

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

Minutes of August 16, 2012

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Suk Chong, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Jacques Franco*, Department of Resource Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Mark McDannel, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD)
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Jeff Yann, Hacienda Heights Improvement Association
Eugene Sun, Council Member, City of San Marino
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

David Cieply, Republic- Allied Waste Company
Kay Martin, Bio Energy Producers Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Alex Helou, represented by Miguel Zermeno*, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Traacey Anthony Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services
Macaria Flores*, Cerrell Associates
William Gorham*, Cerrell Associates
George Gomez, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Jacque McMillen, Clements Environmental
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Suk Chong called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 19, 2012 MEETING

Mr. Chong asked the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS), if there were any comments or questions regarding the July 19, 2012 minutes.

Mr. Wayne Hunter requested to revisit the approved May 17, 2012 minutes in order to consider changes from Mr. Mohajer.

Mr. Mohajer distributed written changes and additions to the May 17 minutes. He read through sections 6-8 of the approved minutes, and elaborated regarding the changes he is requesting and the transcripts of the May 17 and June 21, 2012 meetings he requested.

Mr. Chong mentioned that Mr. Mohajer indeed requested transcripts of the May 17 and June 21, 2012 meetings; however it was not communicated to the County or the ATAS that the transcripts were requested for the purpose of changing the minutes.

Mr. Coby Skye noted that the County's equipment is not set-up to facilitate developing transcripts of every meeting. As a result, developing such transcripts is a laborious process. He reminded the members that staff is always seeking to get input from the members regarding the minutes, and would greatly prefer receiving comments and suggested changes to the minutes in between meetings, so that staff can make the changes and have the minutes ready to approve.

Mr. Chong asked how the Subcommittee would like to proceed with the changes submitted by Mr. Mohajer.

Mr. Eugene Sun recommended incorporating all of Mr. Mohajer comments and approving the minutes as amended.

Mr. McDannel requested to vote on the July minutes and defer the May minutes to open discussion for the next meeting. He made a motion to approve the July 19, 2012 minutes as written; Mr. Jeff Yann seconded the motion and it was passed with an abstention from Mr. Mike Mohajer and Mr. Eugene Sun.

Mr. McDannel made a motion for staff to review Mr. Mohajer's comments to provide the Subcommittee with a revised May 17, 2012 minutes, seconded by Mr. Sun, the motion passed unanimously.

In addition, Mr. Mohajer made comments regarding the June 21, 2012 minutes and asked staff to refer to the transcripts of the June meeting, revise the minutes and present the revised copy at the next ATAS meeting. Mr. Skye stated that the June 21, 2012 minutes were already approved by the majority of the Subcommittee members, and it will be inappropriate for staff to revisit the minutes without a motion from the Subcommittee.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for staff to revisit and correct the June 19, 2012 minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Hunter. Motion passed with Mr. McDannel, Mr. Kent, Mr. Tseng, and Mr. Yann, and Mr. Chong voting no.

III. UPDATE ON PHASE III & IV CONTRACT

Due to the shortage of time, this agenda item was not considered at the meeting.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES AND ACTION PLAN

Due to the shortage of time, this agenda item was not considered at the meeting.

V. CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN

Due to the shortage of time, this agenda item was not considered at the meeting.

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY DEFINITION

Mr. Skye stated that there have been several discussions in various circles throughout the State about the definition of "conversion technology". Recently, anaerobic digestion has become more widely accepted; however, there have been efforts by some to define anaerobic digestion as composting and not as a conversion technology, even though anaerobic digestion is capable of producing energy and/or a fuel, unlike composting. In addition, some of the same groups trying to remove anaerobic digestion from the definition of conversion technologies are attempting to include traditional waste-to-energy within the definition of conversion technology. When taken in combination, these changes would have the result of removing a technology that is widely accepted while

associating conversion technologies with a technology that is controversial. Staff recommends reaffirming the definition of conversion technologies that was essentially established and perpetuated by the County of Los Angeles and the Task Force, rather than allowing others to redline the term in ways that may ultimately undermine efforts to establish fair regulations for conversion technologies. Staff has submitted a proposed definition for “conversion technology” to the Subcommittee for their consideration.

Mr. McDannel asked where this definition will be utilized. Mr. Skye replied that Staff will use this definition in Task Force letters, outreach materials, and reports. It could also be relevant to legislation and permitting. The definition would be submitted to the Task Force for approval.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to approve the staff’s recommended definition.

Mr. Ron Kent recommended removing the word “solid” from the term “solid waste” in the definition, because conversion technologies are applicable in processing a number of waste materials. Mr. Mohajer disagreed with Mr. Kent’s recommendation.

Mr. Jacques Franco made a substitute motion to approve staff’s recommended definition and to remove the word “solid” from the proposed definition. Mr. Kent seconded the motion and it was passed with an objection of Mr. Mohajer and Mr. Sun.

VII. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS

Due to the shortage of time, this agenda item was not considered at the meeting.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ms. Traacey Anthony provided the following update:

The Annual Southern California Waste Management Forum Conference and Exhibition will be held on November 7, 2012 at Sheraton Fairplex Hotel and Conference Center, Pomona, CA.

Mr. Mohajer informed the Subcommittee that Edwards Air Force Base has started a gasification project, and suggested that an update be included in the next Subcommittee meeting. He offered to share information with staff regarding the project.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 20, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Chong adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m. with the following closing remarks:

Public Works sincerely appreciates Subcommittee members for their time, expertise and patience; we want to be able to resolve the issue with the minutes and want to make sure that we provide accurate minutes. We ask the Subcommittee members to work with staff to move forward with this issue.