

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

Minutes of January 19, 2012

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Jacques Franco*, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD)
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:

Rafael Garcia, Republic Services
Ron Goodman, Southern California Gas Company
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Kay Martin, Bio Energy Producers Association
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Traecey Anthony, Alternative Resources Inc (ARI)
Becky Bendikson, Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Community Advisory Committee
David Davis, MSW Consultants
William Gorham*, Cerrell Associates
George Gomez, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Susan Higgins, Alternative Resources Inc (ARI)
Jacqueline Maddox, Clements Environmental
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
David Muller, Renewable Energy Resources, Inc (RER)
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Heather Youngs, Energy Biosciences Institute, University of California Berkeley

*designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Paul Alva called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 20, AND NOVEMBER 17, 2012 MEETINGS

The Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (Subcommittee) approved the minutes on a motion by Mr. John Kaddis, seconded by Mr. Wayde Hunter.

III. UPDATE ON PHASE III & IV CONTRACT

Ms. Susan Higgins provided the following updates:

- The CR&R Phase III demonstration project continues to make progress. CR&R's Agreement with CEC for grant funding was approved; their immediate focus is on procurement and installation of equipment for a front-end system optimized for high quality feedstock. CR&R anticipates the front-end system will be operational in 3-6 months, with the full facility operational in 18-24 months.
- Rainbow is continuing to contemplate a technology change, and is monitoring the Salinas project to evaluate its own course of action.
- The IES project as envisioned in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is not expected to move forward. IES is currently going through significant corporate restructuring and is concentrating its efforts internally for corporate viability/stability.
- Phase IV has been the primary focus for the ARI team. Work continues on various tasks, including finalizing the RFEI database, completing the web-based economic model, and pursuing funding opportunities.
- Regarding the Calabasas Landfill project, ARI in concert with the County recently completed refined, planning-level economic modeling focused on a 700 TPD anaerobic digestion facility integrated with landfill infrastructure, including the existing landfill gas-to-energy system. Mark McDannel and the Sanitation District provided site-specific information that allowed the estimation of the economic benefits of integration, and identification of a possible area on the site for Conversion Technology (CT) development. The findings were presented to the CEO office, the Sanitation District, and the Los Angeles Supervisory District 3; discussions are ongoing.
- The City of Avalon reached out to the County requesting assistance. As a result, ARI is conducting a CT assessment focused on whether there's a potential path forward with CT. ARI used the RFEI database to identify technologies that are offered at a small scale, and have reached out individually to each of those companies to assess their interest and capabilities associated with the unique circumstances of Avalon. A draft report is anticipated to be complete by the end of February, for internal County review.
- Glendale – the City of Glendale has been evaluating technologies, and has short-listed four for further consideration (Urbaser, Plasco, Green Conversion Systems and Zero Waste

Energy). They have released an RFQ to these four companies, and are interested in having the County sit on an evaluation panel to review the responses to the RFQ.

- Other Cities/Stakeholders – ARI is working on updating the status of the sites/stakeholders, and prioritizing those for which we can best offer support and assistance. An update will be included in the next status report to the Board of Supervisors.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND ACTION PLAN

Mr. William Gorham provided the following updates:

- The County will be participating in a panel at the VerdeXchange Conference on January 23 and 24, 2012. In addition, Cerrell and the County will staff a booth to educate and publicize conversion technology work done by the County.
- Cerrell in conjunction with Mr. Robert Sulnick and Gary Peterson is working on a Conversion Technology Public Outreach Campaign in Northern California.
- The County is working with CalRecycle to host a Southern and Northern California MRF tour.

V. PRESENTATION BY DR. HEATHER YOUNGS

Dr. Youngs presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding a report she wrote in October 2011 for the California Council on Science and Technology entitled “Waste-to-Energy in California: Technology, Issues and Context”. Dr. Youngs stated that this report serves as a starting point for discussions concerning the conversion of post-recycled urban-derived biomass and municipal waste to energy. The report outlined possible benefits of waste-to-energy systems such as decreased landfill burden, decreased greenhouse gas emissions, and a source of reliable local low-carbon electricity. The report also stated that were negative impacts including a disincentive to waste reduction and recycling programs, increased air and water impacts, high costs, and financial risk for communities if technology is unreliable.

Following a discussion of her findings, a Motion was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and Second by Mr. Wayne Hunter, to request that the Task Force send a letter to the California Council on Science and Technology with comments on Dr. Youngs’ report, making reference to the use of the term “Waste – to - Energy” in the report and other deficiencies found on the report.

VI. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

Mr. Skye announced that the County will be participating on the VerdeXchange Conference on January 23-24, 2012. In addition, he stated that Ms. Tobie Mitchell will make a presentation regarding Conversion Technology on January 24, 2012 at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments “The Future of Solid Waste Management Forum”.

Mr. Jacques Franco informed the subcommittee that on May 30, 2012, CalRecycle will be hosting an all-day "Anaerobic Digestion Showcase Event" in Sacramento. Mr. Franco invited subcommittee members to participate.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Mohajer commented about his standing request regarding the Public Outreach Action Plan Update. He stated that Subcommittee hasn't been provided with the requested Action Plan since last summer. Therefore, he would like to withdraw his request. Chair Alva, stated that the item will be discussed at the next Subcommittee meeting. Coby Skye pointed out that a draft Action Plan document had been created and circulated to the Subcommittee for comment; however, no comments from members had been received.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.