

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

**Minutes of January 16, 2014, Meeting**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Conference Room B  
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  
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patti Costa, Republic Services, Inc.  
Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave Hauser, Republic Services, Inc.  
Patrick Holland, 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  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wu Tan, 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 11:04 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 21, 2013, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the November 21, 2013, meeting was passed, with an abstention from Mr. Carlos Ruiz, and opposition from Mr. Mike Mohajer.

**III. CITY OF MONTEBELLO UPDATE TO NON DISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT – PATRICK HOLLAND**

Mr. Patrick Holland reported that the City of Montebello submitted a letter to the Task Force, dated November 20, 2013, informing them that the City is proposing to update their Non Disposal Facility Element (NDFE) by adding a facility which will help meet the goals of the City's Source Reduction and Recycling Element. Mr. Holland informed the Subcommittee that the California Integrated Waste Management Board, now CalRecycle, approved the City's NDFE in 1994, and reminded them that since the passage of Assembly Bill 341, the Task Force is no longer required to review and comment on updates to a jurisdiction's NDFE.

Mr. Holland added that the proposed facility, Commercial Waste Services, Inc., located at 1530 and 1540 Date Street in the City of Montebello would operate as a medium volume construction, demolition, and inert (CDI) material processing facility capable of handling 174 tons per day (tpd) of incoming CDI material. The facility is currently in the process of obtaining a registration tier solid waste facility permit. A diversion rate of 75 percent is the operational goal. The facility has the option of operating 24 hours per day and 7 days per week.

Mr. Holland recommended the Task Force send a letter requesting the facility owner/operator to submit monthly electronic disposal reports through the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Information Management System (SWIMS) website. The report should contain the type and quantity of waste (by weight and jurisdiction) received for processing, recycling, and disposal at offsite facilities.

Mr. Chris Salomon asked for clarification as to whether the City was required, by law, to submit the disposal reports. At the meeting, staff replied that there is no legal requirement.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to recommend the Task Force send a letter to the City of Montebello expressing appreciation for their update on their NDFE, and requesting that the owner/operator of the CDI processing facility submit monthly disposal reports to the Task Force through SWIMS. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

##### Odor Complaints

Mr. Clark Ajwani provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill odor complaints for the months of November and December 2013. Mr. Ajwani referenced [historical graphs](#) prepared by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) detailing the monthly and annual odor complaints at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill through the month of December 2013.

Mr. Clark Ajwani reported that 93 odor complaints were made to the AQMD in November. In comparison with the month of October, the number of complaints received in November decreased by 47 percent (from 176 to 93 complaints). Compared to November of last year, the number of complaints is the same.

During the month of December, a total of 72 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. In comparison with November, the number of complaints received in December decreased by 22 percent (from 93 to 72 complaints). Compared to December of 2012, at which time there were 139 complaints, the number of complaints decreased this December by 48 percent.

Of the 72 complaints made to the hotline in December:

- 23 were verified to be landfill gas odors
- 28 were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival
- 21 were not responded to by AQMD's staff

Ms. Betsey Landis commented that over half of the odor complaints made in the month of December could not be verified, adding that she believed the chemical effects of the current dry climate due to the lack of rain, could be among the primary reasons for why the odors could not be verified. Mr. Gerardo Villalobos

commented that progress had been made in decreasing the number of odor complaints at the Landfill.

#### Update on Meeting Regarding Revegetation

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided a summary of a meeting that was held on December 5, 2013, to discuss revegetation of the sage mitigation areas as well as interim slopes at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Meeting participants consisted of representatives from Republic Services, the City of Los Angeles, the County Department of Regional Planning, Independent Monitor UltraSystems, and Public Works.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss past practices and the current status of revegetation efforts at the Landfill and what can be done in the future to ensure successful revegetation for both interim and final covers. At this meeting, the participants discussed existing and proposed seed mixes for the City and County sage mitigation areas, and recommendations from John Minch and Associates (JMA) and the County Biologist for the County area. The reformatting of the quarterly vegetation reports, as suggested by this Subcommittee at its November meeting, was also discussed.

As a result of the discussion, Republic agreed, among other things, to do the following:

- Provide a list of the seed mix for the interim areas of the Landfill for hydro-seeding this winter. The list was reviewed and revised to incorporate input from meeting participants, as well as from Ms. Landis. The [draft list](#) is currently being reviewed by Republic.
- Determine a sampling method to quantify the success of the Venturan sage scrub species seeded or planted in the pilot project area; and to develop a bi-monthly report to the group summarizing the results.
- Provide an assessment plan for revegetating the middle and upper decks, and the County sage mitigation area.
- Reformat the quarterly vegetation reports to change the classification of Telegraph Weed from a weed to a native plant, update the reports

with current photos, and include a table on how recommendations made by JMA have been addressed.

The meeting participants also agreed to have a follow-up meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for February 2014, to discuss progress made since the December 5, 2014, meeting.

Ms. Landis asked Republic Services if the soil at the Landfill is tested to determine the pH level of the soil prior to hydro-seeding. Ms. Patti Costa, Environmental Manager at the Landfill, responded that Republic is in the process of determining the most suitable type of soil amendments for different soil types at the Landfill. Ms. Landis suggested applying the appropriate amendment to the soil and watering it prior to hydro-seeding might yield the best results.

#### Interagency Task Force

Ms. Emiko Thompson provided an update on the efforts of the Interagency Working Group on addressing odors at the Landfill. She recapped that during the October meeting, there had been a question regarding whether or not each of the agencies of the Working Group had reviewed the August 27, 2013, letter from Mr. Wayne Tsuda of the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) to the Task Force regarding odor mitigation recommendations made by the Working Group. During the November Subcommittee meeting, staff reported that the letter had been reviewed by the AQMD and Public Works. She reported that recent correspondences between Public Works staff and the City of Los Angeles and County Planning Departments confirmed that both Departments had also reviewed the letter, agreed with its content and did not have any changes to recommend.

Ms. Thompson also recalled that at the November meeting, the Subcommittee requested information on how the odor nuisance at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill was being addressed by the City and County Planning Departments. Ms. Thompson stated that based on recent conversations with the City and County Planning Departments, staff was informed that both Departments will continue to collaborate with the Working Group to address odors at the Landfill.

Ms. Thompson added that the next meeting of the Working Group meeting has not yet been scheduled, but that staff will continue to keep the Subcommittee abreast of the activities of the Working Group.

Ms. Landis asked for an update on the construction status of the new sewer line at the Landfill. Ms. Costa commented that Republic anticipates the new sewer to be operational in the first quarter of this year.

Mr. Mohajer asked for further clarification into which agencies within the Working Group would be responsible for specific roles in the pending odor mitigation efforts at the Landfill. Ms. Thompson commented that at the last meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Board of Directors, the LEA assumed the lead in compiling a table assigning agencies to each of the odor mitigation measures identified in the memo drafted by the Working Group. Ms. Thompson added that the agencies are still in the process of determining which measures will be implemented within their respective purview and authority.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that at the January 9, 2014, Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (CAC), meeting the AQMD reported they entered a Notice of Violation settlement agreement with Republic Services. Mr. Mohajer emphasized that odor problems can only be effectively addressed through the landfill gas collection system. Further discussion followed, and the Subcommittee requested staff to provide information regarding any CAC meetings, and any Notice of Violation settlements on future updates.

**V. UPDATE ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL – KARLO MANALO**

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided an update on the Finding of Conformance (FOC) for the Savage Canyon Landfill. Mr. Manalo reminded the Subcommittee that the Task Force sent a letter to the City of Whittier on August 6, 2013, stating that a FOC would be required in conjunction with the City's application to the LEA for a revised Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) for the Landfill. On October 15, 2013, the City of Whittier submitted an application to the Task Force for an FOC for the Landfill. On November 19, 2013, staff received a request from the City of Whittier requesting this item be continued to the next Subcommittee meeting to allow for additional time to further understand the conditions of the FOC, their potential impact on the Landfill's operations, and their relationship to the Countywide Siting Element (CSE).

Mr. Manalo mentioned the City of Whittier sent a letter to the Task Force on December 12, 2013, withdrawing their request for a FOC by the Task Force based on information contained in a series of letters between the Task Force and the California Integrated Waste Management Board (now CalRecycle) dated

between November 2002 and June 2008. The City's withdrawal was also based on the recent issuance of a revised SWFP by the LEA on October 30, 2013. Staff disseminated a memorandum dated September 5, 2013, containing the City's responses to comments made by the public on the permit revision application for the Landfill on January 14, 2014. Mr. Manalo added that staff forwarded the correspondence, referenced in the City's December 12, 2013, letter between the Task Force and CalRecycle regarding the role of the Task Force with respect to FOCs, to the Subcommittee on January 15, 2014. Staff requested direction from the Subcommittee on what the next steps should be.

Mr. Ruiz commented on what he interpreted as a contradiction in policy by CalRecycle in allowing the LEA to declare a facility to be in conformance with the Integrated Waste Management Plan and grant the facility a revised SWFP for the Landfill without having undergone a FOC process. He further explained that CalRecycle requires facilities to meet certain criteria outlined in the CSE; however, it does not require such facilities to obtain a FOC with the CSE from the Task Force before issuing a SWFP. Given that the Landfill meets such criteria, cited in the CSE, the project should be required to obtain a FOC. Ms. Landis and Mr. Mohajer concurred with Mr. Ruiz's statements.

In addition, Mr. Mohajer questioned whether the City's Public Works Director, David Pelser, has the authority to withdraw the City from the FOC process without approval from the City Council.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Mohajer made a motion for staff, in concert with County Counsel, to send a letter to the City of Whittier describing the need for a FOC in association with obtaining a revised SWFP. The motion passed with an abstention from Mr. Salomon and opposition from Mr. Villalobos.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS – KARLO MANALO**

Mr. Manalo provided an update on the FOC Quarterly Reports. Staff received the Fourth Quarter of 2013 Finding of Conformance Monitoring Report for the Puente Hills Landfill and disseminated it to the Subcommittee on December 12, 2013. The report includes detailed information of incoming tonnages broken down by various sources (such as residential and commercial) as well as material types (such as refuse, C&D, and green waste) The report breaks down the material type by jurisdiction of origin and provides a projection of the

remaining Landfill capacity. The report covered only the month of October 2013, as the Landfill closed on October 31, 2013.

There was no further discussion on this item.

**VII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Mr. Villalobos shared with the Subcommittee that he has been promoted to Chief Manager of the Solid Waste Management Program at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.