

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

Minutes of May 21, 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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Ms. Patti Costa, Republic Services Inc.
Ricky Dhupar, Republic Services Inc.
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chuck Everett, Soukos Environmental USA
Anna Gov, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
Jonathan Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jalaine Madrid, 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
Alex Petronakis, Soukos Environmental USA
Saul Petronakis, Soukos Environmental USA
Ed Pupka, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Nicholas Sanchez, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 16, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the April 16, 2015, meeting was made by Mr. Carlos Ruiz and seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis. It passed with Mr. Mike Mohajer and Ms. Jeanne Biehler abstaining.

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 (SCL) for the month of April 2015.

During the month of April 2015, a total of 60 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with March 2015, the number of complaints received in April decreased by 80 percent (from 297 to 60 complaints). Compared to April 2014, the number of complaints in April 2015 decreased by 51 percent (from 122 to 60 complaints).

Mr. Manalo presented the Subcommittee with two sets of charts. The first set of [charts](#), provided by AQMD shows the complaints reported from 1995 to April 2015 with monthly breakdowns from 2009 to April 2015. The second set of [charts](#), developed by staff, shows the number of odor complaints compared with the amount of leachate collected and the number of surface gas exceedances from January 2009 to March 2015.

Mr. Mike Mohajer requested that future odor complaints update include information such as NOVs issued by the AQMD to the Landfill and complaints received by the AQMD from teachers and students from nearby schools.

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that the decrease in the odor complaints could be attributed to windy conditions in the area and stated that historically, this time of the year typically shows a downward trend in the number of odor complaints received by the AQMD.

Grading Issues

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided an update regarding two grading issues at SCL. The first issue is in regards to ongoing grading operations for the realignment of the access road at the City South portion of the Landfill. The second grading issue is in regards to the upcoming excavation of the hill located next to the recently constructed gas-to-energy facility.

In order for Public Works to determine if Republic Services, the operator of the Landfill, is in compliance with the grading requirements of the Landfill's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 00-194-(5), two verbal requests were made to Republic Services at meetings held on April 23 and May 5, 2015, and subsequently, via e-mail on May 11, 2015, to submit pertinent grading and drainage plans for review and approval.

Additionally, Public Works conducted a site inspection on May 14, 2015, with the Department of Regional Planning and Republic Services at the Landfill to discuss grading issues and inspect the subject project areas being graded. At the meeting, Public Works requested the Landfill to submit grading and drainage plans for review and approval, or submit proof of existing grading permits authorizing the grading of the subject projects.

Public Works also informed that any removal of Douglas fir trees, significant stands of oak in the areas described, areas located outside the approved Limits of Fill, or areas that may impact off-site properties may also require additional approvals from appropriate regulatory agencies as stipulated in the CUP. Public Works also advised Republic Services that no additional grading related to the subject projects shall be performed prior to obtaining approval from Public Works. On May 19, 2015, Republic Services submitted the requested grading documents and information to Public Works via e-mail. Those documents are currently under review.

Mr. Mohajer stated that Republic Services has been ignoring CUP conditions pertaining to obtaining grading permits for some time. He also noted that Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA), is limiting its inspections to just the LEA requirements and not taking into consideration CUP conditions and conditions of the City of Los Angeles Zoning Ordinance No. 172933, which should be monitored and enforced by the appropriate County and City agencies. SCL-LEA inspectors should take action when they witness such

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things as grading projects that haven't been permitted. Ms. Landis suggested inspectors be required to use a check list which details all the permit requirements on which their inspections are to be based so they can notify the appropriate enforcement agency of potential problems at the Landfill.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated over the past few months, Public Works has stepped-up its efforts in enforcing the conditions of the CUP by meeting with Republic Services, setting up expectations and following up on them. He stated that even though the current grading projects are primarily located on the City side of the Landfill, they have an impact on other areas of the Landfill and the drainage system. In general, Mr. Ruiz stated that Public Works has the authority to allow some adjustments on grading in accordance with the CUP if necessary for slope stability or drainage purposes. If that is the case, Public Works will require detailed drawings and analyses including slope stability. In regard to the current grading projects, staff has received the required documents and will review them to ensure the plans are in compliance with CUP.

Ms. Jeanne Biehler, of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, stated that she understood these concerns, and that she would bring these suggestions to her Program Director's attention, and inquire into implementing a cross-training program for the inspectors.

Mr. Hunter made a formal request for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) to receive copies of any communication between Public Works and SCL regarding grading issues.

AQMD's Pneumatic Testing & Recommended Changes at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided the Subcommittee with an update regarding the report titled [Pneumatic Testing & Recommended Changes at The Sunshine Canyon Landfill](#) dated March 11, 2015, by Hydro Geo Chem. Inc. (HGC), one of two consultants contracted by the Districts to conduct tests and make recommendations on how to improve the performance of the gas collection system and to address the associated landfill odors. HGC reported that the current gas collection system appeared to be working but recommended some improvements that would increase gas quality and reduce leakage and odors at SCL.

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AQMD is currently working with its second consultant, Dr. Ramin Yazdani, to validate the first report and provide further recommendations. This was confirmed by Mr. Ed Pupka of AQMD at the CAC meeting held last Thursday, May 14, 2015. According to Mr. Pupka, the study is not complete until it has been reviewed and validated by Dr. Yazdani.

After some discussion on whether the AQMD is accepting comments now or after the second study is released, Mr. Pupka clarified that the District will accept comments and consider them before releasing the final report.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to request that the Task Force staff send a comment letter AQMD regarding the report. It was seconded by Mr. Ruiz and passed unanimously.

First Quarter 2015 Vegetation Report

Mr. Russell Bukoff presented the Subcommittee with a combined update on the First Quarter 2015 Vegetation Report as well as topics that were discussed at the May 12, 2015, meeting with Republic Services, Architerra Design Group (ADG), Betsey Landis, the Independent Monitor, and Public Works regarding vegetation efforts at Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

At the February 2015 meeting, the Subcommittee requested staff to work with Republic Services to clarify the definitions of temporary, permanent, and non-permanent cut slopes and to provide a better map outlining landfill borders and surrounding roads. We are working with Republic Services to provide these changes by the next quarterly report.

Update on the County and City Sides

- Hydro-seeding activities were conducted in March and April 2015 on approximately 12 acres. Acreage was divided into 3 test areas to determine if one of the following methods works better than the other:
 - Area 1 -- hydro-seeded over Filltrexx LockDown Netting designed to increase slope stabilization and erosion control capabilities.
 - Area 2 -- hydro-seeded and then tracked vertically with a D-6 bulldozer to compact the surface as an erosion control method.

- Area 3 -- hydro-seeded with no additional stabilization or erosion controls.

Update on the County Side Sage Mitigation Area

- ADG, Republic Services general vegetation consultant, is working on developing plans for a trial site in the County Sage Mitigation Area by the end of the third quarter 2015. In the trial site, there are plans being worked on to amend the soil and consider the testing of stepped terracing and straw wattles (with niche pockets) side by side in order to improve re-vegetation efforts.

Update on the City Side Sage Mitigation Area

Middle and Upper Decks

- There have been no changes to the middle or upper decks. The vegetated areas within the Middle Deck continue to be dominated by non-native species.
- John Minch and Associates, Republic Services consultant on sage mitigation, reports that weeds continue to grow out of control and recommends a year-round weed control program be implemented.

Lower Deck (Pilot Sage Mitigation Area)

- Saltbush dominates the cover and is taller than other plant species; however, seedlings of native plant species are sprouting within the understory of the saltbush and are beginning to thrive.
- Due to lack of precipitation, the spring flush of color has been limited and some plants are beginning to go dormant.
- ADG mapped out areas where existing vegetation is lacking on site. Recommendations for these bare areas are being made to scarify and add additional straw wattles in these areas. Seeding should occur in the Fall/Winter of 2015/2016.

Mr. Hunter expressed his concern with ADG's plan to move a large amount of soil in and around the test area to create step terracing. While Mr. Hunter understood these were not the final construction plans, he wanted to make it known that excavating large amounts of soil in this area could create stability

issues. Ms. Patti Costa from Republic Services assured Mr. Hunter that the plans are conceptual and will be studied further before being implemented.

In addition, Ms. Landis further commented that the vegetation meeting group explored this issue, and it was discussed that this was probably not a viable plan due to the stability of the soil, the removal of native vegetation above the area, and that the area is difficult to access.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS

Ms. Anna Gov provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Finding of Conformance (FOC) reports submitted by landfill operators which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills.

The First Quarter 2015 FOC Status Report for Sunshine Canyon Landfill was disseminated to the Subcommittee on April 21, 2015. This report provides information on the incoming disposal and beneficial reuse tonnages during the first quarter of 2015. In comparison with the fourth quarter 2014, the amount of waste landfilled in the first quarter decreased by approximately one percent (from 604,000 to 598,000 tons). Compared to the first quarter of 2014, the amount of waste landfilled in the first quarter of 2015 increased by approximately 11 percent (from 539,000 to 598,000 tons). It should be noted that during the first quarter of this year, approximately 11,700 tons of non-buried recycle and beneficial reuse materials were accepted at the Landfill. The amount of non-buried, recycled and beneficial reuse materials in the fourth quarter of 2014 was approximately 4,000 tons.

The First Quarter 2015 Reclaimable Anaerobic Report (RAC) for Lancaster Landfill was disseminated to the Subcommittee on April 22, 2015. According to Lancaster Landfill, the RAC pilot project is still in the data collecting stage and the project is scheduled to be completed around August of 2015. The Landfill expects to have a final report in late summer 2015.

The First Quarter 2015 FOC Monitoring Report for Chiquita Canyon Landfill was disseminated to the Subcommittee on April 22, 2015. This report provides detailed information of incoming disposal tonnages broken down by various sources (such as residential, commercial) as well as material types (such as refuse, construction and debris, and green-waste) during the first quarter of 2015. Based on the report, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill received 418,000 tons in the

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first quarter of 2015. This amount was less than the fourth quarter of 2014, during which the total tonnage received was 512,000 tons. The total tonnage diverted for alternative daily cover during the first quarter of 2015 was about 18,500 tons, which was about 58 percent less compared to the fourth quarter of 2014, during which about 43,600 tons were diverted. The materials recovery facility fines and the materials that were diverted to road base for the first quarter of 2015 and the fourth quarter of 2014 were comparable.

The First Quarter 2015 FOC Monitoring Report for the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility was disseminated to the Subcommittee on April 28, 2015. This report provides the number of loads and tonnages of refuse received for combustion, the amount of energy produced, and the treated ash tonnages during the first quarter of 2015. Based on the report, the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility received approximately 31,000 tons during the first quarter of 2015, which was about four percent more compared to the fourth quarter of 2014 which was 30,000 tons.

Also during the first quarter of 2015, the facility produced a total of approximately 22,560 megawatt-hours of energy which was about 12 percent more compared to the fourth quarter of 2014. Additionally, the facility produced about 6,660 tons of ash, which was about 16 percent more compared to the fourth quarter of 2014.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the 12 percent increased megawatt-hours of energy at the facility were due to more organics or green materials being accepted. Mr. Mohajer suggested that the Sanitation District could be asked this question. Staff will check into this matter.

The First Semiannual 2015 Waste Characterization for Sunshine Canyon Landfill was disseminated to the Subcommittee on May 14, 2015. In comparison to the previous waste characterization report, about four percent less paper-waste and 28 percent less plastics-waste were received at SCL for this reporting period.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter expressed concerns over wastes that may be coming from outside of the Los Angeles County through Republic's contracted materials recovery facilities and transfer stations, and mentioned that Republic has previously indicated that any waste coming from outside of the County will no longer be reported.

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On this topic, Mr. Mohajer stated that after reviewing SCLs April 2015 Monthly LEA Report, he noticed that on two separate incidents in April, loads of waste from Ecology Auto Parts (Ecology) containing Iodine-131 had triggered the radiation sensors at the Landfill, which were later isolated and authorized for disposal by Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Mr. Mohajer pointed out that Republic cannot accept waste from outside of Los Angeles County. Consequently, he requested that staff find out where the waste from Ecology is coming from to ensure that it is not illegally disposed of at the Landfill.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.