

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

Minutes of February 16, 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
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:

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
Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Captain Mike Clemens, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
Captain Paul Egizi, City of Los Angeles Fire Department
Bahman Hajialiakbar, 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
Richard Lust, IRS
David Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Virginia Pajarito, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jim Teter, Republic Services Inc.
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Lou Wilkinson, Vice President, DTE Energy

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2012 MINUTES

Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2012 meeting and the motion was unanimously approved by the subcommittee.

III. SUNSHINE GAS PRODUCERS, LANDFILL GAS TREATMENT AND LANDFILL GAS TO ENERGY SYSTEM AT THE SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL

Lou Wilkinson, Vice President of DTE Energy, presented a PowerPoint presentation ([attached](#)) on a proposed landfill gas-to-energy system at the Sunshine County Landfill.

Mr. Wilkinson explained gas projects, and how they relate to waste management policies and practices. He explained how this system is a state-of-the-art best practice for managing gas at landfills worldwide and in the United States, and how it enhances gas collection and reduces emissions and odors. DTE Energy currently has a 20-year agreement with Republic Services, Inc., but the system itself would last much longer than that. Mr. Wilkinson stated that construction will begin this summer, and the system will be operational by the end of 2013.

Mr. Wilkinson indicated they looked at many different technologies such as cyclones for creating this system. He described how the system will pull gas to one centralized area at the landfill as opposed to several separate areas created by the existing flares. This system will be more efficient, and will generate electricity.

Mr. Chris Salomon asked if the emissions are higher from this system than they would be from a flare. Mr. Wilkinson explained that they are because four times as much air is pulled into the system due to the way the turbines run. Emissions from the background air pulled into the system contribute to the total emissions measured.

Ms. Betsey Landis inquired about the status of South Coast Air Quality Management's approval. Mr. Wilkinson explained that they are in the final days of publishing the final Environmental Impact Report, and the draft air permit has been released for public review and comment, which will conclude in a couple of weeks.

IV. UPDATE ON FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING AT THE SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL

Captain Paul Egizi from the City of Los Angeles Fire Department and Captain Mike Clemens from the County of Los Angeles Fire Department reported on their respective training activities at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Captain Egizi began by stating that the Department conducts two types of training at the landfill. The first one is a land-based training where local fire companies drive up to the helipad and practice filling helicopters with water for water drops. This occurs fewer than 5 to 6 times a year. This drill consists of putting the fire hose on the hydrant and filling the helicopters with water. They then allow the helicopters to circle around and drop up to 350 gallons of water. Fire retardant or foam is not added for multiple reasons, one of which is cost.

Ms. Landis asked if the helicopters drop the water on or outside of the landfill boundaries. Captain Egizi replied stating that the water is usually dropped onto the brush outside of the landfill. They do not want to create mud so it is usually a high altitude drop which creates a mist. Mr. Mike Mohajer inquired about the use of fire retardant as it was stated at a local community meeting that fire retardant was dropped in the past. Captain Egizi stated that that information is not correct and that no fire retardant was used.

Captain Egizi continued by explaining that the second type of training is pilot training. A pilot will make practice flights, either for completing required training hours for maintaining their night visual goggles or for simple pilot training. The pilots simply touch down on the helipad and take off. They are required to do a certain amount of touch downs and take offs each year. Water is not taken on board, and each session lasts no longer than 15 minutes in length for about 10 to 20 times a year.

Captain Mike Clemens reported that the Los Angeles County Fire Department does not use the helipad at Sunshine Canyon Landfill, and does not drop water or fire retardant on the landfill. The last time the Department used the helipad was during the Sayre fire in 2008.

Ms. Landis then asked about a revised Special Occurrence Report provided by the landfill operator regarding a training conducted on October 13, 2011. The Report stated, "Two super scooper planes flew over county-side of the landfill for training purposes..." Captain Clemens stated he had not realized the super scoopers, under contract with the Department, were conducting training at the landfill. He said he would

clarify their uses and communicate accordingly to the landfill operator and the contractor.

Ms. Landis asked the Fire Departments to communicate with the landfill operator so they know when and what types of training activities are being conducted. The operator has a responsibility to pass the information on to the community of Granada Hills. Mr. Mohajer agreed this communication is essential.

Mr. Wayne Hunter commented stating that there were other drills conducted with trucks and ambulances, and these types of activities destroy the ongoing sage and revegetation efforts. Mr. Hunter continued by stating that there are other issues including flight patterns and noise pollution associated with these drills. He asked the Fire Departments to attend one of their local community meetings, so these issues can be discussed further.

Mr. Mohajer suggested that the community, landfill operator, and Fire Departments get together and make an informal plan that is agreeable to all parties. The Task Force would like a copy of the plan. Captain Egizi indicated the Los Angeles City Fire Department will contact the operator and ensure a notification process is in place before any training activity is conducted. Captain Egizi continued by stating that the Los Angeles County Fire Department will work through the Los Angeles City Fire Department if they have to conduct trainings at the landfill. Furthermore, they will work with the community to control the noise issues and not interrupt the revegetation efforts.

V. REVEGETATION AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided the subcommittee with an update on the Fourth Quarter 2011 revegetation efforts at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Mr. Bukoff stated that the report describes the status of revegetation efforts on interim cover, final cover, and sage mitigation areas and that it was submitted as required by Condition 18 of the Finding of Conformance for the Landfill.

Mr. Bukoff reported the following for the County and City sides of the landfill:

Interim areas were seeded and/or amended.

- Republic anticipates weeding to be performed in the first half of 2012.
- Republic is continuing their research to determine if there are other means that will produce better results than the current revegetation plan.

- Signs designating sensitive habitats are posted throughout the mitigation areas.

Mr. Bukoff stated that on the County side of the landfill, plant cover is moderate in the southern, lower half of the county-sage mitigation area. The majority of the northern and upper portions of the mitigation area continue to have minimal plant growth. John Minch and Associates (JMA), the new environmental consultant, recommended that native species be established through hydro-seeding or broadcast seeding on the upper portion of the slope visible to the public.

Mr. Bukoff continued his report by stating that on the City side of the landfill, the middle deck contains more native shrubs than the lower deck as well as larger zones of native vegetation. However, non-native weed species dominate vegetation on the City side. Hydrophobic soils as well as sloped surfaces are preventing infiltration of rain. JMA recommended continuing to investigate ways to import soil for better plant growth, reviewing the need for fencing sensitive areas, and having a monitoring biologist present during weed control activities to ensure only non-native species are removed.

Mr. Bukoff concluded his report by discussing that Republic has been using straw wattles to slow water runoff on steep slopes.

Ms. Betsey Landis questioned JMA's recommendation to incorporate a soil amendment or mulch with high organic content to improve soil conditions and would like to invite JMA to the next meeting to discuss further.

VI. UPDATE ON CALRECYCLE INFORMAL WORKSHOP ON DRAFT REGULATORY REVISIONS TO TITLE 14 AND 27, REGARDING COMPOSTING

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa provided an update on CalRecycle's informal workshop on February 9, 2012, regarding draft regulatory revisions to Title 14 and 27 regarding composting regulations. There were three items on the agenda. But due to time constraints, only two were discussed.

Mr. Aiyetiwa explained that the first item was regarding the current definition of food waste, which does not distinguish the various food waste types. The second item was regarding the requirements of the California Department of Food and Agriculture with respect to the application of compostable materials, compost, and ash onto agricultural land. A clearer method for determining when a land application is considered disposal and not beneficial use is needed.

Mr. Mike Mohajer commented that the definition of food waste is not consistent between regulatory agencies. He continued to explain that the Task Force had previously sent a letter to CalRecycle and the Water Resources Control Board requesting a uniform definition. CalRecycle, Air Resources Board, Water Resources Control Board, and the Department of Food and Agriculture decided to work together to develop a draft definition of food waste for consideration at the next workshop.

After some discussion, Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion for staff to prepare suggested definitions for: 1) food; 2) food waste; 3) beneficial use; 4) contaminant; and 5) mulch. The motion was unanimously passed.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no discussion/public comment.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

To be announced at a later date.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.