

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

September 19, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Steve Cassulo, rep by Brenda Eells, Waste Connections
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
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
Dee-Hansen Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Barbara Romero, rep by Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Heather Williams, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force

OTHERS PRESENT:

Basil Cantu, Long Beach Public Works
Erica Alvarado, Tetra Tech
Maren Appert, Tetra Tech
Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Michael Stewart, Republic Services
Omar Carrillo Maldonado, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Chris Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kim Yapp, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Siya Araumi called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 15, 2024, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Wayne Hunter made a motion to approve the August 15, 2024, minutes, and Mr. Ron Milo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon from Tetra Tech stated that they:

- Are presenting to the Subcommittee today on how jurisdictions can procure renewable gas (RNG) or RNG-derived electricity to meet their Senate Bill (SB) 1383 procurement requirements.
- Are preparing a presentation for the November Task Force meeting, which will provide a broad perspective on organic waste management challenges, anaerobic digestion (AD) technologies, and the AD industry in California. ave submitted a first Draft AD White Paper, which provides an objective overview of AD technologies and the state of the industry.
- Have submitted a Draft Countywide Siting Evaluation for the development of AD and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facilities within the county.
- Have submitted a Draft Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study for Antelope Valley in compliance with the 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.
- Are performing a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will evaluate the 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:

CalRecycle Meetings

- During the August 20 and September 17, 2024, monthly meetings, CalRecycle:
 - Discussed the recent Zero Waste Plan Workshop and noted that they are currently reviewing feedback.

- Discussed that a scoping meeting for the SB 54 Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was held and that the comment period closed on August 26. The next SB 54 Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2024, and the next draft of the proposed regulations is expected to be released in the coming weeks.
- Highlighted an upcoming deadline for producers of expanded polystyrene food service ware who must demonstrate a 25 percent recycling rate by January 1, 2025.
- Announced the Beverage Container Redemption Innovation Grant Program Awards, allocating \$69.2 million to 37 projects across 30 counties. CalRecycle is seeking feedback on the draft criteria and evaluation process for two new grants: the Increased Recycling of Empty Glass Beverage Containers Grant and the Recycled Glass Processing Incentive Grant Program, with feedback due by August 23, 2024.
- On September 18, 2024, CalRecycle hosted an SB 1383 Chat focused on organic waste diversion and edible food recovery by non-local entities and local education agencies. The session covered new guidance, tools, funding updates, and implementation strategies.

Caltrans/CalRecycle Compost Webinar

- Caltrans and CalRecycle held a Compost Webinar, during which Caltrans expressed interest in collaborating with CalRecycle to clarify the process for local jurisdictions to obtain procurement credit for compost used by Caltrans in support of SB 1383 compliance.

Recent Developments for Assembly Bill 2514

- The bill was moved to the inactive file at the request of Senator Gonzalez during the floor hearing.

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

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

- The National Zero Waste Conference: October 2 – 3, 2024, virtual
- Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), WASTECON 2024: October 21–24, Dallas, TX
- Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Conference & Exhibit (SCWMF): November 13, 2024, Ontario, CA

VI. PRESENTATION BY TETRA TECH

Mr. Leon and Ms. Erica Alvarado provided a [presentation](#) on SB 1383 RNG Procurement Requirements.

Mr. Simonoff asked if book-and-claim credits for RNG could count towards SB 1383 procurement requirements. Ms. Alvarado confirmed they could with the proper documentation. Mr. Simonoff asked about restrictions on the organic waste that meet SB 1383 requirements. Ms. Alvarado replied that the organic waste must meet the SB 1383 requirements; for example, it could not be biomass collected from forests and agriculture. Mr. Simonoff asked if brokers distinguish between different sources of organic waste collection for applicable credits. Ms. Alvarado replied that SB 1383-compliant sources should be tracked by type of organic waste and process to create RNG comparable to the way that renewable energy sources and processes are tracked for other credits.

Mr. Ben Lucha noted that brokers often contact the City of Palmdale to sell SB 1383 procurement credits separately from RNG and asked if CalRecycle allows this. Ms. Alvarado said that it is still unclear. Mr. Lucha asked why CalRecycle only allows jurisdictions to count credits for SB 1383-compliant RNG that they are using for their own facilities and does not count credits for RNG being procured for residents or businesses. Mr. Leon responded that the SB 1383 regulations allow procurement for a jurisdiction's vehicles, facilities, or operations or by its direct service providers.

Mr. Will Chen commented that the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts investigated the potential issue with selling different credits for the same unit of RNG. They spoke to the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS), the California Air Resources Board, and CalRecycle because they are releasing a request for proposals, and they want to be sure that they can sell all types of credits separately for their RNG. The initial response from the agencies was that the quality assurance and quality control that they would require is for the entity selling the RNG and/or credits to demonstrate compliance with the applicable rules and that the number of credits are consistent with the amount of energy created.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024.