

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

August 21, 2025

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Steve Cassulo, rep by Brenda Eells, Waste Connections
Will Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Kate Downey, rep. by Sharon Bronson, Republic Services
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ron Kent, rep by Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas
Heather Rose, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Barbara Romero, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Ayala, Econward Tech
Basil Cantu, City of Long Beach Public Works
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Siya Araumi called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 17, 2025, MAY 15, 2025, AND JULY 17, 2025, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

There was no quorum, so the approval of the minutes was postponed to the next Subcommittee meeting on September 18, 2025.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon stated that Tetra Tech:

- Submitted a draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with the Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92, which includes a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for conversion technology (CT) facility options.
- Submitted a revised workplan based on the finalized Countywide Siting Evaluation Report for the development of anaerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal CT facilities within Los Angeles County. This initial site assessment identified areas across the County with high development feasibility based on established siting criteria. Next steps include further evaluation of parcels identified as part of the initial site assessment.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Tran Kiem provided the following update:

During the August 19, 2025, monthly meeting, CalRecycle:

- Provided an update on the implementation of Senate Bill 54:
 - The Producer Responsibility Advisory Board met August 15, 2025, to discuss advisory board position elections, the Source Reduction and Material Design Study for the Statewide Needs Assessment, and the implementation of the Circular Actions Alliance and the Producer Responsibility Organization requirements.
 - The next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2025.
- Provided an update on the Responsible Textile Recovery Act:
 - CalRecycle will host an Informational Public Workshop on September 9, 2025, on the Responsible Textile Recovery Act. It will focus on

- an overview of the law, Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) Requirements, and the application process.
- The Act requires producers to form a PRO to establish a statewide extended producer responsibility program for apparel and textiles that emphasizes repair and reuse and minimizes generation of hazardous waste and greenhouse gases. The program should also reduce environmental impacts and public health impacts. Lastly, the program should promote environmental justice. The law is not prescriptive and does not specifically define allowable end uses for textiles, rather leaving it to the PRO to develop an enforceable program.
 - Provided an update on the CalRecycle Grant Program:
 - CalRecycle announced grant awards of \$1.4 million to 59 applicants for solid waste facility permits and inspection programs.
 - CalRecycle announced \$1.4 million in grants to 31 applicants for tire amnesty events, allowing the public to drop off waste tires at no charge.
 - CalRecycle announced two upcoming grants: the Illegal Disposal Site Abatement Grants and Legacy Disposal Site Abatement Partial Grants. The application period opens the week of September 1, 2025, with applications due on October 15, 2025.

Other grant opportunities are available and can be found on the CalRecycle website's [funding page](#).

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

Ms. Kiem provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences, which may also be found in the [CT Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- SoCal SWANA Annual Meeting & Workshop: September 25, 2025, Long Beach, CA.
- The National Zero Waste Conference: October 22 – 23, Virtual.
- RCon Powered by SWANA: November 12 – 15, Columbus, OH.
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference & Exhibit: November 19, 2025, Ontario, CA.

VI. PRESENTATION BY ECONWARD

Mr. Joe Ayala from EconWard provided a [presentation](#) on their Biomak thermal hydrolysis technology, which processes mixed municipal waste into recyclable material as well as organic material that is a suitable feedstock for AD.

Mr. Ethan Simonoff asked how much water is consumed in the hydrolysis process. Mr. Ayala replied that the process can use 60,000 to 70,000 tons. Mr. Simonoff asked if paper is considered an organic material to be used for the conversion process. Mr. Ayala replied that paper can be processed through the conversion technology.

Mr. Araumi asked about the average square footage needed to operate the thermal hydrolysis technology. Mr. Ayala replied that they need at least 300 square feet.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2025.