

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

Minutes of July 18, 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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
John Nelson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
John Ohanesian, Law Offices of John P. Ohanesian
Lukas Przybylo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nikolaus Reppuhn, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Seth Samuels, Student
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 11:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2013, MINUTES

The minutes of the June 20, 2013, meeting of the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee will be discussed at the August 15, 2013, meeting.

III. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Lukas Przybylo reported that 62 odor complaints were made to South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) in May 2013:

- 2 complaints were verified by inspectors to be trash odors
- 17 complaints were verified to be landfill gas odors
- 30 complaints were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival
- 12 complaints were not responded to by inspectors

The number of odor complaints received in June 2013 increased by 16 compared to the number of complaints received in May 2013. Compared to June of last year, the number of complaints increased by seven. In the first half of 2012 calendar year, there were 614 complaints made compared to 522 complaints in the first half of 2013, for a decrease of 92 complaints.

Ms. Betsey Landis pointed out that the recited odor complaints did not sum up to the reported number of 62 complaints. Following the Subcommittee meeting, Mr. Przybylo informed Ms. Landis that one of the recorded complaints on AQMD's June odor complaints log had been miss-classified as "Unknown" and was, therefore, not included in the breakdown of complaints received.

At the last meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (CAC) on July 11, 2013, Mr. Mike Mohajer commented on the difficulty experienced by residents near the Landfill when attempting to contact the Independent Landfill Monitor, Brown and Caldwell, who had been hired under

AQMD's December 2011 Notice of Abatement. Residents found that their phone calls were not returned and it was unclear what specific areas are being monitored and to whom the Independent Landfill Monitor reported the findings.

Sewer Connection

As previously reported, Republic Services (Republic) has submitted sewer connection plans to the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering on June 11, 2013, for a forced main design that includes a pump station. Approval of Republic's construction permits is expected in the next couple of weeks. Construction is expected to begin in September 2013 and be completed within approximately 2 months.

5th Annual Report of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring at Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School

At last month's Subcommittee meeting, Staff provided the Subcommittee with the 5th Annual Report of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring at Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School. An independent consultant specializing in air quality was contracted to test landfill dust and diesel particles; take landfill gas samples; and monitor directional wind speed to measure the potential impacts on ambient air quality. The report contains data collected over a 5-year period and establishes several trends. According to the report, the Landfill is more likely to exceed Federal particulate matter standards than the surrounding community. On average, regional influences account for larger impacts on ambient air quality than landfills. However, neighborhood-scale impacts due to the Landfill are apparent during high winds speeds. Gas samples indicated methane levels equivalent to an average ambient methane concentration. The study reported that no correlation could be found between notable increases in measured concentrations at the Landfill with those in the community. The report is currently under review by the AQMD Health Effect Officer.

Ms. Betsey Landis also expressed very little confidence in the report as the report does not consider wind patterns, and its scope is too broad.

For informational purposes, Mr. Mohajer suggested the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning and the City of Los Angeles Department of Planning be provided with copies of the "[Odor Complaints/Landfill Comparison](#)"

[Calendar Year 2012](#)" chart (attached) prepared by the AQMD which shows that approximately 25 percent of all landfill odor complaints received by AQMD are attributed to Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Interagency Efforts on Odor Mitigation

Ms. Emiko Thompson presented a report on the efforts of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Interagency Task Force (ITF) on Odor Mitigation. The ITF is comprised of the AQMD, the Local Enforcement Authority, the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning, the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, and the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works. The ITF has been developing additional measures to be implemented by Republic to reduce odors at the Landfill. On June 24, 2013, the ITF completed a memo (copy distributed to Subcommittee) that recommends a number of measures for each of the agencies to take back to their respective managers for discussion and action within their respective areas of purview and authority. The ITF determined that the optimal approach would be to implement measures to more fully manage both landfill gas and fresh trash odors, focusing on the best combination of preventative programs, design features, operational practices, maintenance, and operating conditions of the landfill gas collection system. The ITF also determined the highest priority for reducing odors related to landfill gas is to optimize the operation of the landfill gas collection system by re-evaluating its design criteria, including the radius of influence, as well as looking into the adequate maintenance of the system.

The memo includes, but is not limited to, the following measures:

- Immediately repair intermediate cover areas where surface emissions are above regulatory limits; and if emissions continue, install additional collection wells, or apply a thicker intermediate cover
- Develop a program to identify, monitor, and upgrade non-performing wells and provide AQMD with monthly reports
- Use an enclosed system to prevent gas from escaping during well installations and horizontal pipe trenching activities
- Prohibit shutting down flares or gas well during adverse wind conditions.
- Plant trees to help create a physical barrier
- Minimize the slope angle on some of the steeper intermediate slopes to allow for better compaction of the daily and intermediate soil cover.

The next ITF meeting will be held on July 24, 2013, during which the various agencies will discuss the measures they propose to implement. Public Works is currently developing an implementation plan based on its area of purview and authority, which will be discussed with Public Works' management. The Subcommittee will be provided with another update as new information develops.

Ms. Landis expressed concern over the memo's proposal on the use of thermo-degradable tarps to contain odors due to risks associated with their flammability. Ms. Landis stated she would prefer the use of a minimum of 9 inches of daily soil cover. She was also skeptical of the recommendation to plant trees for odor mitigation as it takes time for trees to grow tall enough to effectively neutralize the odor.

Mr. Mohajer shared his concern that local residents have not had input on these recommendations and that the ITF should explore the possibility of reducing the daily tonnage accepted at the Landfill as a means to reduce landfill odors.

A discussion ensued regarding recent underground fires at the Landfill which resulted in Mr. Mohajer asking Staff to find out what measures were implemented to control and put out subsurface fires. Ms. Landis asked Ms. Thompson to provide an update on landfill fire control measure at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

After further discussion on the interagency efforts, Mr. Mohajer made a motion to make a recommendation to the Task Force to send a letter to all responsible parties of the ITF requesting that they consider the following:

- Provide a copy of the ITF memo to the City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and incorporate any comments into the final recommendations as appropriate;
- Expand the list of odor mitigation recommendations to include a discussion on a reduction in daily tonnage received by the Landfill in the event the ITF's recommended mitigation measures do not produce the desired outcome.

Mr. Christopher Salomon seconded the motion, and it was passed with an abstention from Mr. Carlos Ruiz.

IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL IN THE CITY OF WHITTIER

Mr. Karlo Manalo reported on the City of Whittier's application submitted to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) on March 12, 2012, for a modified solid waste facility permit for the Savage Canyon Landfill, with respect to the necessity for a Finding of Conformance (FOC) from the Task Force. Subsequently, the LEA determined that a revised solid waste facility permit was required. The City of Whittier submitted an updated application to the LEA on July 16, 2012, for a revised Solid Waste Facility Permit. The revision proposes the following changes:

- Clarification on the increase of the total landfill capacity from 14.95 million cubic yards to 19.34 million cubic yards.
- Clarification of landfill maximum elevation from 900 feet to 910 feet at the ridgeline to include a 3 percent grade for drainage.
- Correction of disposal acreage listed in the existing SWFP from 132 acres to 102 acres.
- Revision of the landfill's estimated closure date from 2025 to 2055.
- Importation of 3,000 tons per day of inert debris for beneficial use at the subject facility.

According to Section 10.4 of the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element, any revision in the facility's Solid Waste Facility Permit constitutes a "significant change" and therefore, would require the Landfill to obtain an FOC granted by the Task Force. In addition, the FOC dated November 30, 1978, that was approved for the Landfill, which referred to the 1977 Environmental Impact Report, included a fill plan that is different than the 1996 final grading plan that the revised solid waste facility permit referenced in its application. Based on these findings, staff recommends that the Subcommittee recommend to the Task Force to send a letter to the City of Whittier requesting that they submit an FOC application to the Task Force.

The Subcommittee concurred with staff that there is enough evidence to require the City of Whittier to submit an FOC application to the Task Force, in accordance with Section 10.4 of the Countywide Siting Element. Mr. Salomon made a motion to recommend to the Task Force to send a letter to

the City of Whittier, requesting the City submit the appropriate application for a FOC for the Savage Canyon Landfill. Mr. Mohajer seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS

Due to time constraints, discussion on this item was postponed until the next Subcommittee meeting.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Amendment to City of Glendale Non-Disposal Facility Element

Ms. Thompson informed the Subcommittee that the Task Force received a letter, dated July 3, 2013, from the City of Glendale notifying the Task Force of its plans to amend its Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE). The City proposes to add the City of Glendale Recycling Center as a large volume transfer/processing facility to its original 1994 NDFE.

Ms. Thompson reminded the Subcommittee that due to passage of Assembly Bill 341 the Task Force is no longer required to review and comment on NDFE amendments; however, the Task Force at the March 15, 2012, meeting requested that the Subcommittee continue to review NDFE amendments. Accordingly, this NDFE Amendment will be placed on the agenda for the August 15, 2013, meeting of the Subcommittee.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.