

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

April 18, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Kate Downey, Republic Services
Brenda Eells, Waste Connections
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Dee Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Ronaldo Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Kimberly Ohrt, Waste Management
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Heather Williams, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas

OTHERS PRESENT:

Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
David Muller, Northeast – Western Energy Systems USA
Aaron Tasin, Northeast – Western Energy Systems USA
Omar Carrillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kim Yapp, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Fahim Rahimi called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2024, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the March 21, 2024, minutes and Mr. Eugene Tseng seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon from Tetra Tech stated that Tetra Tech:

- Completed a draft Countywide site analysis for the development of anaerobic digestion and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facilities within the unincorporated County areas and 88 jurisdictions in the County.
- Prepared a workplan to perform a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will investigate land availability and land use compatibility.
- Submitted the draft Antelope Valley Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study to Public Works. This study was developed in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit Condition 92. It includes a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for CT facility options.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided the following updates:

- On April 16, 2024, CalRecycle hosted a monthly meeting and announced that:
 - They have released a [video](#) on how jurisdictions are fulfilling Senate Bill (SB) 1383 procurement requirements by collaborating with California farmers and the compost industry through direct service provider agreements.
 - They are reviewing Countywide or regional agencies' 5-year integrated waste management plan review report for approval or disapproval.
- On April 17, 2024, CalRecycle hosted a chat on SB 1383 on edible food recovery initiatives for Tier 1 and Tier 2 generators. Presenters shared best practices from various jurisdictions on collaborations with food recovery organizations. This included engagement with local food banks. It also included using SB 1383 grant funding to enhance food recovery and to ensure compliance with program requirements.

- Recent Developments for Senate Bill 54:
 - CalRecycle extended the deadline for public written documents on SB 54 draft regulations to May 8, 2024.
 - The SB 54 advisory board is scheduled to convene on April 19, 2024.
 - A hybrid public hearing will be held on April 23, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - An additional SB 54 workshop is scheduled for May 1, 2024, to showcase the revisions made to the documents since their initial publication in December 2023. During the workshop, an update will be provided on the development of the needs assessment, an overview of the contracted studies process, proposed engagement and collaboration strategies, and structured approach for submitting comments, providing feedback and sharing data.
 - CalRecycle will be issuing two requests for proposals focusing on the needs assessment. One will be for the source reduction baseline study and the other is for the material characterization study, to estimate the amount of covered material disposed of in California landfills.
- Assembly Bill (AB) 2514 (Aguilar, Curry), introduced on February 13, 2024:
 - AB 2514 proposes to allow the procurement of additional recovered organic waste products such as hydrogen to be included as eligible products for SB 1383 compliance.
 - The bill was amended on April 10, 2024, and the hearing date is pending.
 - Amendments included clarifying the definition of pyrolysis and expanding allowable recovered organic waste products.

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

Mr. Omar Carrillo provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- SCAG 59th Annual Regional Conference & General Assembly: May 2 - 3, 2024, Palm Desert, CA
- RNG Summit 2024: May 6 - 8, 2024, The Woodlands, TX
- Waste EXPO: May 6 - 9, 2024, Las Vegas, NV
- 17th Annual VerdeXchange VX2024 Marketmakers Conference: May 12 - 15, 2024, Los Angeles, CA
- Biogas Americas 2024: May 13 - 16, Savannah, GA
- SWANA Western Regional Symposium 2024: May 20 - 23, Palm Springs, CA
- California Hydrogen Leadership Summit: June 16-17, 2024, Sacramento, CA
- Air and Waste Management Association's 117th Annual Conference and Exhibition: June 24 - 27, 2024, Calgary, Alberta

VI. PRESENTATION BY NORTHEAST – WESTERN ENERGY SYSTEMS USA

Mr. Aaron Tasin provided a [presentation](#) on their company Northeast - Western Energy Systems (NES-WES) USA. NES-WES offers power and heat derived from various energy sources for versatile applications worldwide.

Mr. Tasin mentioned that NES-WES is developing a project to convert organic waste to hydrogen. Mr. Tseng asked if this is a gasification project. Mr. Tasin responded that this project is an anaerobic digester (AD).

Mr. Tseng noted that synthetic gas is involved in the steam reforming process. Mr. Tasin confirmed that the steam reforming process removes hydrogen from methane and that it does not use pyrolysis.

Mr. Tseng wanted to know if NES-WES has projects that use a heterogeneous feedstock. Mr. Tasin replied that they have a project using landfill gas. Mr. Tseng asked how NES-WES handles the variability in the feedstock and the resulting gases. Mr. Tasin responded that the AD contains microbes that create hydrogen out of food waste. He added that they limit the food scraps to mainly vegetables to prevent meat and dairy products from destabilizing the microbes in the AD. Mr. Tasin replied that they will continue to analyze the impacts of feedstock variability in future projects.

Ms. Kimberly Ohrt asked if the feedstock contains contamination and if the technology exclusively processes vegetable waste. Mr. Tasin responded that the feedstock is filtered to remove contaminants such as plastics before they enter the AD. He continued that a subsequent gas is cleaned to remove any residual contaminants.

Mr. Ron Milo asked about nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions from the combustion of hydrogen fuel. Mr. Tasin replied that an engine running on 100 percent hydrogen will emit some NO_x, but that NO_x emissions can be reduced with the use of the selective catalytic reduction.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter asked Ms. Kate Downey of Republic Services if they have plans for excess landfill gas from Sunshine Canyon landfill. Ms. Downey replied that there is interest in processing the excess gas.

Mr. Rahimi announced that Mr. Jim Stewart of the ATAS had passed away on April 12, 2024.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2024.