

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

Minutes for June 21, 2018

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
John Kaddis, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Mark McDannel, Los Angeles County Sanitation District
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Jim Stewart, BioEnergy Producers Association

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Patrick Holland, Chair, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Tom Blank, Waste Management
Jacques Franco, UC Davis Policy Institute for Energy, Environment and the Economy
Tim Hall, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Alex Helou, City of Los Angeles
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Tracey Anthony, Alternative Resources Inc. (ARI)
Daniel Dela Cruz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale Department of Public Works *
Dennis Montano, Republic Services
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Troy Webber, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle) *

* Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mohajer called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Mohajer introduced Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar, the new alternate member to Mr. Holland for the ATAS.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MAY 17, 2018 MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2018, was made by Mr. Hunter, as amended, and was seconded by Mr. McDannel. The motion passed unanimously with amendment.

III. PRESENTATION FROM MICHAEL ROGOZEN OF ULTRASYSTEMS REGARDING AIR PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THERMAL CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. Rogozen of UltraSystems Environmental, Inc. provided a [presentation](#) regarding air permitting for thermal-based waste conversion technology in the South Coast Air Basin.

Ms. Vazifdar asked Mr. Rogozen what criteria a project must demonstrate to provide that it is not an incinerator. Mr. Rogozen responded that a thermal project must demonstrate that it is not burning solid waste directly, combining it with air and turning it into carbon dioxide and water. He said that a pyrolysis project would not be considered an incinerator because waste is heated without air to produce syngas, which can then be burned to produce energy. Mr. Rogozen stated that this is a difficult distinction for some regulators to understand.

Mr. Rogozen stated that there is some ambiguous wording in Subpart EEE of the New Source Performance Standards. It seems to exempt pyrolysis units, but the regulation does include clear definitions of many terms or the definition is included in another rule that is not applicable. Mr. Rogozen wrote a memo to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) to advance the argument that pyrolysis is different from combustion, which was ultimately accepted by the US EPA.

Mr. Mohajer asked about the role of methane as a pollutant of concern and as a cause of climate change. Mr. Rogozen stated that disposing waste in a landfill generates methane and incinerating waste generates carbon dioxide. He stated that carbon dioxide has a much lower global warming potential than methane and less impact on climate change.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Mohajer stated that Senate Bill 1440 promotes pipeline injection of biomethane and requires gas companies to use 32 billion cubic feet of renewable natural gas. He stated that existing law provides for the California Public Utility Commission to reimburse up to 50 percent of the cost of pipeline interconnection infrastructure, and Assembly Bill 3187 proposes to increase the reimbursement to 100 percent. Mr. Mohajer stated that both bills have passed the house of origin. He said that Assembly Bill 3187 is before the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and Senate Bill 1440 is before the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy. Mr. Mohajer stated that both bills are likely to pass and be signed.

V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS/ OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Ms. Vazifdar mentioned upcoming conferences:

- California Resource Recovery Association 42nd Annual Conference (CRRRA), July 26 - 29, Oakland, CA
- WASTECON 2018, August 20 - 23, Nashville, TN
- BioCycle Refor18, October 15 – 18, Raleigh, NC
- US Biogas 2018, November 5 – 6, San Diego, CA

Ms. Vazifdar stated that the next ATAS meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 18, 2018, at the Puente Hills Materials Recovery Facility (PHMRF). The meeting will be followed by a tour of the food waste processing operations at the PHMRF. Due to limited space for the tour, Ms. Vazifdar said she would send out an email after the meeting asking people to RSVP if they plan to attend the tour.

Mr. Mohajer stated the Southern California Waste Management Forum conference is scheduled for November 14, 2018, at the Pomona Sheraton Fairplex Hotel and Conference Center. The conference will focus on the implementation of Senate Bill 1383 (2016) requirements.

Mr. McDannel mentioned that the Commerce Refuse to Energy Facility is scheduled to receive its last load of trash on Tuesday, June 26, 2018, ending a 32-year operation accepting 400 tons a day of solid waste. The plant could not continue operating due to financial issues resulting from the low cost for power.

VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Ms. Traacey Anthony stated Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI), and Department of Public Works (DPW) continue to work with staff from the Los Angeles County

Sherriff's Department to explore on-site food waste management options. Following outreach to technology vendors that provide small-scale in-vessel composting technologies, the DPW and ARI participated in a virtual tour and conference call with Green Mountain Technologies to review capabilities of the Earth Flow in-vessel composter. A tour of the FOR Solutions in-vessel composter installed at the San Diego Food Bank is scheduled for July 11, 2018.

- Following a meeting with City of Avalon staff, ARI completed a review of background information provided by the City and DPW and are working on providing suggested next steps for advancing consideration of a conversion technology project to extend the life of Pebbly Beach Landfill.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mohajer reiterated that the next ATAS meeting will be held on July 18, 2018, at the PHMRF.

Mr. Hunter asked if the official meeting is in a conference room after the tour, in the event somebody only wants to attend the meeting. Ms. Vazifdar stated the meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room and the tour will follow the meeting. Mr. McDannel stated that the tour was scheduled because the food waste processing machine at the MRF recently began operating.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.