

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

**February 19, 2026**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Lilit Baghumyan, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Sharon Bronson, Republic Services  
Will Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Brenda Eells, Waste Connections  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.  
Heather Rose, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
James Roska, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Kevin Mattson, Waste Management  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Ayala, Econward  
Jessica McWilliams, Econward  
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Aaron Nolan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Adrian Perea, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Siya Araumi called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2026, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the January 15, 2026, minutes, and Mr. Ethan Simonoff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Cesar Leon stated that Tetra Tech:

- 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 a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for conversion technology (CT) facility options.
- Is conducting a Parcel Evaluation (Phase II), which includes further evaluation of parcels identified as part of the initial site assessment, the Countywide Siting Evaluation (Phase I).

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

Ms. Tran Kiem provided the following update:

During the January 20, 2026, and February 17, 2026, monthly meetings, CalRecycle:

- Provided an update on the California Zero Waste Plan:
  - The plan outlines steps for policy and action to eliminate waste, keep materials in use, and address cost and pollution burdens.
  - The plan quantifies benefits of these actions, which include \$411 billion in economic potential, 531,000 new jobs, and \$11 billion in avoided health and environmental costs by 2050.
  - The plan includes 15 recommendations in eight categories and is based on a new material management hierarchy.
- Provided an update on the implementation of the Senate Bill (SB) 54 Plastic Pollution Prevention Act:
  - On December 30, 2025, CalRecycle published the final findings report for the Material Characterization Study. This report includes estimates of covered materials landfilled in California.

- On December 31, 2025, CalRecycle published updates to the Covered Material Categories List, which included the recycling rate.
- In January 2026, CalRecycle withdrew the proposed SB 54 regulations from the Office of Administrative Law. During the process of submitting and review, CalRecycle realized there was an opportunity to provide more clarity on a specific component of the regulations, which are the exclusions for food and agricultural commodities.
- CalRecycle has launched the solicitation process for eight advisory board seats for those members whose terms expire in June 2026. Applications will be accepted through April 2, 2026.
- Provided an update on the SB 707 Responsible Textile Recovery Act:
  - Applications for the Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) were due January 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. CalRecycle will review applications that were submitted by the due date and will approve one PRO by March 1, 2026.
  - Circular Textile Alliance, Landfill USA Incorporated, and Textile Renewal Alliance have applied for the PRO.
  - Producers will have until July 1, 2026, to join the approved PRO.
  - CalRecycle is hosting an informational workshop on April 7, 2026, focused on the needs assessment requirements overview.

The next CalRecycle monthly meeting will be held on March 17, 2026.

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

Ms. Kiem provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences, which may be found in the [CT Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- Global Waste Management Symposium (GWMS): February 22 – 25, 2026, Indian Wells, CA
- 2026 CEAC Spring Conference: February 25 – 27, 2026, Monterey, CA
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Spring Conference: March 25, 2026, Whittier, CA
- The 19th Annual International Biomass Conference and Expo: March 31 – April 2, 2026, Nashville, TN

## **VI. PRESENTATION BY ECONWARD**

Ms. Jessica McWilliams provided a [presentation](#) on a new organic waste recovery facility in New York.

Mr. Hunter asked how the facility's footprint would be affected if they doubled their production. Ms. McWilliams replied that the footprint would not change much, as minimal machinery would need to be added to double production. Mr. Hunter noted that the current output of 16 tons per hour is achieved with a facility that covers 3,000 square feet. Ms. McWilliams clarified that the 3,000 square-foot facility is an example and the facility could be smaller. Mr. Joe Ayala added that the sorting facility occupies ten times more space than the hydrolysis technology, and the facility is able to process 35 tons per hour.

Mr. Hunter asked if any odors or emissions are produced from the facility. Mr. Ayala replied that once the municipal solid waste enters the process, any potential odors are eliminated. Ms. McWilliams added that emissions such as steam are recycled within the process and do not escape.

Mr. Will Chen asked if wastewater treatment would be an added process. Mr. Ayala replied that the wastewater treatment facility will be added. Mr. Chen asked about the capital expenditure of the facility. Mr. Ayala replied that the capital expenditure will be \$140 million. Mr. Chen asked if the amount of total solids can be increased from the 20 to 70 percent range. Mr. Ayala replied that the nature of the municipal solid waste limits the total solid amount to 20 to 70 percent of the feedstock. Ms. McWilliams added that both the transfer station and wastewater treatment plant work together to haul the material to the thermal hydrolysis facility, excluding the liquid.

Mr. James Roska asked if the heavy residuals are sent for processing or for disposal, and asked what percentage of captured organics is being sent to solid residuals. Mr. Ayala replied that heavy residuals make up one percent of the processed material, with 30 to 35 percent of residual material needing to be sent to a landfill.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hunter asked if presenters will be given potential questions that may be asked after they give their presentation. Mr. Araumi replied that they will follow up with future presenters with the list of questions.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2026.