

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

**Minutes of October 21, 2010 Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, 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:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Becky Bendikson, City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community  
Advisory Committee  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2010**

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2010, meeting was unanimously approved.

**III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

Ms. Emiko Thompson provided the Subcommittee with an update on Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill in three specific areas:

- Odor mitigation;
- Status of the independent monitor contract; and
- Other activities

Odor Mitigation

The Order for Abatement issued by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) on March 24, 2010, required Republic Services (Republic) among other things to hold their transfer trucks at their stations on Monday mornings from 6 to 9 a.m., and on mornings with adverse wind conditions of less than 15 mph; and restricting the size of the working face to 30,000 square feet on Monday mornings from 6 to 10 a.m. and during adverse wind conditions. The Order also required various studies to be conducted, such as a wind flow characterization study, a study on odor neutralizers on transfer trucks, and a study of the working face.

In an effort to supplement AQMD's efforts and as provided under Condition 45.N of Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 00-194-(5), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works) sent a letter to Republic on September 27, 2010, requiring additional odor mitigation measures. The measures were developed in consultation with AQMD, the Sunshine Canyon

Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA), and County Department of Regional Planning.

The requirements in the letter include:

- Covering trash with a minimum of nine inches of compacted soil at the end of each day, from Monday through Saturday. This requirement replaces Republic's practice of using tarp as daily cover, from Monday through Friday;
- Keeping in place the compacted soil that was applied at the end of the previous day. This requirement replaces Republic's practice of applying nine inches of soil at the end of Saturdays, and then removing six inches of it on the following Monday mornings; and
- Preparing an odor mitigation plan and a landfill gas mitigation plan.

Republic is required to implement these corrective measures by October 27, 2010.

#### Independent Monitor Contract

The contract evaluation committee has been meeting to discuss the proposals received, and it is anticipated that a recommendation for a contractor will be made to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Technical Advisory Committee within the next couple of months. Upon execution of the contract, services of the Independent Monitor would include conducting site visits to ensure compliance with the County CUP and the City of Los Angeles Zoning Ordinance; coordinating with each of the regulatory agencies, including AQMD, Water Board, CalRecycle, and the City and County of Los Angeles, to follow up on Republic's compliance status; and submitting routine reports.

- Landfill Gas  
In the beginning of 2010, landfill gas exceedences of five percent or greater by volume were registered, which resulted in the SCL-LEA issuing Areas of Concerns and Violations. As a mitigation measure, Republic installed 42 additional gas extraction wells in June and July.

On September 20, 2010, perimeter probe No. 241 registered an exceedance of 30.9 percent at a depth of 28 feet below ground surface, and 5.4 percent at a depth of 47 feet below ground surface. Gas samples were collected and sent for laboratory testing. According to Republic's report to the SCL-LEA, the sources of the gas were likely due to naturally occurring methane from bedrock sources, and methane trapped in the underdrain system that may be migrating in the direction of the probe. In July, Republic installed a soil vapor extraction well at about 100 feet south of probe 241, to provide an additional vacuum and control gas migration. Republic and the LEA are monitoring the issue, and the LEA may require additional corrective measures as necessary.

- **Landslide**  
A landslide incident was reported to have occurred in early October 2010, within the Landfill's bridge area in the vicinity of the City-County boundary. As a result of the landslide, a segment of the current haul road, near the County scales was damaged. There were no injuries and no impacts outside of the Landfill. Republic is currently repairing the road and constructing a new road segment adjacent to and west of the damaged road section. In addition, the City scales are also being prepared in the event an alternate route is needed.
- **County Agencies Responsibilities Table**  
As previously requested by the Subcommittee copies of the table showing each County agency's responsibilities in enforcing the Sunshine Canyon Landfill CUP was distributed ([see Attachment](#)).

After Ms. Thompson's update and discussions on the topics presented, the Subcommittee expressed appreciation to staff for the updates and to Public Works for developing the additional odor mitigation measures as outlined in the letter of September 27, 2010.

Mr. Wayde Hunter asked if Republic had begun placing the nine inches of compacted soil as required. Mr. Mike Mohajer responded that according to the SCL-LEA, Republic already started using soil every day and had stopped the practice of removing soil.

The Subcommittee commented on the need to retain an independent contractor to monitor the CUP requirements in a timely manner. Betsey Landfis inquired about the frequency of the Reports and if the Subcommittee would be able to receive copies of the Reports. Ms. Thompson responded that the Reports would be prepared quarterly, and the Subcommittee would be able to receive copies.

In regards to the CUP conditions, Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that the \$1,000 penalty imposed for any violation of the CUP (Condition No. 11) is too small to be a deterrent to Republic..

On the issue of the landslide, Mr. Wayde Hunter indicated he believes the cause of the landslide was Republic cutting sections of soil for landfill daily cover. Ms. Betsey Landis asked staff to follow up with Republic on their plan to stabilize the slope including a timeline.

**VI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

To be announced at a later date.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.