

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

Minutes of August 19, 2010

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rafael Garcia, Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc.
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
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:

Jacques Franco, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
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
Alex Helou, represented by Miguel Zermeno, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Mark McDannel, represented by Robert Ferrante, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chip Clements, Clements Environmental
Laura Cronin, City of Santa Monica
Matt Gallagher*, Cerrell Associates
Susan Higgins*, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Chris Salomon, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Angélica SantaMaría, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Jim Stewart, BioEnergy Producers Association
Peter Zorba, City of Lancaster

*designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2010.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of July 15, 2010. The motion passed unanimously.

III. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mr. Coby Skye provided an update on the upcoming conversion technology workshop that Public Works will be hosting on September 23, 2010. The workshop will provide a summary of the County's CT project and an update on the Phase III demonstration projects. It will also be used as an outreach event to interested parties for the Phase IV project. Invited to this workshop are industry, MRF/TS owners/operators, cities, and other interested parties. Mr. Skye urged members to extend the invitation to others interested, since registration is limited and available online through the www.SoCalConversion.org site.

IV. AB 222 OUTREACH STRATEGY

Mr. Skye provided an update on this bill. He reported that the bill was gutted and amended by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. The bill, in its amended form, would take out any reference to diversion credit and RPS credit, and would define biorefineries as transformation facilities, equivalent to waste to energy facilities. As a result of these hostile amendments, the County, the Task Force, and other entities that strongly supported the bill are now opposed to the bill. The last day for amendments to be considered during this legislative session is tomorrow, and staff does not believe there is any chance the bill will be amended back to its previous form if July 2009.

V. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OUTREACH PLAN

Mr. Matt Gallagher with Cerrell Associates provided the update on the Public Outreach Contract. Cerrell worked with staff on the outreach efforts for AB 222 and follow-ups. The majority of the outreach effort in the month of July and August has focused on the conversion technology workshop, including organizing, agenda setting, logistics, on-line registration and assisting Public Works staff with the coordination of this workshop. Some Phase III follow-up has been done with the project teams in order to assess their public outreach needs.

VI. UPDATE ON PHASE III & IV CONTRACT

Susan Higgins with ARI provided an update to the Subcommittee on Phase III of the CT project. Ms. Higgins reported that in the past month, along with Public Works staff and Cerrell, she has worked on the preparations for the conversion technology workshop. ARI has continued to emphasize project development and financial support for Phase III activities.

David Mackenzie with ARI provided an update on the Phase III funding activities. Staff is focusing on direct funding opportunities with USDOE for biomass funding and possible funding opportunities with the USDOE renewable energy projects loan guarantee program, which enables financing of projects at a lower rate than typical loans. Mr. Mackenzie also informed the Subcommittee of several other programs that are being monitored for potential funding such as the New Market tax credit program. At the state level, staff is monitoring the California Energy Commission and is expecting a solicitation process to be announced in the Fall. There is also some potential funding with Cal Recycle and the California Air Resource Board.

On the legislative side, Senator Feinstein has introduced legislation to extend the submittal deadline for the ARRA (stimulus bill); however the bill does not extend the date by which the projects must be completed. ARI will continue to advocate for the extension to be provided for both the application date and the completion date.

The House Ways and Means Committee began work on a comprehensive package of tax benefits, credits and incentives for renewable energy. Currently, it was placed on hold due to the recess. Staff will continue to track this item and will meet with the Ways and Means Committee in September.

Susan Higgins with ARI provided an update on Phase III, informing the Subcommittee that they have maintained contact with the three project development teams. Some of the teams are evaluating adjustments to their projects. CR&R and ArrowBio are looking at their options in transporting the methane gas via pipeline or truck. Rainbow is looking at possibly selecting another technology for their project as a better business decision.

Mr. Skye informed the Subcommittee that staff has expressed support to Rainbow if they choose another vendor for the project. However, staff has also informed Rainbow that if the technology selected is not from the shortlisted vendors, then the project would no longer be an L.A. County demonstration project, since the vendors on the shortlist are vetted by the County. Ms. Higgins noted that IES continues efforts to relocate her current pilot facility from Romoland (Menifee) to the Macullen test center. Currently the IES demonstration team has submitted their application for permitting and has asked ARI to review the documents.

Mr. Chip Clements with Clements Environmental provided an update to the Subcommittee members on the site evaluation process for Phase IV. To date, staff has meet with several interested cities in the CT project. There have been meetings with 7 cities with strong interest in the project, which has led to 15 potential sites for the Phase IV project. Of these sites, several are in areas zoned heavy-industrial which makes them more feasible to a commercial project development. Staff has developed evaluation criteria that will be used to identify sites for the Phase IV project. A detailed outline for the actual study will be used in the report that will be submitted to Public Works and the Board of Supervisors. Staff will be meeting with 6 other potential host cities in the coming weeks. Staff will also meet with the County Sanitation Districts to discuss the possibility of developing a project at the Calabasas Landfill and the joint wastewater treatment plant in Carson.

Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of smaller cities partnering with the County phase IV project.

VII. "CR3 AUTOCLAVE RECYCLING SYSTEM", BY WALTER MCKINNEY, CLEAN WASTE TECHNOLOGIES

Walter Mckinney provided a presentation on behalf of Clean Waste Technologies, which has an exclusive agreement with CR3 to represent and develop the patented autoclave technology in California. The steam autoclave system and process design is patented by Comprehensive Resource, Recovery and Recycling, Incorporated, of Reno, Nevada (CR3). As a green technology, the CR3 autoclave eliminates hazardous hand sorting of raw garbage, sterilizes the MSW and allows for sequestration of volatile organic compounds that can leach into the groundwater or atmosphere over time. The autoclave process treats both mixed waste and post-curbside waste streams removing all organic and recyclable materials currently beyond the reach of existing programs and processes. The treatment process occurs by loading an inclined conveyor with comingled waste, filling a preheated rotating vessel inclined at 45 degrees, adding a wetting agent (wastewater treatment plant sludge or gray water) to the mixture, and applying negative vacuum and variable heating up to approximately 260 degrees Fahrenheit for about 90 minutes. The patented helical design of the heating coils in the autoclave provides the mechanical action which opens garbage bags, breaks apart the refuse, and reduces the paper components to a pulp material that can be easily separated from the contaminants. The material is then rinsed, pressed and available as a feedstock for any number of renewable processes, such as generating energy. The system is modular so it allows adding on as needed to meet the MSW demands.

Mr. Ferrante commented to the Subcommittee that the Sanitation Districts participated in the demonstration of the CR3 technology in Salinas and found this

process to be not only efficient as a conversion technology but for recycling purposes since no presorting is required.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Jim Stewart with the Bioenergy Producers Association provided a summary on the demise of AB 222, which was gutted by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee. He thanked the Subcommittee for their consistent support on AB 222. He commented that moving the projects forward through permitting in the next two to three years will be a challenge.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2010.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.