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

September 17, 2026

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Shanthi Kanneganti, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Lilit Baghumyan, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Will Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
John Mendieta, Waste Management
Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas
James Roska, City of Los Angeles
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Sharon Bronson, Republic Services

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:
Kevin Green, Waste Connections

OTHERS PRESENT:
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ryan Toch, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 20, 2026, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve August 20, 2026, Subcommittee minutes, and Mr. Eugene Tseng seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon of Tetra Tech shared the following project updates associated with anaerobic digestion (AD) and conversion technologies (CT):

- The final Antelope Valley Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study is pending presentation to the Technical Advisory Committee and the Department of Regional Planning during the third or fourth week of October 2026.
- 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:

During its September 15, 2026, monthly meeting, CalRecycle announced that applications are open for the California Environmental Youth Advisory Council, a new initiative that empowers young people to take action on environmental protection. Applications are open through September 21, 2026, for California residents and tribal youth aged 14 to 20, with at least one seat reserved for tribal youth. To learn more, visit the CalEPA webpage.

Packaging Producer Responsibility - Senate Bill (SB) 54

- 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.
- The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2026.

Responsible Textile Recovery Act – SB 707

- On September 29, 2026, CalRecycle will host an informal workshop focused on End Markets, Reuse, Repair, Collection, Producer Identification, and Exemptions.
- The next workshop is scheduled for November 12, 2026; more details will be provided closer to the date.

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

Ms. Kiem provided an update on the following upcoming CT events and conferences, which may be found in the CT Newsletter:

- 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
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Annual Conference and Exhibit, November 17, 2026, Ontario, CA
- 132nd California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Annual Meeting, December 1 – 4, 2026, San Diego, CA
- Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Conference: December 7 – 10, 2026, Dana Point, CA

VI. UPDATES ON RECENT CONFERENCES

The scheduled presenter from Biogas Energy was unable to attend today's Subcommittee meeting and has rescheduled the presentation for next month. Today's presentation was provided by Public Works staff on the recent conferences they attended: the California Resources and Recovery Association (CRRA) Annual Conference and the SWANA Waste Solutions Workshop.

Mr. Araumi requested information on the San Diego County full-time repair facility, specifically whether the program utilizes municipal employees or volunteer staff, whether the program is fully funded by San Diego County and/or local cities, and the program's operational hours. Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar noted that the repair facility is very heavily supported by volunteers and maintains consistent operating hours.

Mr. Wayde Hunter inquired about the number of agencies and cities that requested SB 54 exemptions for items on the covered material list that are now required to be collected in curbside programs. Ms. Vazifdar was unfamiliar with the total number of SB 54 exemptions from agencies and cities. However, jurisdictions can

collaborate to apply for a joint exemption, as multiple cities and unincorporated counties face the same barriers.

Mr. Eugene Tseng asked if there were discussions of what is acceptable for blue bin recyclables. Ms. Vazifdar noted that CalRecycle published an online list of the nearly 100 covered materials required for collection in either blue or green bins.

Mr. Tseng asked if material recovery facilities (MRF) have shared feedback on how CalRecycle's designations might affect their processing. He pointed out that because an item is legally accepted does not mean it will not have negative impacts on day-to-day operations because it may interfere with processing of materials already being recovered. Ms. Vazifdar noted that the lack of end markets for these materials could pose a concern when discussions with haulers begin and entities may start applying for exemptions for various materials by the January 1, 2027, deadline. Ms. Vazifdar suggested inviting a MRF operator to a future Subcommittee meeting to discuss how SB 54 impacts their operations. Mr. Araumi also commented that it is still unclear whether MRFs and waste haulers can effectively collect these materials and if a reliable end market exists for them. Ms. Vazifdar commented that while the responsibility falls on the producers and manufacturers that introduce products onto the market, items that are not recyclable or compostable will continue to be distributed if they are profitable.

Mr. Hunter inquired about what market exists for textile recycled material. Ms. Kiem noted that the reuse market is robust. However, commercial and industrial scale recovery is nearly non-existent. Consequently, the material enters the waste stream and goes to the MRF for processing which limits the ability to turn it into a new product. Mr. Araumi commented that textile recovery is not commercially viable at this time.

Mr. Hunter inquired if there were any organizations working on creating a market for recycled textiles. Mr. James Roska responded that there are some groups on the East Coast that are conducting research now; however, the main challenge with fabrics is that the material composition is so diverse. He noted that the extended producer responsibility initiatives attempt to put the responsibility on the manufacturers to use more recyclable fibers or single stream fibers rather than synthetic blends and polyesters.

VII. UPDATE ON THE TRANSITION TO PAPERLESS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Araumi provided an update to last month’s meeting discussion regarding the paperless transition at Subcommittee meetings. Beginning January 2027, meeting materials will be provided in an electronic format. While the Brown Act ensures public access to meeting materials, it does not specify that they must be in a paper format. He cited California Government Code, § 54954.1, noting that anyone

wishing to receive hard copies of meeting materials, such as agendas, must submit a written request to staff. Requests are valid for one calendar year in which they are made and must be renewed after January 1 of each year. A fee may be applicable for providing mailed copies consistent with the cost of service.

Mr. Araumi reiterated that there will be no changes to the current format for the remainder of this year. Additionally, beginning January 2027, a binder containing all meeting materials will be made available at the check-in table for attendees to review.

Ms. Sharon Bronson asked if the meeting materials will be made available electronically before the meetings. Mr. Araumi noted that meeting materials will continue to be sent via email and posted on the Task Force website one week before each meeting.

Mr. Hunter requested a copy of the government code that Mr. Araumi quoted.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2026.