

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

Minutes of September 18, 2014, Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanne Biehler, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Anna Gov, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
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
David, Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 17, 2014, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the August 21, 2014, meeting was made by Ms. Jeanne Biehler. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz and passed unanimously.

III. STATUS OF TASK FORCE COMMENT LETTERS

Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided an update on the Task Force's comment letter regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill expansion project. A motion was passed at the August 21, 2014, meeting of the Task Force to send comments on the DEIR to the County Department of Regional Planning. Mr. Manalo informed the Subcommittee that the Task Force's comment letter was sent on August 25, 2014.

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Irwindale Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and Transfer Station

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided an update on the status of the comment letter regarding the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) for the proposed Irwindale MRF and Transfer Station. Ms. Vazifdar stated the Task Force, at their August 21, 2014, meeting made a motion for staff to prepare a comment letter on the RDEIR for the proposed project. A letter was sent on September 15, 2014, from the Task Force to the City of Irwindale which included a copy of the previous Task Force letter to the City of Irwindale dated May 14, 2014. The May comment letter had not been previously acknowledged by the City, nor were the comments incorporated into the RDEIR. The September comment letter included additional comments that were discussed at the August 21, 2014, meeting.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE (FOC) FOR THE AZUSA LAND RECLAMATION LANDFILL

Ms. Anna Gov provided an update on the FOC for the Azusa Land Reclamation Landfill (ALR). Ms. Gov informed the Subcommittee

that staff had presented the ALR's proposed Revised Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) at the June 19, 2014, Task Force meeting. Ms. Gov informed the Subcommittee that the Task Force sent a letter to ALR on June 26, 2014, indicating that a FOC is required per the 1997 Countywide Siting Element guidelines, and requested ALR to submit a FOC application to the Task Force. Ms. Gov added that ALR subsequently submitted a FOC application to the Task Force on July 29, 2014. Since staff is waiting for additional information to be submitted by ALR, staff requests this item be continued to the next meeting. The Subcommittee agreed to continue the item and provided the following preliminary comments.

Ms. Betsey Landis commented on the need to tarp trucks that utilize this facility to contain waste materials as it is a requirement of the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element. The FOC proposal states that materials coming in to the Landfill do not have to be tarped since the facility is not a Class III landfill. Ms. Landis expressed her concern regarding inert wastes that are not covered while being transported through the County prior to arriving at ALR. Mr. Carlos Ruiz commented that ALR receives waste from more jurisdictions than other landfills primarily because the facility accepts tires. Mr. Gerry Villalobos stated he would research the Joint Technical Document regarding the requirements under Title 27 for covering materials. Mr. Ruiz commented that it has been a consistent policy of the Task Force, when considering a FOC, to require trucks to be tarped. Ms. Landis added that truck tarps are also a requirement of facilities, designated with Class III status, accepting inert waste.

Discussion ensued regarding the site's status as a Class III landfill, as well as its formal classification as an inert landfill. Mr. Villalobos stated the site is still classified as a Class III facility since zones 1 and 2 contain municipal solid waste (MSW) that have previously been disposed of.

Ms. Landis commented on the need for seismic accelerometers at the Landfill. Mr. Ruiz mentioned the Task Force had previously granted a FOC prior to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board issuing the order that prohibited the disposal of MSW and that accelerometers were typically required of solid waste landfills following the Northridge Earthquake. However, Ms. Landis commented that the earthen walls around each zone consist of sand and gravel which could liquefy in an earthquake causing debris to flow into the San Gabriel River Watershed.

Ms. Landis also commented that ALR had no screening procedures for uranium or radiation. There is no screening for PCB or PCH, but there is for arsenic. Mr. Villalobos commented that radiation detectors are a requirement for a SWFP at County landfills. He stated he would provide an update to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Ruiz then discussed issues related to disposal reporting, stating that, pursuant to changes in State law, a number of permitted facilities that receive inert waste were able to become Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operations (IDEFOs) and not be required to report through the disposal reporting system. He added that if such facilities have a Registration Permit or a SWFP, they would continue to report through the disposal reporting system. Mr. Ruiz asked Mr. Villalobos if he knew how the state tracks inert waste, tires, and asbestos at the Landfill, and if the State assesses its solid waste fee (\$1.40) on all or only a portion of the material that comes into the Landfill. Mr. Villalobos stated that he would research whether the fees associated with disposal are applied solely to MSW or all material accepted.

In addition, Mr. Villalobos stated that in the case of ALR, there is a section within Title 27 that allows for an IDEFO to be located within the permitted boundary of a Class III landfill. This provision would allow for Zone 5 at ALR to operate as an IDEFO with its own operations plan. He added that all material accepted at the Landfill, including inert materials, will be counted towards the facility's permitted 8,000 tons per day (tpd), unlike a stand-alone IDEFO, which has no tonnage limits.

Mr. Villalobos further commented that CalRecycle is working with ALR because of the uniqueness of the site, and that ALR accepts materials that are not typical of other facilities designated as Class III landfills so the Landfill's reporting is different from other facilities. Asbestos is a Class II special waste and tires are considered disposal. He further commented that asbestos and tires are included in the 8,000 tpd limit.

Ms. Landis commented that there was a graph in the FOC proposal showing the tonnages of materials that ALR would accept through the year 2056. The graph shows tonnages increasing from 2,000 to 5,000 tpd, through year 2056, however the reasons for the increase were not clear.

Mr. Villalobos stated that there was a public information meeting for the permit revision on Tuesday, September 16, 2014, in Azusa. This satisfies the Local Enforcement Agency's information meeting requirement, and he anticipates that within the next 30 days the proposed permit package will be submitted for CalRecycle's review and concurrence.

Ms. Landis stated that the Landfill should also explore additional options to utilize the gas emanating from the Landfill other than burning it and allowing it to escape into the atmosphere.

Mr. Mike Mohajer, who was not available to attend the Subcommittee meeting, submitted his [preliminary comments](#) on the FOC application to staff. Mr. Mohajer's comments were distributed to the Subcommittee.

V. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Manalo provided the Subcommittee with an update on the number of odor complaints at the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill for the month of August 2014. During the month of August, a total of 81 complaints were reported to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with July, the number of complaints received in August decreased by two percent (from 83 to 81). Compared to August of 2013, the number of complaints this August decreased by 17 percent (from 97 to 81 complaints).

Mr. Manalo also distributed the following graphs depicting data pertaining to surface gas emissions, the amount of leachate collected, and the number of odor complaints at the Landfill, which have been updated to include data from the first half of 2014:

- [Surface Gas Emissions and Number of Odor Complaints](#)
- [Leachate Collection and Number of Odor Complaints](#)

Ms. Landis commented that the graphs appear to demonstrate a decrease in odors resulting from the number of gas wells installed. Mr. Ruiz mentioned there is a seasonal variation in odor complaints during the spring and running through September which results in a general decrease in odor complaints due to shifts in wind patterns. He further noted that a shift in the wind patterns in the fall could contribute to an increase in odor complaints.

Mr. Wayne Hunter commented on his dissatisfaction with the Landfill's overall progress in decreasing the odor complaints. He requested that these graphs be updated quarterly and include information regarding the operation of the gas-to-energy plant at the Landfill.

Mr. Hunter also commented on the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board's concerns regarding the potential for differential settlement and blockage along the proposed West Drainage Channel, which may result in the infiltration of any storm water overflows into the existing, unlined disposal area on the City side of the Landfill.

Ms. Emiko Thompson informed the Subcommittee of a meeting attended by Republic Services, Public Works, and the Water Board, during which Public Works commented that the design of the West Drainage Channel needed to take into account the potential for differential settlement. If a comment letter was prepared by Public Works on the proposed West Drainage Channel Master Plan, Mr. Hunter asked to be provided with a copy of that letter.

Ms. Landis inquired about the status of the Landfill's sewer project. Mr. Manalo stated that it was completed, and Mr. Villalobos added that the Landfill's Environmental Manager, Ms. Patti Costa, confirmed completion of the sewer project at the September 11, 2014, meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no discussion/public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.