

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

**Minutes of September 20, 2012**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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:

David Cieply, Republic-Allied Waste Company  
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company  
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Suk Chong, represented by Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Jacques Franco, represented by Brian Helmowski\*, Department of Resource Recycling  
and Recovery (CalRecycle)  
Alex Helou, represented by Miguel Zermeno\*, City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation  
Mark McDannel, represented by Matt Eaton, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles  
County (LACSD)

OTHERS PRESENT:

Traecey Anthony, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)  
Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services  
Macaria Flores\*, Cerrell Associates  
George Gomez, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Tobie Mitchell, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

\*designates participants over the telephone

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Coby Skye called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY17 AND AUGUST 12 , 2012 MEETINGS**

The May 17 and August 15, 2012 minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Jeff Yann.

Mr. Mike Mohajer commented that at the last meeting the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS) made a motion for staff to revisit, correct and bring back the June 21, 2012 minutes for comments. Mr. Skye stated that staff have not been able to reconcile the comments provided by Mr. Mohajer pertaining to Mr. Pat Proano, who attended the June 21, 2012 ATAS meeting. To avoid prolonged discussions, staff intends to ensure the minutes incorporate all comments and are accurate prior to presenting them to the subcommittee members for approval; as a result the June minutes were not listed as an agenda item for discussion or approval. Over Mr. Skye's objection, Mr. Mohajer noted for the record that he had specific recommended changes to the June minutes which as of yet have not been agreed to by staff, and passed out copies of these suggested changes to the ATAS members. Mr. Mohajer also requested to include his suggested changes as an attachment to the September 20, 2012 meeting minutes. Mr. Eugene Sun made a motion to add this item to the next ATAS meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. John Kaddis and approved unanimously.

## **III. UPDATE ON PHASE III and IV**

Ms. Tracey Anthony provided the following updates:

- The CR&R Project at City of Parris continues to move forward. The project received a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and CEQA approval, and is currently in the process of obtaining a Solid Waste Permit through CalRecycle. The fueling station is under construction and expected to be on operation in June 2013. This project is shifting feedstock to source-separated food and green waste.
- ARI is prioritizing efforts to identify and pursue potential State, Federal and Foundation grants for County planning activities.
- ARI anticipates that the California Energy Commission (CEC) will be announcing the AB118 grant funding (round 2) early next month.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Macaria Flores provided the following updates:

- The County is making additional edits to the new SocalConversion.org website to comply with the new standard website format.
- Cerrell is currently drafting a press release for the motion presented by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe.
- Mr. Skye noted that on September 18, 2012, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe introduced a motion calling upon federal and state legislators to amend decades-old laws and regulations to encourage the development of innovative waste conversion technologies, and that the Board of Supervisors will officially take action on his motion on September 25, 2012.

#### **V. BIOENERGY ACTION PLAN**

Ms. Tobie Mitchell provided an update on the newly released 2012 Bioenergy Action Plan. The purpose of this report is to promote the use of biomass resources to produce fuels and electricity in California. Developed by an interagency working group, the 2012 Bioenergy Action Plan contains the policy objectives of Governor Brown and was approved directly by the Governor. As such, this plan did not go through a formal approval process, but was presented as an informational item to the California Energy Commission and CalRecycle. Ms. Mitchell mentioned that Mr. Jacques Franco could provide additional details about the Bioenergy Action Plan at the next ATAS meeting. Subcommittee members agreed that there was continued interest and requested further information from Mr. Franco.

#### **VI. CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLAN**

Mr. Skye stated that the Conversion Technology Action Plan is essentially the same as the one provided last month, but does include a few updates in response to comments provided by the Subcommittee members, those comments are now incorporated in document. Mr. Mohajer stated that he was unable to review the latest changes and requested to defer the item. Without objection, the item was deferred to the next meeting.

## **VII. SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION ON “CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY AND RECOVERY” DEFINITION**

Mr. Skye shared proposed definitions of “Conversion Technology” and “Recovery” as they relate to Countywide Siting Element and other Task Force letters and documents. He stated that similar definitions are used at the federal level and in the European Union. Also, the proposed waste paradigm is similar to that referenced by CalRecycle at a recent workshop in Sacramento. Mr. Skye recommended approving the proposed definitions including the word “solid” as recommended by the Task Force and Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee at their August meetings. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to approve the proposed definitions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Jeff Yann and approved unanimously.

## **VIII. RECAP ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS**

Ms. Tobie Mitchell provided updates regarding two workshops hosted by CalRecycle that were held on September 19, 2012.

- The morning session included an update on the development of CalRecycle’s AB341 Report to the Legislature – Director Carroll Mortensen discussed the comments received from stakeholders thus far regarding funding for the various proposed measures, reporting measures for this state goal, and how the remaining 25% will be managed. CalRecycle will hold additional workshops on funding mechanisms, streamlining the permitting of facilities like AD, and new energy to waste facilities.
- The afternoon session focused on a discussion of concepts for Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Performance Standards – CalRecycle discussed the following main topics: 1) define mixed waste processing comparable to source separation, and 2) standards for MRF residuals to be used for energy recovery. Participants were given several options to consider then asked for their preference.

Mr. Skye commented that this workshop is a direct result of the Governor’s desire to establish a technology neutral development standard. It is concerning, however, that CalRecycle is placing a strong emphasis on a MRF performance standard. This could be problematic if they intend to send all waste to organic waste processing facilities for compost and anaerobic digestion, leaving no feedstock or very little for conversion technologies, and/or it might get sent to China to be incinerated when we could have local fuel and jobs here. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to recommend the Task Force send a comment letter regarding CalRecycle’s proposal. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Skye reminded the ATAS members that the Board of Supervisors will be officially take action on Supervisor Knabe's motion on September 25, 2012, and invited them to attend the meeting.

**X. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 18, 2012, at 10:00 a.m.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.