

Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

Minutes of October 17, 2013, Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Conference Room C
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rainer Globus, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dave Hauser, Republic Services, Inc.
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Lukas Przybylo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chris Sheppard, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Julia Weissman, County Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:12 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 17, 2013, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the August 15, 2013, meeting was unanimously approved subject to the following revision. Revise the third sentence of the second paragraph of page seven to read:

“An initial study for the CSE will be distributed to the appropriate agencies, such as permitting agencies, local enforcement agencies, councils of government, and the 88 incorporated cities, for review and comment.”

III. POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF ASSEMBLY BILL 1126 ON THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Patrick Holland provided a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on the impact of Assembly Bill 1126 on the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE). Mr. Holland explained that AB 1126 is a legislative bill signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on September 28, 2013, that defined Engineered Municipal Solid Waste (EMSW) conversion, EMSW facilities, and changed definitions in the California Public Resources Code (PRC).

The Bill defines EMSW conversion as meeting, but not limited to, the following requirements:

- Converting a maximum of 500 tons per day (tpd) of waste
- A seven day maximum storage period
- A maximum of 25 percent moisture content and 25 percent noncombustible waste
- A minimum energy content of 5,000 British Thermal Unit (BTU) per pound of waste

Due to the addition of EMSW conversion/facility into the PRC, the existing definitions with regard to solid waste facilities and operations have been changed, including the definitions of disposal facility, recycle, solid waste disposal, solid waste facility, transfer or processing station, and transformation.

In addition, other sections of the PRC were amended. PRC Section 41700 was amended to require a description of the areas to be used for development of adequate EMSW conversion capacity in addition to transformation, or disposal capacity in a Countywide Siting Element. PRC Section 50001 was amended to establish criteria for establishment/siting or expansion of an EMSW facility in the CSE.

The list of Acronyms in the CSE will be changed to include EMSW. The Glossary of Terms will also be revised to include the definitions of EMSW conversion and EMSW facility, as well as to revise the existing definition of alternative technology, disposal facility or facility, recycle or recycling, and solid waste disposal facility.

In addition, the following chapter revisions need to be made:

- The Executive Summary and Chapter 1 (Introduction): needs to be revised to include EMSW conversion/facility, landfills and transformation facilities, etc., as disposal facilities.
- Chapter 2 (Goals and Policies): needs to incorporate EMSW conversion/facility.
- Chapters 5 (Alternative Technologies): needs to include a section on AB 1126 and a discussion on EMSW conversion/facility.
- Chapter 6 (Facility Siting Criteria): needs to include EMSW facility on the list of disposal facilities complying with the siting criteria.
- Chapter 7 (Proposed in-County Facility Locations and Descriptions): needs to include EMSW conversion/facility as part of potential new alternative technologies/facilities.
- Chapter 8 (General Plan Consistency): needs to include EMSW conversion/facility as part of alternative technology or alternative technology facility.
- Chapter 10 (Finding of Conformance): needs to include EMSW facility on the list of disposal facilities required to obtain an FOC.

Mr. Holland concluded that the revisions mentioned are primarily administrative and requested the Subcommittee concur with these changes, and staff will update the CSE accordingly.

Mr. Mike Mohajer requested these revisions to the CSE be made by next month's meeting for consideration and concurrence by the Task Force.

Update on the Countywide Siting Element

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a draft initial study has been prepared for the Siting Element and is currently being reviewed by staff. Mr. Holland reported that prior to the release of the Initial Study of the CSE, prepared by Public Works' consultant, the department plans to conduct internal briefings with Public Works Administration, the County Chief Executive Office, and the Board of Supervisors. In being transparent, Public Works will also hold external briefings to key stakeholders, including cities and interested organizations to provide them with an overview of the project timeline and roles of the respective agencies. Staff will continue to provide updates to the Subcommittee as the project progresses.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the 88 incorporated cities will be required to take action on the siting element using the environmental impact report/initial study prepared for the CSE. He stated that it is imperative that cities understand they are required to provide Public Works, as the lead agency, a contact person that may be communicating with Public Works in regard to the environmental document. Mr. Mohajer further commented that any agency, including all Local Enforcement Agencies and landfill operators in Los Angeles County, that may use the CSE in the future, are also required to appoint a contact person.

Ms. Betsey Landis and Mr. Gerry Villalobos commented on what seemed to be a contradiction in approval requirements for EMSW facilities. Ms. Landis noted that the law states that a siting element providing for an EMSW conversion facility is only required to be approved by the city in which it is located. If the EMSW is not located in a city, a siting element providing for an EMSW conversion is required to be approved by the County. Mr. Villalobos commented that while a local jurisdiction's approval of an EMSW would automatically amend the Siting Element to include the facility in question, without any further approval being required, AB 1126 does call for Task Force approval of that EMSW. Mr. Carlos Ruiz responded by commenting that the State's process for establishing a Finding of Conformance (FOC) is different from the one applied in the CSE. Mr. Ruiz followed that Public Works, through the land use permit process, still requires disposal facilities in unincorporated areas to obtain a Finding of Conformance from the Task Force, even if it is not required by State regulations.

IV. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Lukas Przybylo reported that 97 odor complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) in August 2013.

- The number of complaints in August has increased by 49 percent, compared to the number of complaints reported in July.
- Compared to August of last year, the number of complaints decreased by 44 percent.

Mr. Przybylo reported that 136 odor complaints were made to AQMD in September 2013:

- The number of complaints received in September increased by 40 percent, compared to the number of complaints reported in August.
- The number of complaints decreased by 37 percent, compared to September of last year.
- 28 complaints were verified by inspectors to be trash odors.
- 22 complaints were verified to be landfill gas odors.
- 3 complaints were attributed to other sources.
- 42 complaints were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival.
- 41 complaints were not responded to by AQMD's staff.

Mr. Hauser also added that, according to his records, the overall number of odor complaints at the Landfill has decreased from 2012 to 2013. Ms. Landis noted that progress has been made in reducing odors, but cautioned Mr. Hauser that statistics can be over analyzed. As over half of all odor complaints are not responded to, the statistics might not described the whole picture.

Mr. Hauser stated that he would like to work with the County to develop alternative soil cover materials to the 9-inch soil requirement because he feels the soil cover requirement impacts the landfill gas collection system due to the water accumulating in the gas wells. Ms. Landis reminded him that, in addition to leachate water, there is an underground stream adding to the source of water entering the Landfill, and constructing a sewer will greatly help in removing water

at the Landfill. Mr. Ruiz commented that it is in the County's interest that the Landfill utilizes capacity efficiently, but not at the expense of the comfort of the community. The County imposed the 9-inch cover requirement per requirements of the CEQA document as odors persist.

Sewer Connection

Mr. Przybylo indicated that staff has contacted the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering and was informed that the Landfill has not yet been issued a sewer construction permit. However, once it is issued, it would take approximately two months to complete the sewer line construction. Mr. Dave Hauser, the Interim General Manager of the Landfill, commented that he expects the permit to be issued by the end of the year, with construction of the sewer line to be completed sometime in spring 2014.

Interagency Task Force

Ms. Emiko Thompson reported that since last month's meeting, there are no new updates on the Interagency Working Group. However, Ms. Thompson mentioned a letter that Public Works received from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee on Friday, October 11, 2013 (dated August 29, 2013), which was addressed to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency Board of Directors, with copies to each of the agencies in the Interagency Working Group (Working Group). The letter recommended that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency, AQMD, and other agencies, establish benchmarks and timelines for implementing mitigation measures, as well as quantifiable metrics to measure the effectiveness of these recommendations. The letter also urged a reduction in the daily tonnage at the Landfill until the odors are mitigated. This letter may be discussed at the next Interagency Working Group meeting. Ms. Thompson mentioned that agencies are still in the process of identifying which of the measures they would be implementing.

Mr. Mohajer commented on an August 27, 2013, Working Group letter addressed to the Task Force from Mr. Wayne Tsuda. From this letter, Mr. Mohajer read a sentence which stated that Mr. Tsuda, on behalf of the Working Group, provided a verbal briefing and distributed hard copies of the odor mitigation recommendations to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee at their July 11, 2013, meeting. Considering the agencies of the Working Group were copied in this letter, Mr. Mohajer asked if all of the member

agencies have reviewed this letter. Mr. Mohajer made a motion recommending the Task Force send a letter to Department heads of each member agency, requesting them to provide the Task Force with a timeline by which they anticipate their recommended measures prescribed in the August 27 letter would be implemented. The motion was not seconded. Mr. Mohajer then requested staff to report back to him if all member agencies of the Interagency Task Force have reviewed the August 27, 2013, letter. After some discussion, Ms. Landis commented that it would probably be best for the Community Advisory Committee to put pressure on the Interagency Working Group before their next meeting. Mr. Ruiz added that, from the County's perspective, none of the options discussed in the letter had been ruled out, including a reduction in daily tonnages to the Landfill.

V. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CALABASSAS LANDFILL WASTESHED ORDINANCE

Due to time constraints, a presentation and discussion on this item did not take place.

VI. SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT REVISION

A Special Meeting was held for an update by Mr. Karlo Manalo on the Savage Canyon Landfill solid waste facility permit revision. Mr. Manalo reminded the subcommittee that the Task Force had sent a letter to the City of Whittier Department of Public Works on August 6, 2013, advising that an FOC would be required for the permit revision and to submit an application to the Task Force.

The revision proposes the following changes:

- An additional disposal capacity of 4.39 million cubic yards (for a total disposal capacity of 19.3 million cubic yards)
- A maximum elevation of 910 feet at center ridgeline
- A correction on the facility disposal acreage from 132 acres to 102 acres
- An additional 3,000 tpd for inerts (soil, asphalt, concrete)
- An estimated closure date of 2055

On July 24, 2013, a Public Informational Meeting was held by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) to discuss the permit revision for the Landfill. Based on public comments received from the meeting, the LEA and the City of Whittier provided the following additional changes to the permit revision:

- Limit the receipt of inert debris from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays only
Limit a maximum annual load of 240,000 tons of inert debris for beneficial use
- No queuing of vehicles will be allowed on public streets leading to the landfill

On August 30, 2013, the LEA submitted a proposed permit package to CalRecycle that included the changes to the permit revision. CalRecycle added this item to its October 15, 2013, Public Meeting agenda and acknowledged receipt of the permit revision package for their review. On October 16, 2013, the City of Whittier submitted an application to the Task Force requesting an FOC. Mr. Manalo furthered advised the subcommittee that Public Works would review the application and place it as an item on the November 21, 2013, Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee meeting agenda for its consideration.

Mr. Mohajer directed staff to provide quarterly disposal system reports indicating the amount of soil and solid waste accepted by Savage Canyon Landfill.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Wayde Hunter expressed continued dissatisfaction with the progress of odor mitigation at the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill. Mr. Mohajer followed with a request for staff to provide information on the volume or tonnage of solid waste that could be deposited at the Landfill if a tarp were to be used, instead of soil, to contain landfill gas odors. Ms. Landis expressed continued confidence in the use of soil to contain odors.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.