

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

Minutes of June 17, 2010

County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Conference Room C
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jacques Franco *, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Rafael Garcia, Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc.
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Sun, Council Member City of San Marino
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Eugene Tseng, Eugene Tseng and Associates

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Paul Alva, represented by Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
John Kaddis, represented by Tom White, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Mackenzie, ARI
Hillary Moglen *, Cerrell Associates
Chip Clements, Clements Environmental.
Peter Zorba, City of Lancaster
Bereket Tadele, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Angélica SantaMaría, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2010.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of May 27, 2010. The motion passed.

III. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mr. Skye announced the upcoming Waste to Energy Finance Summit that will be held in San Diego on July 19-21, in which he has been invited to participate as a speaker. Mr. Skye also announced the upcoming WasteCon/APWA conference that will be held in Boston from August 15-17.

Mr. Jacques Franco informed the ATAS members of an upcoming Local Enforcement Agency round table meeting that will be held in Crow's landing in Merced County. This meeting will be focusing on conversion technologies and it is tentatively scheduled for September 23. Mr. Franco will keep the ATAS up to date on the planning and agenda items as they become available.

IV. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH CONTRACT

Ms. Hillary Moglen with Cerrell Associates provided the update on the Public Outreach Contract. Staff attended planning meetings with pilot teams; CR&R/Arrow Bio, Burrtec/IES, Rainbow Disposal/Entech in order to assess their public outreach needs. Staff also reviewed and commented on CR&R materials regarding their CEC grant application. Cerrell also met with Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz's legislative deputy to update him on the County's conversion technology project.

Staff is working with Cerrell on the extensive outreach efforts for AB 222, and recently participated in a conference calls regarding strategy and outreach to Coalition for Clean Air and California League of Conservation Voters. Following their meeting with Senator Lowenthal in May, Cerrell worked with staff in developing a follow-up letter requesting the Senator's assistance in allocating more AB 118 funds for waste-to-biomethane projects.

V. SHORT TERM ACTION PLAN FOR PHASE III & IV

Mr. Chip Clements with Clements Environmental, serving as a subconsultant to ARI, provided an update to ATAS members. Mr. Clements noted the site visits conducted in late May with the cities of Glendale and Lancaster. Staff is also coordinating meetings and discussions with other cities interested in participating in Phase IV of the CT project, such as Avalon, Calabasas, Carson, Long Beach, Vernon, Santa Clarita, City of Industry and Beverly Hills. Beverly Hills recently invited Mr. Skye to make a presentation to their Public Works Commission.

A financial update was provided by David Mackenzie with ARI, who reported to the ATAS members that securing financing is top priority for the Phase III & IV projects. As such, staff is assisting one of the Phase III development team with their AB 118 grant application as well as looking for other financing opportunities for the other two projects. ARI and their subcontractor Clements Environmental have submitted a draft document siting feasibility studies scheduled for project funding and financing with an emphasis on Phase III for staff's review. Once reviewed by staff, the documents will be forwarded by staff to the ATAS members.

VI. SIX MONTH REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR POTENTIAL PHASE IV SITES

Mr. Chip Clements with Clements Environmental reported to the ATAS members that consultant staff is working with DPW Staff on the feasibility study that is due in six months to the Board of Supervisors. A preliminary report is expected to be drafted by mid August and ready for staff review. In addition, the consultant is preparing letters to be sent to local municipalities, as well as solid waste facilities such as MRFs and landfills to explore interest in developing a Phase IV project. Mr. Skye asked ATAS members to contact staff if they are aware of eligible sites for a Phase IV project.

VII. DISCUSSION REGARDING ATAS VACANCY LEFT BY KEVIN CHEN

As noted at the last meeting, members were asked to recommend potential candidates for consideration to the ATAS. Mr. Skye reiterated the importance of finding a committed and knowledgeable person that will be an active participant at our monthly subcommittee meetings. Staff would like members to submit names of other potential candidates in order to fill the vacancy by the next meeting date. This vacancy appointment will be determined by the Director of Public Works.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Mohajer provided an update and background on the draft mandatory commercial recycling regulations currently being developed by the State. Mandatory commercial recycling was recommended in the AB 32 Scoping Plan as a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. After discussing the impacts of these proposed regulations on local governments, Mr. Mohajer motioned that the ATAS move to have the Task Force send a letter expressing concerns regarding the proposed draft regulations. The motion was approved with an abstention from Mr. Jacques Franco.

Mr. Skye brought up a recent study by the state of Massachusetts in which they claim that biomass power plants are worse than coal in regards to greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Skye suggested the Subcommittee may want to ask the Task Force to send a letter expressing strong concerns with the study, addressed to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. A motion was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and approved with an abstention by Mr. Mark McDannel.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for July 15, 2010.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.