

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

August 20, 2026

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sharon Bronson, Republic Services
Jonathan Caruso, Waste Management
Will Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Bill Haley, Waste Connections
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Beverly Tway, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Shanthi Kanneganti, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas
Barbara Romero, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

OTHERS PRESENT:

Eric Herbert, Zero Waste Energy
Kevin Miller, City of Napa
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Davud Fahrion, California Waste and Recycling Association
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Londy Lin, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aaron Nolan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Shawntelle Phillips, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Siya Araumi called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 16, 2026, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Eugene Tseng made a motion to approve July 16, 2026, Subcommittee minutes, and Mr. Wayde Hunter seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon of Tetra Tech provided an update on two projects associated with anaerobic digestion (AD) and conversion technologies (CT):

- Finalizing the Antelope Valley Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for presentation to the Alternative Technical Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS).
- Conducting a Phase II parcel evaluation to further assess sites identified in an initial assessment to determine their suitability for AD and/or thermal CT facilities.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Tran Kiem provided the following update:

At their July 28 and August 18, 2026, monthly meetings, CalRecycle announced that on June 18, 2026, the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) established the California Environmental Youth Advisory Council. This new initiative empowers young people to take action on environmental protection. Applications are open from August 12 through September 21, 2026, for California residents and tribal youth aged 14 to 20, with at least one seat reserved for tribal youth. An informational session is scheduled for August 27, 2026. To learn more, visit the CalEPA [webpage](#).

Packaging Producer Responsibility - Senate Bill (SB) 54

- CalRecycle released an extension and exemption application for local jurisdictions and recycling service providers through their Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility System [portal](#).
- Local jurisdictions and recycling service providers must first register before submitting the application. CalRecycle has an instructional video available on their website.
- The Circular Action Alliance submitted their Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) plan on June 15, 2026. The 60-day public comment period for the PRO draft plan was closed on August 14, 2026. The updated PRO plan is due to CalRecycle by October 13, 2026.

- On August 7, 2026, the Advisory Board held a meeting focused on the draft plan. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2026.

Responsible Textile Recovery Act – SB 707

- On August 13, 2026, CalRecycle hosted an informal workshop focused on preliminary regulatory concepts of SB 707 requirements.
- The public comment period for the Textile Stewardship Informal Regulatory Concepts closes on August 27, 2026.
- The next workshop is scheduled for September 29, 2026; more details will be provided closer to the date.

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

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

- 21st Annual County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) Policy Conference: August 20 - 21, 2026, Sacramento, CA
- California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) Annual Conference & Trade Show: August 30 - September 2, 2026, San Diego, CA
- RNG Works 2026 Technical Workshop & Trade Expo: September 15 - 17, 2026, Milwaukee, WI
- RCon by Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA): September 29 – October 2, 2026, St Louis, MO
- National Zero Waste Conference: October 21 - 22, 2026, virtual
- California Compost Workshop and Demo Day: October 22, 2026, San Diego, CA

VI. PRESENTATION BY WASTE CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES

The Subcommittee received a [presentation](#) from Mr. Kevin Miller (City of Napa) and Mr. Eric Herbert (Zero Waste Energy) regarding their joint AD and composting facility partnership in Napa.

Mr. Tseng pointed out the pie chart and asked about the AD feedstock. Noting there is a biomass plant, he inquired if the facility takes in standard green bin yard and food waste. Mr. Miller noted it was a dry AD and the input material remains relatively liquid compared to wet systems. He added that the feedstock is a combination of green waste, food waste, manure, and high-methane organics such as pomace from crushed grapes. He added that they focus on processing commercial organic waste.

Mr. Tseng asked if the feedstock comes from residential sources. Mr. Miller responded the feedstock is not residential and that the initial feedstock must be

complemented with green waste. Initially, the process can process one-third food waste and two-thirds green waste, with the capacity to scale up to 80 percent food waste. Mr. Eric Herbert also noted that they are focused on commercial wet waste. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Tseng stated that while this technology is proven in Europe, it is the first time he has seen it applied to high solids AD in the United States. Mr. Herbert highlighted the Hitachi Zosen Facility in San Luis Obispo which uses a similar technology, originally known as the Kompogas system. Mr. Herbert explained after Kompogas went out of business, it was acquired by Hitachi Zosen, now called Kandevia. After the companies split apart, they began developing their own systems, and Kandevia is now one of the largest companies in the world.

Mr. Tseng asked for the estimated percentage of digestate for composting from 100 tons of feedstock. Mr. Herbert noted that from a dry mass perspective, about 18 percent of the mass is lost during gas conversion. The remaining depends on the input of moisture content. From a technical standpoint, Mr. Herbert stated that the continuous flow produces a better quality of biogas and is a lot easier to upgrade, than a batch system using the different digesters and batch cycles.

Mr. Michael Maglioni asked who owned the Renewable Identification Number (RIN) credits. Mr. Herbert responded they do and they only sell fuel.

Mr. Hunter noted the ATAS took a tour years ago to a similar facility and asked if anyone remembered what facility it was. Mr. Tseng stated it was the CR&R AD Facility in Perris in Riverside County. Mr. Hunter asked if the facility uses the batch process. Mr. Tseng stated it uses a continuous flow technology. Mr. Hunter also asked about the feedstock for the CR&R AD Facility. Mr. Tseng stated they use green waste and that the facility built an entire front-end materials recovery facility (MRF) to remove contaminants from the feedstock.

Mr. Hunter commended the presentation but questioned the County's land availability or infrastructure to support such technology. Regarding applicability, Mr. Araumi highlighted land and feedstock as essential requirements for an AD facility, with feedstock being the most important. He emphasized that implementing this technology in the County with 10 million people requires significant pre-planning and collaboration with waste haulers and MRF operators to be viable. Discussion ensued.

VII. TRANSITION TO PAPERLESS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Ms. Carol Saucillo informed the Subcommittee that starting September 17, 2026, Task Force and Subcommittee meetings will be paperless, and that digital materials will continue to be provided in agendas, which can be found on the Task Force

[website](#). Ms. Saucillo noted that meeting materials have been linked to respective agendas since the beginning of 2024. She added that commissioners will continue to receive agendas by email one week before the meetings and that the change in meeting format is to reduce paper waste since printed copies at the check-in table are rarely used. Mr. Araumi noted that paperless meetings align with the Task Force and Subcommittee goals.

Mr. Hunter expressed concern over transitioning to a paperless format, noting it would require him to manage and review meeting documents on a laptop, which he found unreasonable. He also questioned the legality of eliminating hard copies at the door, citing his understanding that physical copies are required for public meetings in California. Mr. Araumi clarified that all meeting materials are accessible on the Task Force [website](#) and are projected on a large monitor during meetings for all attendees to view. Mr. Araumi also noted a previous discussion with County Counsel and there were no issues but agreed to look into it further. Ms. Saucillo offered that staff could contact the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, Commission Services, to verify the paperless format for meetings. Additionally, Mr. Hunter stated that reading on a laptop poses challenges for those without strong eyesight, such as himself. While he understands the principle of going paperless, he prefers physical copies because they also allow for notetaking. He emphasized that the downside to going paperless must be addressed.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2026.