

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

**Minutes of January 19, 2012 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  
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles  
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Becky Bendikson, City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory  
Committee  
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, 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  
Virginia Pajarito, 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

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011 MINUTES**

Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 17, 2011 meeting and the motion was unanimously approved by the subcommittee.

## **III. COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**

Martin Aiyetiwa gave a presentation ([attached](#)) on the Preliminary Draft of the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE) Revision. Mr. Aiyetiwa discussed the background and purpose of the CSE as well as significant changes.

The subcommittee discussed the changes to the Goals and Policies, particularly regarding the proposed addition of developing new landfills as well as alternatives to landfill disposal such as conversion technology facilities. Ms. Betsey Landis recommended that “develop new landfills” be incorporated into “enhance in-county disposal capacity” and further emphasize the focus on conversion technology facilities.

Mr. Aiyetiwa presented four key scenarios out of the nine that were analyzed in the CSE to depict the future outlook of the Countywide disposal capacity. The scenarios presented were: Scenario 1, Status Quo; Scenario 7, Increase in Alternative Technology Capacity (up to 3,500 tons per day by 2025); Scenario 8, Full Utilization of Available Out-of-County Disposal Capacity; and Scenario 9, Best Case (all solid waste management options considered become available). After some discussion regarding alternative technology, Ms. Landis suggested revising Scenario 9 to place more emphasis on alternative technology.

Ms. Landis stated she would like to see estimates of the time required to develop and build a 500 ton-per-day conversion technology facility, its carbon footprint, the amount of energy it provides, and the amount of water it requires. With the information, the subcommittee can then evaluate the alternative technology based on its efficiency and economics.

The subcommittee agreed they would provide their comments on the Preliminary Draft CSE by the end of February, so that changes can be incorporated and finalized in March, and submitted to the Task Force in April 2012.

#### **IV. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – UPDATE ON FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING**

Virginia Pajarito reported on training activities at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill by the City and County Fire Departments.

Ms. Pajarito reported the following regarding the City of Los Angeles Fire Department's activities:

- According to the Lead Pilot, the helipad located within the Sunshine Canyon Landfill is occasionally used for flight training which involves simulated emergency landings and take-offs only.
- No materials are dropped onto the landfill during any of the drills or training sessions, including any water or fire retardants.
- Typically, the City Fire Department conducts training sessions at this helipad 24 times a year.
- Each instance is no more than a couple of minutes in duration.

Ms. Pajarito then provided the following update from the County of Los Angeles Fire Department:

- According to the Senior Pilot of the County Fire Air Operations Unit, they only use the helipad during actual brush fires in the surrounding area.
- The last time County Fire used the helipad at Sunshine Canyon Landfill was in the Fall of 2008, during the Sayre fire in Sylmar. The fire fight was a joint City/County operation.
- County Fire has not conducted any drills at the landfill for at least the past 17 years.

Mr. Wayne Hunter commented that the information reported was inconsistent with reports he had received from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Mr. Hunter stated that he has a written report stating that fire retardant was used and drills by fire fighters outside of the helipad were conducted at the landfill.

Mr. Gerardo Villalobos made a motion to recommend the Task Force to send a letter inviting the Los Angeles City and County Fire Departments to attend the next subcommittee meeting to report on training activities and the use of fire retardant at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **V. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL, OUT-OF-COUNTY WASTE**

Ms. Linda Lee provided an overview of the previous discussion the subcommittee had late last year regarding out-of-County tonnages at the

Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Ms. Lee explained that the landfill is prohibited by the County's land use permit and the City's Zoning Ordinance from receiving waste that originates outside of the County. The Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) sent a letter to Republic on May 31, 2011, stating that the landfill had accepted 875 tons of out-of-County waste over the 3-year period of 2008 through 2010. This is equivalent to less than 1 ton per day.

Ms. Lee continued by stating that in a letter to the SCL-LEA, Republic attributed the reported tonnage to an accounting error, and indicated procedures were put in place to prevent future errors. City and County staff as well as County Counsel met in November of 2011 to discuss Republic's compliance with the City's Q Condition B.1 and County's CUP Condition 78 which prohibit importing of out-of-County waste into the landfill. The City and County concluded that the error is within a reasonable margin, of less than 1%, and find that the measures currently implemented at the landfill such as waste origin reporting and pre-screening to be appropriate,.

Mr. Hunter commented that he would like the County to issue a Notice of Violation to the landfill because they did accept out-of-County waste. Mr. Mohajer suggested that Mr. Hunter write a letter to the County and City Planning Departments as well as the elected officials, asking them for their response regarding this matter.

Ms. Landis stated that the trash is coming from the transfer stations so it is more difficult to control. Mr. Villalobos commented that it needs to be determined whether or not the Planning Departments have an issue with a ton of County trash leaving the County being replaced with a ton of trash from outside of the County.

Ms. Lee explained that the subject conditions are enforceable only at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and not at the transfer stations, and the conditions are intended to preserve the landfill's capacity for in-County residents and mitigate environmental impacts.

**VI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

To be announced at a later date.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.