

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

Minutes for November 18, 2021

WEB CONFERENCE

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, rep by Brenda Eells, Waste Connections
Dorcas Dee Daniel-Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management
Mark McDannel, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Darshna Patel, City of Los Angeles
Christopher Sheppard, rep by Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Chris Coyle, Republic Services, Inc.
Ron Kent, Southern California Gas Company
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Eric Urbani, Belluno Organics
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Charles Darensbourg called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 21, 2021 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2021 meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Ben Lucha. The motion passed with one abstention.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the site addresses for participants attending meetings remotely must be posted on the Subcommittee meeting agendas. Mr. Darensbourg responded that this topic would be discussed at the 1 p.m. Task Force meeting. Mr. Mohajer wanted to make certain the Task Force was in compliance with State Law. Ms. Carol Oyola commented that staff was working closely with County Counsel to ensure that the Task Force was in compliance and that addresses were not currently required, but that the requirements could change depending on the status of the pandemic. Mr. Mohajer commented that Assembly Bill 361 Open meetings: state and local agencies: teleconferences, states if there is an emergency, the law is in effect and if it is not an emergency, then the law will go into effect on January 1, 2022.

III. PRESENTATION – BELLUNO ORGANICS

Mr. Eric Urbani with Belluno Organics (Belluno) presented on Sustainable Alternative Feed Enterprises (SAFE) technology that processes food waste to produce animal feed and fertilizer.

SAFE's technology is a two-step process which first removes the inorganic material from food waste and produces a liquid mash, and subsequently converts the liquid mash into valuable products such as animal feed and fertilizer. Belluno transports the liquid mash by rail, which significantly reduces truck traffic and their overall carbon footprint.

Belluno has multiple operational facilities in Northern California, located in the cities of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sunnyvale. They have begun construction on one project in Oxnard, California and have two future projects planned in Modesto, California and South Gate, California. The project in South Gate will be a pre-processing facility with a capacity of 300 tons per day of organic waste.

Mr. Eugene Tseng asked about the level of contamination in the feedstock after pre-processing. Mr. Urbani responded that it depends on the source of the material and they aim for at least a 70 percent recovery rate. Mr. Tseng asked if they conducted a waste characterization according to Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383)

requirements to determine the level of incompatibles in their diverted waste streams. Mr. Urbani responded that a typical waste stream has a recovery rate of 78 percent. Mr. Tseng said that the SB 1383 requirement states that the recovery rate must be more than 80 percent. Mr. Urbani responded they are very confident they will be able to exceed an 80 percent recovery rate based on the results of new trials. Mr. Tseng asked what initial methodology they used to determine the recovery rate. Mr. Urbani stated that he would work with his team to obtain a detailed answer.

Mr. Kevin Mattson asked if any of the facilities have solid waste permits. Mr. Urbani responded that all of the facilities have solid waste permits.

Mr. Darensbourg asked when the new facility in South Gate would be operational. Mr. Urbani responded that they are still in the permitting phase and expect construction to begin next year. Mr. Darensbourg asked if they are expecting the feedstock to come from supermarkets or from waste haulers. Mr. Urbani responded that they would work with waste haulers and food processors.

Ms. Christine Arbogast asked if their Oxnard facility will receive commercial or residential waste. Mr. Urbani responded it will receive both.

Mr. Mohajer asked how Belluno is handling environmental justice (EJ) issues, specifically in South Gate. Mr. Urbani responded that they chose the South Gate site because it is located in an industrial area without a significant residential population and that their facility would cause minimal disruption to the community. Mr. Urbani mentioned Belluno will be paying a host fee to South Gate and anticipates that South Gate will use some of the fee to benefit the local community.

Mr. Mohajer asked Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo about the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA)'s progress in issuing the solid waste permit and their efforts to ensure EJ compliance. Ms. Hanson-Lugo responded she had not heard anything from South Gate about the facility or operator. Ms. Hanson-Lugo recommended that Mr. Urbani contact the City Planner and put them in touch with the LEA to review the project for any environmental impacts. Mr. Urbani clarified that the LEA has not been informed by South Gate yet because Belluno just started the application process, and no permit has been issued. Mr. Mohajer suggested Belluno contact the South Coast Air Quality Management District because they will also be involved in EJ issues. He also commented that the battery recycling facility in Vernon, which produced harmful lead pollution, has caused EJ issues in the area. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the Task Force could assist Belluno if needed. Mr. Urbani responded that he wanted to receive input from all of the relevant agencies. He also pointed out that the facility does not have any boilers or point source air emissions.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Mr. Darensbourg provided an update on policy and legislation.

At CalRecycle's monthly meeting on November 16, 2021, they discussed the recent passing of Senate Bill 619 (SB 619). It offers an extended compliance deadline for jurisdictions to comply with SB 1383 regulations that take effect on January 1, 2022. The law allows jurisdictions to submit a notice of intent to comply with SB 1383 to CalRecycle by March 1, 2022. CalRecycle hosted a webinar on SB 619 earlier that morning.

CalRecycle is seeking public comments on the proposed criteria for the SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant Program for fiscal year 2021-2022. The grant provides \$16 million in funding to local jurisdictions to assist with SB 1383 implementation. The application will be released in January 2022. Staff may submit comments on behalf of the County and the Task Force.

Mr. Lucha asked about the availability of recovered organic waste for jurisdictions' compliance with the SB 1383 procurement requirements. Mr. Darensbourg responded that staff is developing a strategy to procure biomethane for the unincorporated areas of the County. Staff is very active in monitoring and commenting on the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Scoping Plan, the California Energy Commission proceedings, the California Public Utility Commission proceedings, the Greenhouse Gas Investment Fund, and other activities at the state level to advocate for biomethane to be used for vehicle fuel. Mr. Mohajer commented that CalRecycle encourages composting but that compost releases methane emissions. He continued that the level of methane emissions reduction may vary based on the composting process. Mr. Mohajer added that CARB is requiring the electrification of medium- and heavy-duty trucks, but there are not enough electric trucks on the market.

V. 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:

- California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 127th Annual Meeting/County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) Fall Conference: November 30 – December 3, 2021, Monterey County
- National Zero Waste Virtual Conference: December 8 – 9, 2021, Virtual
- Compost 2022: January 24 – 27, 2022, Austin TX
- Global Waste Management Symposium 2022: February 14 - 17, 2022, Indian Wells, CA

VI. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Christine Arbogast of Tetra Tech stated that they are supporting Public Works with SB 1383 planning efforts.

VII. DECEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to cancel the December Subcommittee meeting if the Task Force votes on cancelling their December meeting. Mr. Wayne Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mohajer requested that staff provide an update regarding CalRecycle's SB 619 webinar, which was held earlier that morning.

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2022, at 10 a.m.