

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

**Minutes of February 19, 2015, Meeting**

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

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jeanne Biehler, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Stephen Beitz, Real Energy, LLC  
Kevin Best, Real Energy, LLC  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Anna Gov, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee  
Ralph Kroy, North Valley Coalition/Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Jonathan Lee, 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  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.  
Carlos Slythe, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Meg Volk, North Valley Coalition

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2015, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2015, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz, and it was unanimously approved, subject to the following revisions:

- Revise Mr. Wayde Hunter's agency affiliation from North Valley Coalition/Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council to North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Community Advisory Committee on page 1 of the Minutes.
- Revise Ms. Julia Weissman's agency affiliation from County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works to County Counsel on page 1 of the Minutes.
- Insert links to the December 23, 2014, letter from the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning to the Task Force, and the January 12, 2015, letter from the County Department of Regional Planning to the Task Force described in the last paragraph on page 2 of the Minutes.
- Insert the phrase "there is no evidence of an imminent or substantial risk to health, safety of the community, and that" between the words "that" and "no" on the third line of the fourth paragraph on page 3 of the Minutes.
- Insert the word "proposed" before the word "revision" on line 2 of the second paragraph on page 5 of the Minutes, as well as change the word "revision" to its plural form.
- Delete the words "the draft" and replace with the word "a" on line 1 of the fifth paragraph on page 5 of the Minutes. In the same paragraph, insert the phrase "identified by staff" after the word "comments" on line 2.
- Insert the sentences "He stated that there is a need for positive participation by Republic Services representatives in the development of regulations that may impact conversion technologies. Mr. Rob Sherman agreed and will discuss with the Republic Services staff in Sacramento." after the last sentence of the last paragraph on page 6 of the Minutes.

- Clarify who filed the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist and Addendum to the 1988 Negative Declaration and with which agency it was filed in the next to last paragraph on page 9 of the Minutes.

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

#### Odor Complaints

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided the Subcommittee with an update on odor complaints at the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill for the month of January 2015.

During the month of January, a total of 259 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with December 2014, the number of complaints received in January 2015 decreased by six percent (from 277 to 259 complaints). Compared to January 2014, the number of complaints this January increased by 710 percent (from 32 to 259 complaints).

Mr. Manalo presented the Subcommittee with two updated [charts](#) comparing the number of odor complaints to surface gas emissions and the amount of leachate collected in the fourth quarter of 2014. Mr. Manalo explained that the information displayed on the charts was taken from monitoring reports submitted to various agencies as well as updates from various meetings regarding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer inquired whether the AQMD was still providing odor complaint charts like they have done in the past. Staff explained that they are not available at this time due to changes in staff at the AQMD; however, they will be available in the future.

Mr. Sherman asked the Subcommittee to consider using the intensity of odors as another factor in assessing and understanding odor complaints. He further explained that the AQMD qualifies odors into five classifications: very faint, faint, distinct, strong, and very strong; and suggested the same classification system be used by the Subcommittee. He stated that the AQMD has rejected this request in the past, and that he implores the Subcommittee to request this information from the AQMD.

Mr. Mohajer commented that when a complaint is made to the AQMD, the intensity of the odor may not be the same at the time an inspector arrives at the location of the alleged odor source compared to the intensity of the odor at the

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time the complaint was made. While Ms. Betsey Landis agreed with Mr. Mohajer's comment, she also thought that the intensity of the odor upon inspection and the length of time between the initial complaint and the time of inspection could also be useful in indicating the seriousness of the odor complaint, especially if the odor still persists upon inspection. Mr. Hunter added that the real issue is that a complaint was made, and not the intensity of the odor. He also mentioned that AQMD produces monthly odor complaint summaries describing the type of odors noticed by the complainant. Ms. Landis requested staff to provide the Subcommittee with copies of the summary at future meetings. Mr. Ruiz added that staff will contact the AQMD for the feasibility of including odor intensities in their reports and possibly request the AQMD to make a presentation on this topic at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Ralph Kroy stated that the correlation between rainfall and odor complaints would provide a more comprehensive complaint chart and he inquired if rainfall could be added as a variable on the odor comparison charts. Ms. Landis replied that the updated charts do indicate rain events as a potential factor in the number of complaints, but at this time, there are already too many variables being considered that may be attributable to landfill odors. Mr. Ruiz stated staff will consider the feasibility of gathering data on rainfall as it pertains to odor, and present their findings to the Subcommittee.

Additionally, Mr. Ruiz asked staff about the December 19, 2014, event, in which 10 to 15 acres of trash were exposed due to heavy rain. This event was reflected on the Surface Gas Emissions and Number of Odor Complaints chart. He was concerned that this was a very large area for trash to be exposed. Mr. Sherman clarified that the entire acreage is not completely exposed; trash was only intermittently exposed due to the soil cover washing away from water runoff.

Task Force letter to Regional Water Quality Control Board Regarding Revision of Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Task Force's letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), as discussed in the previous Task Force meeting held on January 15, 2015. During that meeting, the Task Force passed a motion to provide additional comments to the Regional Board regarding the Regional Board's Public Notice on proposed revisions to the Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The Task Force sent a letter dated February 9, 2015, to the Regional Board incorporating the Task Force's additional comments.

### Fourth Quarter Vegetation Report

Mr. Russell Bukoff presented the Subcommittee with a combined update on the Fourth Quarter 2014 Vegetation Report as well as topics that were discussed at the February 17, 2015, meeting with Republic Services, Inc. (Republic), City Planning, Ms. Landis, the Independent Monitor, and Public Works regarding vegetation efforts at Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

#### Update on the County Side

- It is expected that the analysis of soil samples taken at the end of the second quarter of 2014 will be completed during the first quarter.

#### Update on the City Side

##### *Middle and Upper Decks*

- There have been no changes to the middle or upper decks, with the vegetated areas dominated by non-native species.
- JMA, Republic's consultant on sage mitigation, continues to investigate ways to improve soil conditions in these areas.

##### *Pilot Sage Mitigation Area*

- Many of the established native species have emerged from the summer dormancy period and are growing in the Pilot.
- Saltbush continues to be the dominant plant species which provides coverage for other plant species to take hold and begin to flourish.
- Plants are beginning to fill in the bare ground areas.
- Republic will be working with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to seek acceptance of the Venturan Sage Scrub species to be used on site.

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- Architerra Design Group, Republic's general consultant on vegetation, recommended the following:
  - Map out existing vegetation and dominant species; analyze areas that have minimal success, and base new seeding/planting recommendations off of this analysis.
  - Eliminate Saltbush from any future seeding projects.
  - Install straw wattles where they will provide an environment where seedlings can find cover and take root.
  - Replace dead container planted species by Spring 2015.
  - Modify the existing bubbler irrigation system so that established plants are capped off and new irrigation laterals are placed to support newly planted species.

Mr. Mohajer inquired whether the definitions of temporary slope, permanent slope, and non-permanent cut slope as described in the Fourth Quarter 2014 Vegetation Report were consistent with the definitions stipulated in the Conditional Use Permit No. 00-194-5 issued by the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning in 2007, as well as Ordinance 172933 issued by the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning in 1999. Mr. Hunter added that these definitions should include what slopes are located in the City and County areas – currently they are not. Mr. Mohajer also asked about the possibility of obtaining a better map outlining landfill borders, surrounding roads and depicting a clearer sense of where the slopes, as defined above, are located within the Landfill. Mr. Bukoff explained Republic has been working on identifying the various slope areas, but their analysis has not been completed. He continued to say that staff will work with Republic to make sure definitions are consistently used and a clearer map provided in future quarterly vegetation reports.

As Architerra Design Group indicated at the February 17, 2015, vegetation meeting that little weeding is occurring in the other sage mitigation areas, Ms. Landis commented that the frequency of weeding should be increased in the sage mitigation area as non-native plant species are growing faster than native species.

Mr. Mohajer inquired if the trees along the ridge line south of the Landfill that were destroyed by fire were replaced by Republic. Mr. Sherman reported that many of the trees destroyed by the fire had been replaced.

Mr. Kroy inquired if fast-growing trees can be planted in order to control the flow of wind and odors. Ms. Landis commented that Republic is experimenting with the mounding of soil, placement of boulders, and varying soil slopes to reduce

wind flow. These activities, combined with the fast growing plant species being introduced on site, are working towards reducing wind flow.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Ms. Anna Gov provided the Subcommittee with information regarding Finding of Conformance (FOC) reports submitted by landfill operators which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills. On January 22, 2015, the Fourth Quarter 2014 Reclaimable Anaerobic Composter (RAC) report was disseminated to the Task Force by e-mail. According to the Landfill operator, the RAC pilot project is still in the data collection stage and is scheduled to be completed around August of 2015. A final report is expected by the end of summer 2015.

The Fourth Quarter 2014 Monitoring Report for Chiquita Canyon Landfill was disseminated on January 29, 2015, to the Task Force. The report provided detailed information of incoming disposal tonnages broken down by various sources (e.g. residential, commercial), as well as material types. Based on this report, the Landfill received 512,000 tons in the fourth quarter of 2014. The total tonnage diverted for recycling was approximately 112,000 tons.

The Fourth Quarter 2014 Monitoring Program Report for the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility was disseminated on January 29, 2015, to the Task Force. This report provided the number of loads and tonnages of refuse received for combustion, the amount of energy produced, and the tonnage of treated ash. In the fourth quarter of 2014, the facility received 29,851 tons of refuse for combustion and produced a total of 19,959 megawatt hours of energy, and approximately 5,600 tons of ash.

In regard to the data reported by Chiquita Canyon Landfill, Mr. Hunter inquired if there is a permitted limit to the amount of materials that can be beneficially used at the Landfill. Mr. Mohajer replied there is a limit to the total tonnage that can be accepted at the Landfill, with specifications on how much can be applied toward disposal and beneficial use. Mr. Ruiz stated that while the Conditional Use Permit for the Landfill does not specify the limit on beneficial use materials, staff will verify material types being disposed and recycled at the various landfills and report on them at subsequent meetings. Mr. Mohajer also requested that staff report to the Subcommittee which landfills are required to submit quarterly FOC reports.

In addition, since the facility operator at Azusa Landfill has not yet replied to the January 14, 2015, [letter](#) sent by the Task Force requesting the facility to

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complete the FOC application, Mr. Mohajer requested staff to place an item regarding this facility's FOC application on the next Subcommittee agenda.

**V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no further discussion or comment.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.