

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

**January 19, 2023**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

Los Angeles County Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections  
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Flavio Da Cruz, Southern California Gas  
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.  
Paul Koster, Republic Services  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Kay Martin, rep by James Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Darshna Patel, City of Los Angeles  
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Janelle Auyeung, CalRecycle  
Christian Ferguson, Tetra Tech  
Cornelius Shields, Kore Technologies  
Steve Wirtel, Kore Technologies  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fahim Rahimi called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 17, 2022, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Eugene Tseng seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## **III. DISCUSSION ON LAND APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS AND SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMITTING PROCESS**

Mr. Charles Darensbourg provided a brief [presentation](#) on permitting various waste management facilities needed to comply with Senate Bill (SB) 1383 (2016) and Assembly Bill (AB) 939 (1989). The presentation also discussed methods for managing biosolids and whether they would be considered "disposal". Under SB 1383 (2016), AB 939 (1989), and AB 1857 (2022), the land application of biosolids is considered landfill diversion or landfill disposal reduction. Under these laws, thermal conversion of biosolids would be considered landfill disposal.

Mr. Mohajer asked about the requirements for land application compared to Class III solid waste landfills and requested staff to provide more details at a future Subcommittee meeting.

## **IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Darensbourg provided an update on the proposed anaerobic digestion (AD) facility at Calabasas Landfill. He reminded subcommittee members that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors had approved a motion that allowed Los Angeles County Public Works (PW) to enter an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Anaergia for the development of a proposed AD facility at the Calabasas Landfill.

Mr. Darensbourg mentioned that PW will apply for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant funding for the proposed AD facility and suggested that a letter of support from the Task Force would strengthen the application. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to recommend that the Task Force submit a letter of support as part of the grant application. Mr. Tseng seconded, and the motion was passed with four abstentions.

Mr. Christian Ferguson stated that Tetra Tech continues to expand their evaluation of potential sites for organic waste processing and thermal conversion facilities at closed landfill sites. They also continue to support PW with preparation of an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement for development of a proposed AD facility at the Calabasas Landfill.

## V. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Darensbourg provided the following update:

- At CalRecycle's monthly public meeting on December 20, 2022, CalRecycle stated that over \$150 million in grants are available for SB 1383 (2016) infrastructure and related projects.
- At CalRecycle's monthly public meeting on January 17, 2023, CalRecycle announced that they are considering an application proposal by H Cycle, a technology developer. H Cycle uses non-combustion thermal conversion technology to convert organic waste into hydrogen that can be used for refining operations and heavy-duty fuel vehicles. CalRecycle has until January 30, 2023, to either approve or disapprove H Cycle's application as an SB 1383 (2016) organic waste disposal reduction technology.
- On January 4, 2023, CalRecycle released an SB 1383 (2016) compliance letter with an update on their compliance evaluation process in which every jurisdiction will be evaluated within the next four years. CalRecycle continues to provide support to helping jurisdictions comply. Jurisdictions who failed to develop implementation ordinances, submit reports to CalRecycle, conduct capacity planning, or comply with AB 341 (2012) and AB 1826 (2016) will be prioritized for compliance evaluations.

Mr. Mohajer asked if CalRecycle had postponed their approval of considering H Cycle's application as an SB 1383 (2016) organic waste disposal reduction technology. Ms. Michelle Dewey responded that H Cycle's application was presented for approval or disapproval at CalRecycle's monthly meeting, and approval may be determined next week. Mr. Mohajer requested that Ms. Dewey keep the Subcommittee apprised of the result.

Mr. Mohajer requested that the Subcommittee minutes include the following in reference to H Cycle:

- CalRecycle [Public Notice](#) dated January 17, 2023
- CalRecycle [Staff Findings/Request](#) dated January 17, 2023
- Coalition [letter](#) to CalRecycle regarding Consideration of a Technology Determination for H Cycle Pursuant to Article 2 of the SB 1383 (2016) Regulations

Mr. Rahimi confirmed that staff would disseminate the coalition letter to the Subcommittee members in accordance with Mr. Mohajer's request.

## **VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY EVENTS/MEETINGS/OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

Mr. Darensbourg provided an update on events and conferences, which can also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee meeting minutes:

- COMPOST 2023: January 24 – 27, 2023, Ontario, CA
- County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) Spring Conference 2023: March 8 - 10, 2023, Universal City, CA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Annual Business Meeting and Spring in Person Conference: March 23, 2023, Pomona, CA

## **VII. PRESENTATION BY KORE TECHNOLOGIES**

A [presentation](#) was provided by Mr. Steve Wirtel from Kore Technologies about using pyrolysis to create biogas, hydrogen, and biocarbon from locally generated waste.

Mr. Jim Stewart asked about the operating temperature of the pyrolysis process. Mr. Wirtel responded that the operating temperature is approximately 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Kore technology is designated as an SB 1383 (2016) organic waste disposal reduction technology by CalRecycle. Mr. Wirtel responded that they have not yet applied to CalRecycle for the determination, but they plan to do so in the future as they transition into commercial use of their technology.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2023.