 2023. CalRecycle provided resources for compost and mulch procurement and answered questions about SB 1383 implementation.

- Future webinars on single-family organic waste recycling, commercial organic waste recycling, and edible food recovery, will be held on December 21, 2022; January 18, 2023; and February 15, 2023.

VI. 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:

- National Zero Waste Conference: November 30 – December 1, 2022, Virtual
- WASTECON 2022: December 5 - 8, 2022, San Diego, CA
- COMPOST 2023: January 24 – 27, 2023, Ontario, CA

VII. DECEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Mohajer made a motion that if the Task Force votes not to have a December meeting, then the same would be applicable for this Subcommittee. Mr. Eugene Tseng seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is to be determined.