

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

Minutes of June 18, 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
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Anna Gov, 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
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:37 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 21, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the May 21, 2015, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Ms. Jeanne Biehler, and it was unanimously approved.

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 (Landfill) for the month of May 2015.

During the month of May, a total of 12 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with April 2015, the number of complaints received in May decreased by 80 percent (from 60 to 12 complaints). Compared to May 2014, the number of complaints this May decreased by 77 percent (from 52 to 12 complaints).

As requested by the Subcommittee in last month's meeting, staff will now report on complaints received from schools in the vicinity of the Landfill and any violations issued by AQMD. Mr. Manalo reported that of the 12 complaints received in May, none were from nearby schools or from complainants who identified themselves as parents of students attending one of the nearby schools. There were no Notices of Violation issued by AQMD in the month of May.

Mr. Manalo addressed Mr. Mohajer's inquiry made at last month's meeting regarding the origination of the waste containing Iodine-131 (I-131) received at the Landfill from Ecology trucks that triggered the radiation sensors at the Landfill on two separate incidents in April 2015. Staff ascertained from the Landfill operator that the waste hauled by Ecology trucks originated from various facilities within the County of Los Angeles and not from outside the County.

Mr. Mohajer commented that he wanted to know the name of the generator of the material containing I-131, so they can be contacted to prevent further

occurrences. Ms. Jeanne Biehler stated that in most cases I-131 is detected in medical wastes and it may be difficult or impossible to isolate the source of the waste. In any case, Mr. Mohajer stated that there needs to be a system or a measure in place at the transfer stations to prevent radioactive materials from reaching the Landfill.

Mr. Rob Sherman stated that, the issue is not necessarily with Ecology, whose trucks are being used by Republic's transfer stations to transport waste to the Landfill. He noted that other company's trucks have also triggered the radiation sensors at the Landfill. He explained that the radiation sensors at the transfer stations should be able to detect radioactive waste before it is loaded onto the transfer trucks. He also informed that the transfer station's radiation sensors are calibrated at a lower level than at the Landfill. As a solution, Mr. Sherman intends to work with his transfer station operators to recalibrate their radiation sensors to the same background level as the Landfill.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz asked what happens when a load of waste triggers the sensors at the transfer station. Mr. Sherman said the trucks are isolated and Public Health is notified to investigate the load to determine if it is safe to transport to the Landfill. Mr. Ruiz also wanted to know what Sunshine Canyon Landfill–Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) can do to track the source of the waste and the actions that could be taken by them. Ms. Biehler replied that at this time, the SCL-LEA is not tracking the sources of the radioactive wastes and added that it would be extremely difficult to do so. She commented that it would be best to resolve these situations at the transfer stations.

Brush Fire at Sunshine Canyon Landfill, June 13, 2015

Mr. Sherman provided the Subcommittee with an overview of Republic Services, Inc.'s (Republic) [letter](#) to the SCL-LEA regarding a brushfire that occurred on June 13, 2015. He explained that, at approximately 7:45 p.m., on-site personnel noticed a loss of power at the Landfill, saw flames near Flare 3 which is located on the western side of the Landfill and promptly called 911. The Fire Department responded and quickly extinguished the flames. Approximately three quarters of an acre was burned. A Fire Department Captain gave a comment to the local media that the fire may have started from a methane burn off. Mr. Sherman stated that this is unlikely since Flare 3 had not been operating for two weeks.

Mr. Sherman stated that he believes the fire started from a fallen power pole causing a spark to ignite. Ms. Landis agreed that the fallen power pole may have caused the fire upon looking at the pictures attached in the letter and seeing the burn pattern. She also noticed that the base of the power pole looked dry-rotted, possibly causing it to fall over. She suggested that Republic check the other power poles to make sure they are well-grounded and able to withstand variable tensions as new wires are put in. This would prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.

Status Report on Adopted Board Motion by the SCL-LEA Board of Directors

Mr. Ruiz addressed the Subcommittee regarding the [Status Report on Adopted Board Motion \(Status Report\)](#) dated June 17, 2015, sent to the SCL-LEA Board of Directors by Mr. David Thompson in response to a motion introduced by Board member Mitchell Englander. In the Status Report, the Board directs several actions for the SCL-LEA to take in order to mitigate the odor problems at the Landfill. Mr. Ruiz stated while Public Works welcomes SCL-LEA's involvement, the actions described in the Status Report would cause the operator to violate Public Works' 9-inch soil cover requirement and would put the operator in an untenable situation. Mr. Ruiz expressed concern that the SCL-LEA may be compromising the long term solution for a short-term action.

Mr. Ruiz also informed the Subcommittee that Public Works has been in discussion with the operator regarding the implementation of an alternative daily cover pilot project. While Public Works is open to the said project, Mr. Ruiz emphasized that Public Works will not change its requirements unless measures are in-place to provide for a long-term solution and the requirements of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are preserved.

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa added to Mr. Ruiz's comments by stating that Condition No. 79 of the CUP prohibits the operator to implement any changes that have not been previously addressed in CEQA documents for the current Landfill without prior notification of these changes to interested community groups in the immediate vicinity of the Landfill. Mr. Ruiz further explained that the SCL-LEA report seems to be more concerned with maximizing the efficiency of the *current* landfill gas collection system rather than designing a system that can handle the volume of gas being generated at the Landfill now and in the future, and that is

capable of operating with a 6-inch or 9-inch soil cover requirement in place. Mr. Mohajer added that the SCL-LEA has no authority to overrule the CUP.

Further discussion ensued and since the SCL-LEA's legal counsel is planning to issue a proposed Stipulated Order of Abatement requiring Republic to implement the actions, Ms. Landis proposed the Task Force to write a comment letter to County Counsel seeking her advice on this matter. Nonetheless, Mr. Ruiz suggested the Task Force wait before taking any action on this matter until staff has had a chance to confer with County Counsel and the SCL-LEA's Counsel and form a consensus regarding whether the SCL-LEA can take such action in contradiction to Public Works' requirements. Mr. Ruiz will report on the results of staff's consultation with County Counsel and the SCL-LEA at next month meeting. The Subcommittee agreed to Mr. Ruiz's suggestion.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS

There was no Finding of Conformance Quarterly Reports to discuss.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no discussion/public comment.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.