

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

Minutes of September 20, 2012, Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
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:

Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services, Inc.
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gregg Denson, Architerra Design Group
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Sevak Khatchadorian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Lukasz Przybylo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Becky VanSickle, Republic Services, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 16, 2012, MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the August 16, 2012, meeting was approved with one abstention by Mr. Gerardo Villalobos.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Lukas Przybylo provided the Subcommittee an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

On the Landfill gas infrastructure improvements, Mr. Przybylo informed the Subcommittee that ten additional gas collection wells have been installed at cell CC-2 and the wells have been connected to a vacuum source on September 11, 2012. The Landfill is in the process of installing a piping system at deep wells to pump and discharge liquids to a holding tank. Work on that installation is expected to be completed in the next two weeks.

The Landfill is continuing to work on upgrading its current blowers. A new 200-hp blower has been installed at Flare 1 while Flare 3 has been equipped with a 200-hp blower which became operational on August 27, 2012. Flare 8 is expected to be fitted with a new blower by September 21, 2012. Between 14,500 to 14,800 standard cubic feet of landfill gas per second is currently flowing through the gas collection system.

Mr. Przybylo informed the Subcommittee that in August of this year, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) received a total of 140 odor complaints, of which 33 were landfill gas related, 28 were verified to be landfill trash related, 39 were not verifiable, and 40 were not responded to by inspectors. Compared to the month of July the number of odor complaints in August increased by 27 complaints. However, the number of complaints was comparable to the previous two years. The Landfill received three Notices of Violation in August 2012.

Mr. Wayne Hunter commented that he was expecting the complaints to go down with recent equipment changes/additions, such as, the installation of Flare 9.

Mr. Anthony Bertrand, Area Environmental Manager for Republic Services, Inc., (Republic), informed the Subcommittee that Republic will not be satisfied with its progress until there are zero odor complaints originating from the Landfill. Republic is optimistic that with all of the upgrades over the last year, there should be a significant reduction in the amount of odor complaints at the Landfill as there

will be fewer shut downs of the flares for equipment installation, such as, the blowers.

In addition, on August 1, 2012, Republic has submitted a permit application to the the AQMD for installation of Flare 10 which they expect to become operational in August of 2013. It is anticipated that when all upgrades have been made, there will be a substantial reduction in the amount of odor complaints.

There are also some liquid issues in some of the gas wells, as liquids are not percolating down to the liquid collection system and are interfering with extracting gas out of the Landfill. The liquid extraction issue is being resolved by pumping, but Republic is working on a long-term solution for this problem.

Mr. Hunter mentioned that the AQMD complaints and Notice of Violations summary chart was not submitted this month and would like to know if that will be submitted in the future. Mr. Przybylo said that staff would bring that to the Subcommittee in the future.

Mr. Przybylo also informed the Subcommittee that in an August 6, 2012, letter to the Los Angeles Department of City Planning and the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) inquired about operations at the Landfill and regulatory compliance related to comments identified in UltraSystem's First Quarter Independent Monitoring Report.

In a September 6, 2012, letter, the Joint City/County Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) responded to the CAC inquiries. The issues identified and responses provided by Republic in the correspondence were as follows:

- CAC was concerned whether alternative fuel vehicle were utilized at the Landfill. Landfill will submit a revised Alternative Fuel Vehicle report for review at the end of September.
- CAC inquired about the removal of landslide material and liquefiable soil. All unsuitable material has been removed to sound bedrock.
- CAC asked about the status of sediment basins and standing water. All basins have been cleaned and verified by Public Works' inspector. The local enforcement agency routinely inspects for ponding at the site.
- CAC inquired about drainage and erosion control plan. Republic provided their operational plan and Second Quarter 2012 Revegetation Report during the June 26, 2012, TAC meeting (Report dated June 1, 2012).

Ms. Landis inquired as to where the alluvial and landslide materials discussed in Section 3 of letter were moved. Mr. Bertrand said that there were 3 or 4

designated areas on site where soil is stockpiled for operational use or for daily cover.

As the Task Force was not included as a recipient of this letter, Mr. Mike Mohajer noted that the Task Force was included as a recipient of the CAC letter, but not the TAC response.

Mr. Mohajer also indicated that the AQMD settled with Republic for past odor violations in the amount of \$458,000 and expressed concern with the lack of notification to the public. Mr. Mohajer asked staff and Mr. Hunter if they knew about this settlement. Ms. Emiko Thompson responded that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works was not aware of the settlement. Mr. Hunter replied that he received a notice from Republic's legal department that a settlement had been reached for all violations issued through July 1 of this year. In his opinion, past violations should not have been settled until the odor problem has been solved.

IV. PROPOSAL FOR SAGE MITIGATION PLAN AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Gregg Denson of the Architerra Design Group (ADG) made a [PowerPoint presentation](#) to the Subcommittee highlighting the key issues facing the sage mitigation project located on the upper, middle, and lower decks of the Landfill on the city side of the Landfill. The key issues are:

- minimal growth of coastal sage scrub at the landfill
- landfill is dominated by bare soil, invasive grasses, and weeds
- soils are heavily compacted with poor structure and limited nutrients
- on-going maintenance conducted bi-annually
- existing irrigation system is only limited to certain areas
- controlling vehicular traffic to defined roads

Mr. Denson pointed out that there is minimal growth of coastal sage species, and that there are many invasive species, such as Russian Thistle, Brome Grass, False Barley, and Shortpod Mustard. Some native species are found to grow better on earthen mounds rather than flat compacted areas.

In order to establish a successful revegetation plan, Mr. Denson stated that drainage patterns need to be retained and minimally altered, provide positive drainage to collection drains, and stabilize areas with concentrated drainage flows with boulders and cobble if necessary.

On traffic circulation, vehicular patterns need to be identified; vehicular access to decks needs to be limited by installing barriers if necessary, and using signage to prohibit vehicles from certain areas.

In addition, site analysis provides for the following:

- Existing features/structures
 - identify existing features (observation decks, helipads, nursery, etc)
 - identify deck gas wells, tanks, piping, etc
 - review required access routes to features/structures
 - map piping and potential conflicts with improvements

- Existing Soil Conditions
 - evaluate existing vegetation for protection
 - map areas for cross ripping existing soil to 12” depth
 - take soil samples for amendment recommendations
 - import soil and create micro topography berming

- Revegetate Slopes and Decks
 - Implement weed eradication program to minimize colonized non-native plants.
 - Provide temporary irrigation system (2-3 years) to help with initial kill/grow cycle and future establishments of native plants.
 - Hydro-seed and provide container planting programs.
 - Monitor and provide more frequent maintenance during establishment and monitoring period.

Mr. Denson mentioned that in order to devise an effective restoration strategy, soil needs to be analyzed. Seven samples were taken from the three decks ranging from bare ground or little vegetation to more established areas to see what makes an area more successful than the other. Growth trials were subsequently performed on the samples and it was found that the salinity levels were elevated in all samples. Consequently, it is recommended that the soil salts be leached through irrigation and incorporation of soil amendments where nutrients are found to be low, such as phosphorous. Ms. Landis questioned if the addition of phosphorous would be beneficial to native species since native species at the landfill may need low phosphorous levels. She also asked if soil from other areas with similar plants have been sampled to see what these plants need to thrive in, and Mr. Denson said “no”. Ms. Landis agrees that acidic soils need to be checked, but her experience indicated that plants in this area do not like high-levels of nitrogen.

Besides amending the soil, Ms. Landis also mentioned that the soil needs to be cross-ripped to loosen compacted soils, provide aeration, and increased water availability to roots. Vehicle access needs to be restricted and limited to defined access roads and pads. Fences need to be used to limit access to authorized personnel and use signage to educate employees on protecting sensitive habitats. Mr. Bertrand added that contractors get a field tour of the areas in which they will be working and be informed about sensitive areas and where they can and cannot go.

Mr. Denson continued by describing how micro-topographic conditions need to be created to increase the likelihood of successful revegetation. Boulders can be used on the 4.67 acre trial plot to provide areas for seeds to catch and become established. Construction and grading plans have already been prepared for this trial area.

Mr. Hunter asked if there would be any affect to the depth of the soil cap from cross ripping. Mr. Denson said “that only the top one foot, the vegetative layer, will be affected; and this soil layer will be pre-watered to limit dust”. In as much as possible, soil from the sedimentation basin will be used in developing planting areas. The soil has been tested by Republic, and AQMD approves its use. A temporary overhead irrigation system will be installed to assist in establishment of native plant species.

The goal for ADG and Republic is to begin grading of the trial site in September and seeding in mid-November. Proposed seeding and planting methods to be used are:

- hydroseeding
- soil imprinting
- hand broadcast seeding
- broadcast and chain harrow
- container plants

Seeding methods used on the trial plot will be reviewed and evaluated during the first year of growth, with the most appropriate method(s) being applied to the remaining decks and slope areas. In addition, maintenance activities will need to be increased to a weekly basis. As part of Republic’s monitoring efforts of the trial plot, Ms. Landis requested that photographs be taken on the progress of revegetation efforts and shared with the Subcommittee.

V. SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL IN THE CITY OF WHITTIER, FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

At last month’s meeting, the Subcommittee agreed to leave this item on the agenda until City’s application is complete and staff has all the technical information to make a recommendation to the Subcommittee on the Savage

Canyon Landfill's Finding of Conformance. As of today, the application is still incomplete.

VI. CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY AND RECOVERY DEFINITIONS

Mr. Coby Skye discussed the need for establishing clear definitions for use by the County and the Task Force, including the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE), as well as other County documents. Mr. Skye noted that if the term "recovery" is going to be utilized in the CSE, it needs to be defined. He mentioned that there are four aspects of recovery, namely reuse; material recovery, such as recycling; biological recovery, such as composting; and energy recovery, such as fuel production. The [New Waste Management Paradigm](#) (with September 20, 2012, proposed changes) shows that recovery is composed of the following activities reuse, recycling, conversion/composting, and transformation/waste-to-energy. As the basis for the proposed definitions for conversion technology and recovery, the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee adopted the definition of conversion technology with the term solid waste used in it. The Subcommittee also recommended to consistently use these definitions of conversion technology and recovery in all County documents, including the Siting Element, and Task Force documents.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to incorporate the original definition of conversion technology and the proposed definition of recovery as presented by staff, and the September 20, 2012, proposed changes to the waste management paradigm to be used consistently in County and Task Force documents as well as the Countywide Siting Element. This motion passed unanimously.

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no open discussion or public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.