

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

**April 20, 2023**

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

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Steve Cassulo, rep by Brenda Eells, Waste Connections  
William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Michelle Dewey, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery  
(CalRecycle)  
Kate Downey, Republic Services  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.  
Dee Hanson Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Kevin Mattson, Waste Management  
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force  
Darshna Patel, City of Los Angeles  
Fahim Rahimi, Los Angeles County Public Works

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Ron Kent, rep by Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas  
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident  
Kay Martin, rep by James Stewart, Bioenergy Producers Association  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Joe Ayala, Econward  
Christine Arbogast, Tetra Tech  
Michael Stuart, Republic Services  
Nicole Ward, Waste Connections  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Fahim Rahimi called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2023, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the March 16, 2023 minutes and Mr. Wayde Hunter seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

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

Ms. Christine Arbogast reported that Tetra Tech continues to support Public Works with the following:

- Tetra Tech continues to identify potential sites for organic waste processing or thermal conversion facility development and is evaluating several old landfills within Los Angeles County.
- Tetra Tech is assisting with the preparation of a grant application for CalRecycle's Organics Grant Program, Cycle 7 for development of a proposed anaerobic digestion (AD) facility at the Calabasas Landfill.

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

Mr. Rahimi provided the following update:

- At CalRecycle's monthly meeting on March 21, 2023, CalRecycle provided an update that they are now accepting applications for Senate Bill (SB) 54 (2022) Advisory Board members and the application deadline is April 24, 2023. The Advisory Board will provide feedback to assist with successful implementation of SB 54. The Advisory Board will be appointed in June 2023 and begin their services in July 2023.
- CalRecycle held an SB 54 informal workshop on March 29, 2023. The informal workshop included an informational session on the Producer Responsibility Organization. The workshop also provided opportunities for stakeholder feedback on rulemaking concepts.
- At the most recent CalRecycle monthly meeting held on April 18, 2023, CalRecycle mentioned that they will be holding another SB 54 informational workshop on April 25, 2023, which will focus on the covered materials. The informational workshop will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide feedback on rulemaking concepts. CalRecycle mentioned that applications for the \$154 million in Organics Grant Funding are due by May 2, 2023.
- CalRecycle held an SB 1383 Chat on April 19, 2023, which focused on Local Education Agencies.

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

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

- National Association County Engineers (NACE) Annual Conference 2023: April 16 - 20, 2023, Orange Beach, Alabama
- The 14th Waste Conversion Technology Conference: April 17 - 20, 2023, Atlanta, Georgia. This conference will be co-located with the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) SOAR 2023 Conference.
- Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) SOAR 2023: April 17 - 20, 2023, Atlanta, Georgia
- 16th Annual VerdeXchange VX2023 Marketmakers' Conference: April 30 - May 2, 2023, Los Angeles, California
- Waste Expo 2023: May 1 - 4, 2023, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Summit, May 16 - 18, 2023, Houston, Texas
- Southern California Waste Management Forum (SCWMF) Annual Business Meeting: May 24, 2023, Fullerton, California

## VI. PRESENTATION BY ECONWARD

Mr. Joe Ayala, of Econward provided a [presentation](#) on their technology which combines hydrolysis and AD to transform organic waste into biogas and digestate. He also played a [short video](#) introducing the company and its technology.

Mr. Mohajer asked Econward how they were able to determine that the 260,000 tons of feedstock they would receive per year is split evenly between organic and non-organic waste, which contradicts California waste characterization studies. Mr. Ayala stated that the feedstock composition is an estimate that was used to calculate potential biogas and digestate production. He clarified that the technology is capable of processing waste streams with various compositions of organic and non-organic waste.

Ms. Arbogast from Tetra Tech asked how many Econward facilities are currently operating. Mr. Ayala stated that they currently have one commercial facility located in Madrid, Spain.

Ms. Michelle Dewey requested the link to Econward's video. Mr. Rahimi replied that the link will be provided to the Subcommittee members. Ms. Dewey asked about Econward's involvement in any pilot projects at Yolo County Central Landfill. Mr. Ayala stated that they worked on a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) permit for a project at the landfill three years ago. He stated that the permit was granted but Econward chose not to proceed with the project.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2023.