

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

**July 18, 2024**

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

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections  
Kate Downey, Republic Services  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.  
Ron Kent, rep by Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas  
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident  
Fahim Rahimi, rep by Kawsar Vazifdar Los Angeles County Public Works  
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Heather Williams, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Dee Hanson-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Basil Cantu, Long Beach Public Works  
Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works  
Tom Fang, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech  
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Omar Carrillo Maldonado, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kim Yapp, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fahim Rahimi called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2024, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the June 20, 2024, minutes, and Mr. Eugene Tseng seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

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

Mr. Cesar Leon from Tetra Tech stated that they are:

- Compiling an application package to the Department. of Energy Waste Analysis and Strategies for Transportation End Uses grant. This grant would be for the proposed Calabasas Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility.
- Submitted a first draft of the AD White Paper to Public Works (PW) which provides an objective overview of AD technologies and the state of the industry.
- Submitted a Draft Countywide Siting Evaluation to PW for the development of AD and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facilities within the unincorporated County.
- Submitted a Draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study to PW for Antelope Valley in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit, Condition 92, which includes the performance of a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for CT facility options.
- Currently performing a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will evaluate limits of waste and surrounding utilities for the potential development of AD and/or thermal CT facilities.

## **IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION**

Ms. Kim Yapp provided the following update:

- On July 16, 2024, CalRecycle hosted its monthly meeting, where it was announced that they had published a Zero Waste baseline report that evaluates the effectiveness of their existing programs and identifies changes needed to improve these programs and reach zero waste. The report states that 53 percent of waste is being disposed.
- CalRecycle has tentatively scheduled a public engagement event on August 14, 2024, seeking input on the Zero Waste Plan.

- CalRecycle's latest Senate Bill (SB) 1383 chat was held on June 25, 2024. The chat provided an overview of the SB 1383 record-keeping requirements and helpful tools. Participants shared their experiences and challenges in implementing SB 1383 record-keeping processes, covering aspects such as file organization, role assignments and communication.

#### Recent Developments for SB 54

- On July 1, 2024, CalRecycle published a list of covered material categories. Recyclability and composability updates will be published at the start of 2025. CalRecycle is still reviewing public comments and considering changes to the proposed regulation.
- The SB 54 Advisory Board is scheduled to convene July 19, 2024, at 10 a.m.

#### Recent Developments for Assembly Bill (AB) 2514

- AB 2514 was amended by the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality on July 3, 2024.
- The amendments removed hydrogen as an allowable product that local jurisdictions can procure to satisfy the SB 1383 requirements, but pipeline biomethane would still be allowed.
- The amendments would allow products to be created from organic waste recovered from mixed waste.

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

Mr. Omar Carrillo Maldonado provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may also be found in the [CT Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- The 15th Waste Conversion Technology Conference and Trade Show: August 12 – 14, 2024, San Diego, CA
- California Resource Recovery Association Conference and Trade Show: August 18 - 21, Anaheim, CA
- The National Zero Waste Conference: October 2 – 3, 2024, Virtual

### **VI. PRESENTATION BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS**

Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) provided a [presentation](#) on the existing infrastructure set up for organics co-digestion.

Mr. Ethan Simonoff asked for clarification on the total tons received on food waste for co-digestion, and if the amount is cumulative. Mr. Tom Fang replied that the amount that they receive in food waste fluctuates every day. Mr. Simonoff asked if the collected waste is for the entire Sanitation District, Mr. Fang replied that it is food waste and grease. Mr. Simonoff asked if there is an end use for the hydrogen in the Hydrogen Pilot Program. Mr. Fang replied that LACSD is currently in discussion with Toyota to develop fuel-cell, battery electric vehicles.

Mr. Hunter asked if food waste is being accepted from the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Tseng replied that the mixed waste residential stream is the primary source of material for the Central Los Angeles Recycling and Transfer Station. Mr. Fang added that the Warren Facility only accepts processed material. Mr. Hunter asked what happens to the food waste residents dispose of in green bins. Mr. Tseng replied that the material is composted. Mr. Ron Milo added that the food waste is combined with the organics, which is then processed at a composting facility. Mr. Milo noted that there are contractors participate in this composting process as well.

Mr. Milo asked if the facility handles exclusively food waste. Mr. Fang replied that a materials recovery facility receives food and green waste and determines what materials can be used for processing in the DODA bio separator. Mr. Tseng added that green waste will not be transferred to a food waste processing plant, and instead be transferred to a green waste line for processing.

Mr. Tseng asked how feedstock contamination is defined. Mr. Fang replied that even if organic waste is separated, it would first need to be converted into a pulpable slurry to be processed at the Warren facility. He stated that they filter the material through a 4 mm screen, before deciding if the material is organic.

Mr. Hunter asked why the City of Los Angeles is not processing the gathered food waste themselves. Mr. Milo replied that there is a developing telematics program where trucks utilize a camera that detects if the bin contains material that can be used for processing.

Mr. Benjamin Lucha asked about potential renewable natural gas challenges. Mr. Fang replied that there have been challenges with Low Carbon Fuel Standard credits being low, as well as delays in interconnection with gas companies.

Mr. Hunter asked if 60 tons is capacity for the DODA bio separator. Mr. Fang replied that 160 tons is the separator's capacity.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar noted that Toyota will be presenting in the next meeting on their hydrogen project. Ms. Vazifdar added that presenters will be able to call-in via Zoom.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2024.