

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

**Minutes for March 17, 2022**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, 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  
Kay Martin, rep by Jim Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association  
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, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program  
Ron Kent, rep by Flavio Da Cruz, Southern California Gas Company

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Chris Coyle, Republic Services

OTHERS PRESENT:

Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech  
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Patrick Holland, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Narek Vartunian, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Christopher Sheppard called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

## II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17, 2022 SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 17, 2022 meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Ben Lucha. The motion passed unanimously.

## III. PRESENTATIONS – PUBLIC WORKS AND TETRA TECH

Mr. Sheppard provided a demonstration of resources on the [Southern California Conversion Technology website](#). He stated there is a lot of information on the website regarding conversion technologies (CT) and the Roadmap to a Sustainable Waste Management Future, but wanted to highlight the financial and technical databases that are available under the "Resources" tab. He stated that the "Resources" tab has tools to assist project developers, jurisdictions, and suppliers to search for CT companies with various technologies, capacity ranges, and feedstocks. The database will return a list of companies which fit the indicated selections and provides more details about each company. Public Works (PW) is working on updating the financial and technical databases.

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided an overview of the [Enhancing Countywide Solid Waste Management Programs and Infrastructure Report](#), which includes several recommendations for steps that PW can take to enhance solid waste management in the County. These recommendations include implementing source reduction and waste diversion programs, addressing infrastructure needs, deploying a Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) procurement strategy, using various mechanisms and incentives to reduce waste and increase diversion from landfills, and identifying funding opportunities to help offset the cost of new programs and infrastructure.

Mr. Cesar Leon with Tetra Tech provided information on [Feasibility Analyses](#) for the potential development of organic waste processing facilities at four closed landfill sites in the County. The presentation included a brief description of potential facility types, the initial site assessment criteria, and the initial site assessment status. Mr. Leon concluded that the Palos Verdes Landfill site may be a potential location for the development of an organic waste processing facility.

Mr. Mohajer asked if a facility at the Palos Verdes Landfill site would be built over the Class I portion where solid waste was disposed at the Landfill. Mr. Sheppard responded the next step of the feasibility analysis is to identify the limits of waste disposal at the Landfill and determine locations that may be suitable for potential development. Mr. Mohajer stated although structures cannot be built on Class I landfills, some composting facilities are not enclosed within structures.

Ms. Christine Arbogast responded that they are evaluating both structural and non-structural activities. Mr. Sheppard added that this is a preliminary feasibility analysis and further analysis will need to be conducted before any projects are developed.

Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo commented that there is a requirement for the Local Enforcement Agency to oversee any proposals for developing on a closed landfill, including post-closure land use plans and phase I and II investigations. Ms. Arbogast responded that they are currently analyzing the zoning requirements for each site but will coordinate with the appropriate regulatory agencies if a site is selected for development.

Mr. Wayde Hunter asked if the history of the landfill is considered in the feasibility analysis. Mr. Sheppard responded that if initial feasibility criteria are met and a site is suitable, then PW would further review the site's history to determine the key stakeholders and engage them before project development.

Mr. Mohajer suggested that the word "dump," used to describe some of the landfills, be changed to "disposal site" because of the negative connotation. Ms. Arbogast responded that they will include this recommendation moving forward.

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

Ms. Arbogast stated that Tetra Tech has been:

- Supporting PW with SB 1383 planning efforts.
- Supporting PW in evaluating the potential to develop organic waste processing facilities at closed landfill sites.
- Supporting PW with preparing a draft request for proposals for an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility at the Calabasas Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer asked if there was a particular area identified at the Calabasas Landfill for the AD facility. Mr. Sheppard responded that the area identified is located outside of the waste disposal footprint.

Ms. Hanson-Lugo wanted to verify whether the facility will be built on native soil. Mr. Sheppard responded that the proposal is to build the facility on native soil.

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

Ms. Vazifdar provided the following update:

- CalRecycle, at their March 15, 2022 meeting, mentioned receiving 476 applications for the SB 1383 Local Assistance Grant Program and that they

will be disbursing funds next month for eligible jurisdictions who have adopted a compliant SB 1383 ordinance by April 1, 2022. Jurisdictions that have not adopted their ordinance by April 1, 2022, may adopt their ordinance by June 14, 2022, to be eligible for funding in September 2022.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that a joint letter from several agencies, including the California State Association of Counties and the League of California Cities, was sent to the Legislature yesterday requesting \$180 million in funding for SB 1383 in addition to the \$40 million that the current year's budget provides. Mr. Mohajer stated that he would forward the letter to staff for distribution to the Subcommittee.

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

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

- SWANA SOAR 2022: March 21 - 24, 2022, Kansas City, MO
- CEAC Spring Conference 2022: March 23 - 25, 2022, Monterey, CA
- SWANA 51st Annual Western Regional Symposium: April 4 - 7, 2022, Fish Camp, CA
- Tcbiomass: April 19 – 21, 2022, Denver, CO
- NACE Annual Conference 2022: April 24 – 27, 2022, Buffalo, NY
- Waste Expo 2022: May 9 – 12, 2022, Las Vegas, NV
- RNG Summit 2022: May 17 – 19, 2022, Houston, TX
- Biogas Americas 2022: May 23 – 26, 2022, Las Vegas, NV
- VerdeXchange 2022: June 19 - 21, 2022, Los Angeles, CA

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the Southern California Waste Management Forum will host a conference on June 8, 2022, at Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park. The conference will include an update on State Legislation as well as a program related to SB 1383.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 10 a.m.