

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

March 21, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

William Chen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Charles Darensbourg, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kate Downey, Republic Services
Brenda Eells, Waste Connections
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc.
Ethan Simonoff, Southern California Gas
Ben Lucha, Antelope Valley Resident
Ron Milo, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Kimberly Ohrt, Waste Management
Heather Williams, California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery
(CalRecycle)

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dee Hanson Lugo, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
Kay Martin, Bioenergy Producers Association
Mike Mohajer, Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Arciero, Carbotura Regeneration
Glen Tobiason, Carbotura Regeneration
Tyler Wood, Carbotura Regeneration
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Charles Darensbourg called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRAURY 15, 2024, SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the February 15, 2024, minutes, and Mr. Ethan Simonoff seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Cesar Leon from Tetra Tech stated that Tetra Tech:

- Is performing a Countywide siting analysis for the development of anerobic digestion (AD) and/or thermal conversion technology (CT) facilities within the unincorporated County areas and 88 Cities in the County.
- Is performing a detailed feasibility evaluation of three closed landfill sites that will investigate land availability and land use compatibility.
- Submitted the draft Antelope Valley Long-Term Solid Waste Disposal Needs Study to Public Works. This study was developed in compliance with Lancaster Landfill Conditional Use Permit Condition 92. It includes a high-level review of economic, environmental, and technical considerations for CT facility options.
- Is preparing a response to questions from County Counsel about the AD industry.

IV. UPDATE ON CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND LEGISLATION

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided the following update:

- On February 29, 2024, CalRecycle hosted a Senate Bill (SB) 1383 chat focused on capacity planning for organic waste processing and edible food recovery infrastructure.
- Counties must submit their capacity planning reports to CalRecycle by June 30, 2024. These reports must identify noncompliant jurisdictions that have not secured sufficient capacity. Webinar recordings on capacity planning are available on CalRecycle's YouTube [page](#) for further guidance.

Recent Developments for Senate Bill 54

- CalRecycle is soliciting public comments on [Covered Material Categories under SB 54](#) published on December 28, 2023. Comments are due on May 17, 2024.
- On May 1, 2024, CalRecycle will host a nonregulatory workshop on the SB 54 Covered Materials Categories.

- On March 8, 2024, CalRecycle released a Notice of Proposed Action, starting the 45-day comment period on the proposed regulatory text for SB 54, which ends on April 23, 2024.
- Upon the conclusion of the comment period, CalRecycle will make comments available to the public and accept additional written comments for at least 15 days before they adopt the revisions to the regulations.

CalRecycle Monthly Meeting Updates

- At CalRecycle's February 20, 2024, meeting, they announced \$109 million in new SB 1383 local assistance grants. They also announced that they are developing the first statewide Zero Waste Plan.
- At CalRecycle's March 19, 2024, meeting, they announced \$510,000 in community composting grants to tribal communities for small-scale composting operations.

Assembly Bill (AB) 2514 (Aguilar, Curry) Introduced on February 13, 2024

- AB 2514 would codify the definition of pyrolysis and would direct CalRecycle to allow the use of two new products, hydrogen and pipeline biomethane, generated from diverted organic waste to satisfy the SB 1383 procurement requirements.
- The bill would also direct CalRecycle to prioritize any incentive funding for the projects that provide the greatest carbon reductions.

Mr. Hunter asked whether local jurisdictions would be required to adopt the State's Zero Waste Plan. Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar replied that staff would look into it and provide additional information.

Mr. Simonoff asked if staff was tracking SB 1075 by Skinner regarding organic waste to hydrogen. Mr. Darensbourg replied that staff would look into it and provide additional information.

Mr. Simonoff inquired about the method for identifying the bills currently being tracked. Mr. Darensbourg replied that staff delivers updates on legislative activities to the Task Force via a [Legislative Table](#), which can also be shared with the Subcommittee upon request.

Mr. Ron Milo asked about beverage container recycling deposits and the types of activities that qualify for SB 1383 local assistance grant funding. In response, Mr. Darensbourg responded that staff would investigate these matters and provide more information.

Mr. Milo asked if additional funding is being provided through the SB 1383 local assistance grant. Ms. Vazifdar confirmed there additional funding is being provided to local jurisdictions in addition to funding provided in a previous grant cycle. Mr. Milo asked if the extra funding could be used for education and outreach. Ms. Vazifdar responded the funding could be used for many activities related to SB 1383 implementation, including education and outreach, and that staff would provide information on eligible activities.

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

Ms. Vazifdar provided an update on upcoming CT events and conferences that may also be found in the [Conversion Technology Newsletter](#) and Subcommittee minutes:

- SWANA SOAR 2024: April 15 - 18, 2024, Phoenix, AZ
- National Association of County Engineers Annual Meeting: April 15 - 18, Riverside, CA
- SCAG 59th Annual Regional Conference & General Assembly: May 2 - 3, 2024, Palm Desert, CA
- RNG Summit 2024: May 6 - 8, 2024, Spring, TX
- Waste EXPO: May 6 - 9, 2024, Las Vegas, NV
- 17th Annual VerdeXchange VX2024 Marketmakers Conference: May 12 - 15, 2024, Los Angeles, CA
- Biogas Americas 2024: May 13 - 16, Savannah, GA
- SWANA Western Regional Symposium 2024: May 20 - 23, Palm Springs, CA
- California Hydrogen Leadership Summit: June 16-17, 2024, Sacramento, CA
- Air and Waste Management Association's 117th Annual Conference and Exhibition: June 24 - 27, 2024, Calgary, AB

VI. PRESENTATION BY TETRA TECH "COUNTYWIDE SITING EVALUATION FINDINGS"

Carbotura provided a [presentation](#) on their Regenesis Technology that uses non-combustion thermal conversion to turn various types of waste into graphene and other valuable chemical products.

Mr. Simonoff asked if Carbotura could explain more about the process and emissions. Mr. Tyler Wood of Carbotura replied that it is a zero-emission process. He said that each reactor installed can process 25 tons per day of municipal solid waste and that they can scale up to meet the needs of the community by installing multiple reactors. Mr. Wood explained that the process is used across 25 industrial applications. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hunter asked what kind of footprint is required for a new facility. Mr. Wood responded that a 100 ton-per-day facility would have a footprint of one acre. Mr. Hunter asked if the technology could be co-located with a material recovery facility (MRF). Mr. Wood responded that the technology could be co-located with facilities such as MRFs and landfills.

Mr. Simonoff asked if the graphite was commercially available. He also asked what grade of graphite is produced. Mr. Wood responded the graphite produced is superior to synthetic graphite, which is currently the highest grade of graphite, and that they can produce about seven different types of graphite.

Mr. Milo asked if there were any additional permits required for this type of facility. Mr. Wood replied that he is not familiar with the permitting process in California and that the company would seek guidance from subject matter experts to ensure compliance with permitting and other regulatory standards.

Ms. Kate Downey asked if there were any facilities operating in California. Mr. Wood responded that there are no facilities currently operating in California.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next ATAS meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024.