

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

**Minutes of February 20, 2014, Meeting**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Conference Room A  
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  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
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  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Michael Stewart, Republic Services, Inc.  
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 JANUARY 16, 2014, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the January 16, 2014, meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Salomon and passed unanimously.

## **III. 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 month of January 2014. Mr. Ajwani reported that a total of 32 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) during the month of January 2014. In comparison with December 2013, the number of complaints received in January decreased by 56 percent (from 72 to 32 complaints). Compared to January of 2013 (at which time there were 82 complaints), the number of complaints in January decreased by 61 percent.

Of the 32 complaints made in January:

- 1 was verified to be trash odors
- 3 were verified to be landfill gas odors
- 8 were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival
- 20 were not responded to by AQMD's staff

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented on the current drought and asked if this had any effect on the decrease in odor complaints, and if the number of complaints could rise again with increased rainfall. Mr. Ajwani responded that the lack of rainfall being a reason for the decrease in odor complaints was a possible theory that staff has not analyzed.

Ms. Betsey Landis inquired if there had been a decrease in the amount of leachate treated at the Landfill, and Mr. Salomon asked if there had been a significant decrease in the amount of landfill gas produced at the Landfill. Mr. Gerry Villalobos added that Republic Services, Inc.'s (Republic Services), the

Landfill operator, efforts to improve the Landfill's gas collection system in recent years have led to a decrease in odor complaints; however, we will not know how the drought has played into this until greater levels of rainfall are experienced to test this theory. As a result of this discussion, the Subcommittee asked staff to research if there has been a decrease in the amount of leachate and gas produced at the Landfill and to report on any surface gas emissions exceedances at the Landfill and how they compare to previous historical trends in surface gas monitoring.

#### Sewer Line Connection

Based on the latest update from Republic Services, the Landfill received a permit from the City of Los Angeles. Construction is to start next week and will take approximately five to six weeks to complete

#### Update on Revegetation Efforts

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided a summary of a meeting that was held on February 12, 2014, to discuss revegetation efforts at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Meeting participants consisted of representatives from Republic Services, the City of Los Angeles Planning Department, the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning), Independent Monitor UltraSystems, Public Works, and Ms. Betsey Landis. This was a follow-up meeting to the previous meeting held on December 5, 2013, to track the progress of Republic Services' revegetation efforts at the Landfill.

At this meeting, Architerra Design Group, Republic Services' consultant, gave a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the following tasks to be worked on by Republic Services and its consultants:

- Analyze grading maps and slopes to create appropriate hydro-seed mixes for short and long term slopes.
- Review the original 2008 sage mitigation and interim cover revegetation plan, along with taking soil samples, and documenting existing conditions of slopes to determine the best course of action for revegetating these areas.

- Seek acceptance of the Venturan Sage Scrub seed/planting mix by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (California Fish and Wildlife).
- Select a sampling method for purposes of gauging the success of the revegetation efforts in the sage mitigation pilot project area. Suggested sampling methods are the relevé or rapid assessment protocols. Republic Services will provide the group with details regarding these two sampling methods from which meeting participants will suggest the preferred method to Republic Services. Sampling will begin in March.
- Seek comments from meeting participants on the reformatted quarterly vegetation reports. The Fourth Quarter 2013 Vegetation Report has been submitted by Republic Services to Public Works. Staff will review it and provide comments to Republic Services.

At the meeting, Ms. Landis provided Republic Services and the group with lists of plants and informational resources, which included growth habits and preferred soil conditions for plants that could be used in areas of the Landfill. She suggested that plants used from this list should meet approval from California Fish and Wildlife.

Regarding Republic Services' plans to hydro-seed interim areas of the Landfill, Ms. Landis inquired about the ingredients included in the hydro-seed mix and suggested that the seeds be put on top of the bottom layer of wet mulch, which includes soil binders. Ms. Landis recommends this new approach be used for better seed germination. Republic Services stated that they should be able to test Ms. Landis' approach.

There was also discussion on whether Republic Services' plan to reassess the current sage mitigation and interim cover revegetation plan is sound. Generally, the group agreed with the plan, but recommended to Republic Services that it include timelines and milestones for the activities. Republic Services agreed to provide timelines and milestones to the group for review in approximately a month's time. Mr. Bukoff informed the Subcommittee that the group would meet again before the May 15, 2014, Subcommittee meeting to reassess revegetation efforts at the Landfill.

Ms. Landis commented that she and the County biologist, Joe Decruyenaere, did not have confidence in the relevé or rapid assessment protocols as an effective

means of measuring the success of the revegetation efforts in the sage mitigation pilot project area, citing that these protocols are used only to determine dominant plant cover, and that it would not be a reliable means of determining the success or failure of hydro-seeding at the Landfill. Ms. Landis stated that she and the County biologist suggested applying random line transects, particularly along the benches with random square meter grids, which will sample everything in a specific grid.

Mr. Mohajer asked when local residents could anticipate the revegetation efforts producing viewable green materials in the sloped areas of the Landfill. Mr. Bukoff responded that the collaborative effort among our meeting participants is very encouraging; however, it would likely be several years before the revegetation process produces significant results.

Ms. Landis commented that among various landscape professionals she has contacted, there does not seem to be a high success rate on hydro-seeding projects. She also suggested Republic Services perform a chemical analysis of the hydro-seed mixture, including its pH, to help in understanding how well the seeds in the mixture may germinate with current soil conditions. Mr. Bukoff assured Ms. Landis' that her questions on the hydro-seed mix will be forwarded to Republic Services for their comments.

Mr. Hunter inquired into the status of Republic Services' previous plans in late 2013 to apply additional soil to certain areas of the Landfill as a means to encourage the growth of vegetation. Ms. Landis commented that Republic Services has implemented this plan by creating berms and placing boulders in the landscape of the sage pilot project area.

#### Interagency Working Group

Ms. Emiko Thompson informed the Subcommittee that there is no new update to provide the Subcommittee on the Interagency Working Group's efforts to address odors at the Landfill at this time. Ms. Thompson reminded the Subcommittee that each member agency has the discretion to implement any additional measures as they deem necessary within their respective purview and authority. Ms. Thompson stated that the AQMD has not scheduled any future meetings.

Mr. Mike Mohajer commented that at the January Task Force meeting, Mr. Ed Pupka, of the AQMD, recommended that the Interagency Working Group provide a presentation to the Task Force at an upcoming meeting on their efforts

to improve the odor problem at the Landfill. Mr. Mohajer requested an update as to when a presentation may be provided. He also wanted to know if the AQMD has hired a consultant in relation to the recent settlement agreement with Republic Services. Ms. Thompson informed the Subcommittee that AQMD had hired a consultant to perform analysis on the gas collection system at the Landfill, and that staff could provide an update on the status of the Notice of Violation settlement agreement and information about the consultant hired by AQMD, at the next Subcommittee meeting. On these issues, Mike informed staff that these discussion items should have been included in this staff report as it is staff's responsibility to provide information when requested, not the Subcommittee.

Mr. Villalobos commented that he will also be providing information at the next Subcommittee meeting on the the County Department of Public Health's dialogue and engagement with AQMD's consultant.

**IV. UPDATE ON RESPONSE TO CITY OF WHITTIER'S WITHDRAWAL OF ITS REQUEST FOR A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided an update on the Task Force's response to the City of Whittier's withdrawal of its request for a Finding of Conformance (FOC) by the Task Force for the Savage Canyon Landfill. This request was made in the December 12, 2013, letter, from the City of Whittier to the Task Force.

At the January 16, 2014, Task Force meeting the Task Force made a motion to send a letter to the Mayor of the City of Whittier, Mr. Bob Henderson, responding to the City's December 12, 2013, letter. Accordingly, the Task Force drafted a letter to the City of Whittier, in coordination with County Counsel explaining the need for an FOC. Mr. Manalo reported that, as of today, no response has been received by the City.

There was no further discussion on this item.

**V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided an update on the FOC reports submitted by County landfill operators, which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills. Staff submitted the following FOC Reports to the Subcommittee for the 4th Quarter of 2013 on January 27, 2014:

- Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility Monitoring Report: includes the number of loads and tonnage of refuse received for combustion, amount of energy produced, the treated ash tonnage, and treated ash laboratory analyses from October to December 2013.
- Chiquita Canyon Landfill and Sunshine Canyon Landfill Monitoring Report: provides information on incoming tonnages broken down by various sources, such as residential and commercial; and by material type, such as refuse, construction and demolition, and green waste, from October to December 2013.
- Conversion Technology Development, Lancaster Landfill Monitoring Report: provides an update of the Landfill operator's efforts in implementing a conversion technology facility. Currently, a conversion technology facility has not yet been implemented.
- Reclaimable Anaerobic Composter (RAC), Lancaster Landfill Status Report: provides a project status update including leachate generation and usage, and maximum methane concentration and flow rates.

Mr. Mohajer asked about the type of information on the RAC received by Lancaster Landfill and what is staff's understanding of the information. Mr. Shirzadegan restated that the information includes leachate generation and usage, and maximum methane concentration and flow rates.

Mr. Mohajer also inquired about the status of the proposed expansion at Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Ms. Thompson informed the Subcommittee that a Screencheck Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was circulated last year, and Regional Planning compiled agency comments on the document. Mr. Mohajer commented that the EIR, once released, needs to be presented to the Task Force, as a responsible agency, for discussion and comment.

## **VI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

There was no further discussion or comment.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.