

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

Minutes for February 20, 2020

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections

Chris Coyle, rep by Dennis Montano, Republic Services – Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Tim Hall, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) *

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.

Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale *

Kevin Mattson, Waste Management *

Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

Eugene Tseng, rep by Vincent Holguin, Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe

Carolyn Watson, rep by Daniel Dela Cruz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles

Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company

Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association

Rob Williams, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Tracy Anthony, Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI)

David Evans, Los Angeles County Public Works

Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works

Sarah Solomon, Los Angeles County Public Works

Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

Elizabeth Zaragoza, Los Angeles County Public Works

Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

Anna Haller, EarthCare Gasification Systems

* Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Christopher Sheppard called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 16, 2020, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2020, meeting was made by Mr. Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Hunter. The motion passed unanimously.

III. DISCUSSION ON ATAS GOALS AND PRIORITIES

At the previous meeting, the Subcommittee discussed developing a draft list of goals and priorities for the year. The four major components on the list are organic waste management, conversion technologies, outreach, and the SoCalConversion website.

Mr. Hunter commented that the introduction statement addresses the goals of the Subcommittee, but not its function of making recommendations to the Task Force. Mr. Sheppard agreed and stated that the introduction statement would be revised.

Mr. Tim Hall commented that CalRecycle will have a workshop in April in Sacramento on the SB 1383 progress report that is due on July 1, 2020. Mr. Hall stated that the workshop will be webcast and the workshop materials will be released for review and feedback, but that there are no plans to have a workshop in Southern California. However, he stated that CalRecycle may have other workshops around the state to introduce tools to local jurisdictions. Mr. Hall commented that CalRecycle's website on SB 1383 and the Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP) ListServ are the best ways to receive updates on SB 1383 workshops.

Mr. Sheppard asked Subcommittee members to review and provide feedback on the SoCalConversion website. Mr. Mohajer commented that it has become very difficult to find items on Public Works and County websites. Mr. Sheppard responded that staff can talk with information technology staff about making the SoCalConversion and Task Force websites more accessible and that there is also an effort underway to redo the Public Works websites.

Mr. Sheppard stated that the list of draft goals and priorities is a working document for the year and is subject to additions from any of the Subcommittee members.

IV. PRESENTATION BY EARTHCARE GASIFICATION SYSTEMS

Ms. Anna Haller gave a presentation on EarthCare Gasification Systems. She stated that EarthCare is a gasification technology that was initially developed to process manure. Ms. Haller stated that the Earthcare system can process 300 tons of food waste and 165 tons of green waste per day. She stated that the system is capable of processing organic waste containing contaminants. She

stated that the byproducts are biochar, steam and heat. Mr. Haller discussed how biochar can be used for water filtration, converted into a black ink, or used to enrich soil with carbon. She also noted that EarthCare currently has facilities in the Midwest.

Ms. Haller stated that the capital expense of this gasification system is lower than an anaerobic digestion system. She stated that the gasification technology does not require as much moisture as anaerobic digestion and can accept all types of organic waste, including cardboard, wax-coated paper, or colored paper.

Ms. Haller stated that EarthCare is currently working with General Electric to conduct emission tests. Ms. Haller confirmed that the net expenses shown on the balance sheet in her presentation include permitting, operating, and maintenance costs. Ms. Haller noted that the system is also inexpensive because it is automated and only requires two employees to operate it.

Ms. Haller stated that EarthCare is funding its own projects and is seeking permitted sites for project development. She stated that CalRecycle considers thermal conversion of biomass as diversion, and that she has had several conversations with CalRecycle about providing diversion credit for thermal conversion of other waste materials such as food waste. Ms. Haller mentioned that she would share any information provided by CalRecycle with the Subcommittee.

Mr. Sheppard asked if CalRecycle has a formal process for technology providers and vendors to submit their technology for initial assessment to be considered diversion. Mr. Hall responded that the process usually begins with the Local Enforcement Agency.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Sarah Solomon stated that CalRecycle adopted the SB 1383 regulations on January 21, 2020. She stated that the Office of Administrative Law (AOL) has 30 working days to conduct a review, making certain CalRecycle has satisfied all formal rulemaking requirements. She said that the review will be completed by March 4, 2020, and that, if approved, the regulations will become effective January 1, 2022.

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

Ms. Solomon mentioned the following conferences:

- National Zero Waste Conference, March 18 – 19, 2020, Berkeley, CA
- SWANApalooza 2020, March 23 – 26, 2020, Atlanta, GA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum, March 24, Downey, CA

- Biocycle West Conference, March 28 – April 2, Sacramento, CA
- California Municipal Utilities Association, April 5 – 7, 2020, San Francisco, CA
- SWANA Western Regional Symposium, April 27 – 30, 2020, Seaside, CA
- WasteExpo 2020, May 4 – 7, 2020, New Orleans, LA
- SCAG 2020 Regional Conference & General Assembly, May 6 – 8, 2020, Palm Desert, CA

Ms. Solomon stated that the events can be found in the conversion technology newsletter and that anyone who wants to subscribe to the newsletter should notify staff.

Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Hall if CalRecycle adopted and certified the Environmental Impact Report for SB 1383. Mr. Hall responded that he will speak with Mr. Hank Brady of CalRecycle and that he would let the subcommittee know.

VII. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Due to time constraints, no report was given.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Betsey Landis mentioned that the Subcommittee should educate the legislature on the benefits of CTs.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room A of Public Works Headquarters.