

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

February 16, 2023

WEB CONFERENCE

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ron Kent, rep by Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas
Paul Koster, Republic Services
Dee Hanson Lugo, rep by Karen Gork, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kim Domptail, GHD
Sara Elkady, GHD
Tej Gidda, GHD
Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
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
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, 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 10:04 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2023, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Wayde Hunter seconded. Motion passed with two abstentions.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Rahimi stated there are no updates from CalRecycle for the month of February 2023. The most recent CalRecycle meeting was held on January 17, 2023, a summary was provided at the January Subcommittee meeting. The next CalRecycle meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2023.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Christine Arbogast reported that Tetra Tech continues to support Public Works with the following:

- Tetra Tech identified potential sites for organic waste processing and thermal conversion facility development, and is evaluating several landfill sites and other potential sites within Los Angeles County.
- Tetra Tech is assisting with the preparation of a grant application for CalRecycle's Organic Grant Program, Cycle 7 for development of a proposed anaerobic digestion (AD) facility at the Calabasas Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer requested an update on the letter of support mentioned at the previous Subcommittee meeting for the proposed AD facility at Calabasas Landfill. Mr. Rahimi responded that the letter was processed and submitted as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant application to CalRecycle on January 15, 2023. Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of the letter be sent to all Subcommittee members.

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

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

- County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) Spring Conference 2023, March 8 - 10, 2023, Universal City, CA

- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Spring Conference, March 23, 2023, Pomona, CA
- National Association County Engineers (NACE) Annual Conference 2023, April 16 - 20, 2023, Orange Beach, Alabama
- The 14th Waste Conversion Technology Conference, April 17 - 20, 2023, Atlanta, Georgia. This conference will be co-located with the SWANA Soar 2023 Conference.
- Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) SOAR 2023, April 17 - 20, 2023, Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Mohajer stated that the SCWMF Spring Conference on March 23, 2023, will be held in the Sheraton Hotel in Pomona, CA.

VI. PRESENTATION BY GHD ON PRODUCING HYDROGEN DIRECTLY FROM ANAEROBIC DIGESTION

A [presentation](#) was provided by Mr. Tej Gidda from GHD on producing hydrogen directly from AD methods.

Mr. Mohajer asked if GHD had communicated with CalRecycle about its processes and collaborating with them on their analysis of hydrogen production. He added that, similarly, H-Cycle had submitted an analysis to CalRecycle on the production of hydrogen using non-combustion thermal processes, which will promote the further development of such technologies in California. Mr. Gidda responded that GHD had not had any discussions with CalRecycle but they hope to have the opportunity soon.

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar asked Mr. Gidda for his opinion on whether using AD or non-combustion thermal technologies would be more efficient in producing hydrogen. Mr. Gidda responded that thermal technology will produce more hydrogen as it is able to unlock more of the energy value from organic waste compared to AD. Ms. Kim Domptail added that the goal is not to choose one technology over the other, but to develop facilities that combine both technologies.

Mr. Ethan Simonoff asked if GHD had interacted with other institutions regarding approaches to producing hydrogen. Mr. Gidda responded they have not but hope to have that opportunity now that GHD has gathered enough findings to collaborate with others.

Mr. Mohajer requested that Mr. Gidda review CalRecycle's analysis on H-Cycle's technology and provide his comments and input. Mr. Mohajer and Mr. Simonoff both requested Mr. Gidda's contact information.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 16, 2023.