

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

Minutes of February 18, 2016, Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Conference Room B, Headquarters Building
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, 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:

Martins Aiyetiwa, 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
Nam Doan, 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
Michael Harmon, 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
Trishena Robinson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
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 JANUARY 21, 2016, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to place the item, "Approval of January 21, 2016, Meeting Minutes," on the February 18, 2016, Meeting Agenda was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Bahman Hajjaliakbar, and it passed unanimously. A motion to approve the Minutes of the January 21, 2016, meeting was made by Mr. Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Hajjaliakbar, and it was unanimously approved, subject to the following revisions:

- Place a comma after the word "reports," and delete the comma after the word "if" on line 2 of the fourth paragraph on page 4 of the Minutes.
- Insert the word "in" before the word "which" on line 3 of the first paragraph on page 5 of the Minutes.
- Delete the word "of" on line 3 of the fifth paragraph on page 7 of the Minutes.

III. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Department of Regional Planning's Response to Task Force's Inquiries on its Determination of the Landfill's Over All CUP Compliance

Ms. Anna Gov provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning's (DRP) response to Task Force's inquiries on its determination of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill's (Landfill) overall Conditional Use Permit (CUP) compliance.

The Task Force sent a letter, dated December 15, 2015, to DRP requesting a copy of the health studies, findings from air quality monitoring, and any other documents/factors that DRP used to arrive at the conclusions that air quality monitoring has not shown any evidence of an imminent substantial risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the local community. The Task Force's letter specifically asked for DRP's basis for determining that the Landfill is in overall compliance with the CUP, considering that the odor problem not only persists,

but has been exacerbated over the past 18 months. To emphasize its point, the Task Force also provided DRP with statistics describing the number of odor complaints and Notice of Violations issued to the Landfill within this time period by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Rule No. 402.

Ms. Gov stated that based on DRP's response letter, dated February 1, 2016, it appears that DRP is relying on the study conducted by Sonoma Technology (Sonoma), an independent air quality consultant, to conclude that there is no evidence of an imminent risk to the health, safety, and welfare of the local community. Ms. Gov also indicated that the Sonoma study was only focusing on black carbon and PM 10 from emissions due to vehicular and other operational activities and did not focus on odor. For this reason, staff concluded that DRP's letter did not fully address the Task Force's concerns relating to the odor nuisances being created by the Landfill. Consequently, staff recommended that Task Force ask DRP to reexamine their response and provide a direct response to the Task Force's requested information regarding the odor problem at the Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for staff to send a letter to DRP, stating that since DRP has not addressed the question about odor, nor substantiated the concerns regarding health problems caused by odors at the Landfill, the Task Force does not agree with DRP's conclusion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis and passed with Mr. Christopher Salomon abstaining.

Odor Complaints

Mr. Nam Doan provided the Subcommittee with an update on odor complaints at the Landfill for the month of January 2016.

During the month of January 2016, 100 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. In comparison with December 2015, the number of complaints received in January 2016 increased by 54 percent (from 65 to 100 complaints). Compared to January 2015, the number of complaints in January 2016 decreased by 61 percent (from 259 to 100 complaints).

Mr. Doan reported that out of the 100 complaints received in January 2016, 21 complaints were called in from nearby schools or from complainants who identified themselves as parents of students attending one of the nearby schools.

As of February 17, 2016, AQMD has not issued a Notice of Violation to the Landfill for the month of January 2016.

Mr. Doan also provided the Subcommittee a copy of the latest summary of [odor complaints](#) by AQMD, along with updated odor complaint [charts](#) depicting the number of odor complaints, surface gas exceedances and the amount of leachate collected in the fourth quarter of 2015. These charts also include a timeline of noted special occurrences and operational enhancements of the Landfill's environmental protection and control systems. The information provided on these charts was taken from monitoring reports submitted by Republic Services, Inc. (Republic Services) to various agencies as well as updates from various meetings involving the Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer commented that, in his opinion, regulatory agencies have failed to make the operators of the Landfill comply with the requirements of the CUP. He stated that no other landfills operating within the County of Los Angeles have had the same degree of odor problems observed at Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Update on the use of Alternative Daily Cover

Mr. Karlo Manalo presented the Subcommittee with an update on the status of the Landfill's Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project.

On February 18, 2016, staff received Republic Service's ADC Pilot Project monthly report, which stated that there were no operational issues with applying the ADC material as a daily cover in the month of January 2016. To date, approximately 1.6 million square feet of the ADC material was used for daily cover and the application of soil used as a daily cover has been reduced by 40 percent.

Mr. Mohajer commented that a 40 percent reduction in the use of soil as daily cover equates to more trash per volume that can be placed in the Landfill. Mr. Gerardo Villalobos stated the 40 percent reduction in soil will ultimately cause more trash to be placed in the Landfill, but the amount of trash coming into the Landfill on a daily basis will not change since the permitted capacity will remain the same.

Mr. Wayne Hunter inquired if the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) can supply data on the ADC's performance results for testing

the levels of methane and other gases emitting from the Landfill. Mr. Villalobos clarified that the purpose of the ADC is to control the trash odors, not methane emissions. He stated that the ADC is performing well based on the observations made by the SCL-LEA.

Update of the Los Angeles County Health Officer Activities on the Odor Impact on Public/Residents and Children Health and Safety

Mr. Villalobos stated that Dr. Cyrus Rangan and his staff at the Toxic Epidemiology Program could not attend this month's Subcommittee meeting to provide an update on the Los Angeles County Health Officer Activities on odor impacts to the community around the Landfill. However, Dr. Rangan met with approximately 100 community members presently living near the Landfill on February 9, 2016. At the request of the community members, the Public Health Department was the only agency present at the meeting. Mr. Villalobos stated he will continue his efforts to ask Dr. Rangan to attend a Subcommittee meeting in the near future.

Mr. Mohajer referred to a news article he disseminated to the Task Force on February 17, 2016, which Dr. Rangan stated his agency does not hold any enforcement powers in addressing the odor problem. Mr. Mohajer took exception to Dr. Rangan's statement, citing Chapters 11.02.190, 11.02.192, and 11.02.300 of the Los Angeles County Code, which gives the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health enforcement powers to address odor issues.

Status of New Access Road and Tree Planting

Mr. Manalo provided the Subcommittee with a brief update on the status of the access road and vegetation projects at the Landfill.

At the May 16, 2013, Subcommittee meeting, staff made a presentation on the planned access road project at the Landfill. This project, which consists of four different phases, is tentatively scheduled to be completed by late 2019.

Phase 1, which includes the construction of the temporary bypass road and currently exists as the main access to the site for trash disposal, began in May 2014 and is currently at 90 percent completion. Republic Services is awaiting completion of Liner CC-3B Part 1 Berm before final seeding is applied by March of this year.

Phase 2, which consists of two independent roads, one dedicated for disposal of trash, and one for grading at the base of the terminal buttress, is planned for April 2017 to September 2017.

Phase 3, which consists of abandoning the existing temporary bypass road once the terminal buttress reaches design elevations and leaving a single road for all traffic at the Landfill, is planned for April 2018 to September 2018.

Lastly, Phase 4, which consists of vegetation of the slopes and hydroseeding of areas likely to be visible from outside of the Landfill, is planned for April 2019 to September 2019.

Ms. Landis asked which tree species will be planted. Mr. Manalo stated Republic Services has not developed the design plans. Ms. Landis requested that she would like to see the design plans before any vegetation is planted. In addition, Mr. Mohajer requested that monthly reports be provided on this issue.

Fourth Quarter 2015 Vegetation Report

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided the Subcommittee with a combined update on the [Fourth Quarter 2015 Vegetation Report](#), as well as topics that were discussed at the February 16, 2016, quarterly meeting with Republic Services, Architerra Design Group, the Los Angeles City Department of City Planning (City Planning), the Independent Monitor, DRP, and Public Works (Meeting Participants) regarding vegetation efforts at the Landfill.

As conditions remain unchanged in the County Side Sage Mitigation Area and on Decks A and B of the City Side Sage Mitigation Area, Mr. Bukoff focused his discussion on vegetation to the City Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project (Pilot Project) Area.

On December 1, 2015, Public Works sent an e-mail to Republic Services requesting that a summary report be included in the Fourth Quarter 2015 Vegetation Report, which should include the following:

- Lessons learned from the Pilot Project
- Successful practices developed
- List of the specific remaining data needed to complete the Pilot Project
- Estimation on additional time needed to collect the remaining data before

Republic applies the lessons learned and practices developed to other areas [City Sage Mitigation Area (Decks A and B) and County Sage Mitigation Area].

As a result, Republic Services provided a list of successful practices in Attachment 5 of the Fourth Quarter 2015 Vegetation Report, such as, selective pruning of the Saltbush to make room for other plant species to grow, targeting invasive weed species for removal, and use of boulders to provide a sheltered environment for seedlings to establish. However, the list of remaining data and time needed to complete the Pilot Project were not provided. Republic Services indicates that the Pilot Project is an on-going project and requires additional monitoring, maintenance, and enhancements; therefore, the end of the project cannot be estimated. However, a sufficient criterion for determining the end of the project has not been provided.

The Meeting Participants acknowledged the work of Republic Services, since vegetation on site continues to grow and fill out the project area, but it was the consensus of the group that Republic Services needs to apply what they have learned from the Pilot Project to City Decks A and B, or the County Sage Mitigation Area. It was discussed that the best place to do this is in Deck A where the soil is native and native plant species are already growing. Republic Services stated they would like to move forward with such a project, but they are constrained by their budget and would need direction from the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to implement additional projects. Mr. Nick Hendricks, from City Planning, and Mr. Bukoff agreed to notify their respective managers about this for further discussion.

Ms. Landis suggested the Subcommittee make a motion to ask the Task Force to write a letter to TAC, acknowledging the success of the Pilot Project and recommending TAC to require Republic Services to begin revegetation of other areas of the Landfill, starting with Deck A. Mr. Mohajer commented TAC's duty is to enforce what the CUP and other permits require, and he added that the letter must also be sent to DRP and City Planning, since they are the responsible permitting agencies. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Mohajer made the motion to ask the Task Force to send the letter to DRP, City Planning and TAC recommending revegetation efforts commence onto Deck A of the Landfill, pursuant to the appropriate permit requirements. Ms. Landis seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

IV. CALABASAS LANDFILL REVISED SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT AND SITE CHANGES

Ms. Gov provided the Subcommittee with an update to the Calabasas Landfill Revised Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) and site changes.

During last month's Subcommittee meeting, staff reported that on June 1, 2015, Calabasas Landfill submitted an application for revisions to SWFP to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), and it is currently with CalRecycle for consideration. The Subcommittee requested staff to inquire with County Counsel on whether a Finding of Conformance (FOC) would be required. Staff met with County Counsel, who stated that the current Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE) does not have any exception for not requiring a facility to apply for a FOC if the facility revised its SWFP. Staff is currently working on the items that need to be submitted by the facility operator and will report back to the Subcommittee at next month's meeting. Ms. Gov also noted that the revised SWFP was on the February 16, 2016, CalRecycle's monthly public meeting agenda for consideration and action. Staff will report on the adopted action at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

V. DISCUSSION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS

Ms. Gov provided the Subcommittee with a status update on the FOC reports submitted by landfill operators, which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills.

Staff disseminated the Fourth Quarter 2015 FOC Monitoring Report for Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility on January 26, 2016. 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 fourth quarter of 2015. Based on the report, the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy facility received 34,462 tons during the fourth quarter of 2015, which was approximately 15 percent more compared to the tons received in the fourth quarter of 2014. The facility produced a total of 23,823 megawatt-hours of energy, which was 4 percent more compared to the megawatt-hours of energy produced in the fourth quarter of 2014. Additionally, the facility produced 6,314 tons of ash in the fourth quarter of 2015, which was 14 percent more compared to the tons of ash produced in the fourth quarter of 2014.

Staff also disseminated the Fourth Quarter 2015 Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. This report provides information on the incoming disposal and beneficial reuse tonnages during the fourth quarter of 2015. In comparison with the third quarter 2015, the amount of waste landfilled in the fourth quarter decreased by 5 percent, from 615,000 to 587,000 tons. Compared to fourth quarter of 2014, the amount of waste landfilled in the fourth quarter of 2015 decreased by approximately 3 percent, from 604,000 to 587,000 tons. Staff noted that during the fourth quarter of 2015, approximately 8,300 tons of non-buried, recycled and beneficial reuse materials were accepted at the Landfill. The amount of non-buried, recycled and beneficial reuse materials in the third quarter of 2015 were approximately 5,300 tons.

VI. COMPOST FACILITY FIRE – BURRTEC WASTE SERVICES

Mr. Michael Harmon presented the Subcommittee with a summary regarding Burrtec Waste Services' compost facility fire that occurred on February 7, 2016, at approximately 9:30 p.m. when firefighters responded to reports of a compost fire at the Burrtec Waste Services center in the 13300 block of Napa Street in Fontana, California. This facility is an open air, window-composting facility with an accompanying materials recovery facility. Firefighters arrived on scene to find multiple piles of green waste on fire, threatening vehicles parked on the property. Staff is currently working on verifying the cause of the compost fire with the facility, as well as possible mitigation and abatement for these types of incidents.

Mr. Harmon explained that aerobic composting takes advantage of natural decomposition processes, most of which are exothermic and cause exponential increases in heat. With such a process, steaming stacks of green waste are a daily occurrence among facilities. In addition, smoldering and smoking stacks may have the potential to escalate to flaming fires.

With the inception of AB 1826 in 2014, which provides goals for the increased diversion of organic waste from landfills, current facilities are expected to increase production and subsequently, new facilities are also expected to become permitted to process additional organic waste.

Effective Jan 1, 2016, CalRecycle has published new regulatory text pertaining to the transfer and processing of compostable material in Titles 14 and 27 of the California Code of Regulations. The regulations were submitted to the

Office of Administrative Law, in spite of the concerns expressed by the Task Force that the regulations do not provide clear direction or proper regulatory oversight to manage the influx of composting activities to be expected in light of the State's organic diversion goals, especially concerning open-air composting operations.

The potential for fire related emissions, similar to odors, can proliferate quickly to local communities and may create a significant negative impact to the health and overall quality of life to the public. The LEA is now tasked with providing additional oversight for multiple new and/or expanding facilities in the upcoming years to bridge the gap undefined by the regulations set forth by CalRecycle.

Mr. Mohajer asked if there were any specific sections of the new regulations that address these problems pertaining to fires. Ms. Landis replied that there is nothing in the regulations that address fires and CalRecycle is not taking responsibility for what happened at these compost sites. Mr. Mohajer further commented that CalRecycle, with the implementation of AB 341 adopted in 2011, is responsible for requiring jurisdictions to divert 75 percent of organic waste from landfills by the year 2020. In order to reach that goal, organic materials must be composted, therefore, CalRecycle should be responsible for mitigating problems that may arise.

After additional discussion, the Subcommittee requested staff to identify the number of composting sites that need to be inspected per year in the State of California and the responsible agencies over health and safety for discussion at next month's meeting

VII. SOUTHEAST RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY AND COMMERCE REFUSE-TO-ENERGY FACILITY

Mr. Doan provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Southeast Resource Recovery Facility (SERRF) and Commerce Refuse-To-Energy Facility (CREF).

SERRF is a solid waste processing plant located in the City of Long Beach, which is operated through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the City of Long Beach and the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (LACSD). SERRF's maximum permitted daily capacity, per SWFP, is 2,240 tons per day (tpd) and on average receives approximately 1,470 tpd and processes 1,257 tpd. Currently, SERRF is in a Power Purchase Agreement with Southern California

Edison for 30 years, which is set to expire on December 7, 2018. Staff inquired with SERRF on their plans for the future once the agreement expires. Staff was informed that the facility intends to enter into a new agreement with Edison or partner with a new company, dependent on the most economically favorable available options. Although the intention of the facility is to enter into a new agreement, if necessary, SERRF indicated the facility could have enough reserve to operate past the December 7, 2018, expiration date for a limited time. The facility anticipates on making a decision to operate or shut down the plant at least 1-year prior to expiration of the agreement.

CREF is a solid waste processing plant located in City of Commerce, California. CREF is currently in a JPA with the City of Commerce and the LACSD. The facility's maximum permitted daily capacity is 1,000 tpd, and on average receives approximately 333 tpd and processes 285 tpd. Currently, CREF is in a Power Purchase Agreement with Southern California Edison for 30 years, which is set to expire on December 31, 2016. Staff inquired with CREF's staff on the facility's future plans. Staff was informed that the facility intends to enter into a new power Purchase Agreement; however, a company has not been determined at this time. Depending on the options available, the facility will determine the most favorable options to either continuing operations or shut down. Generally, in both cases, if either facility were to shut down, other facilities in- or out-of-County would need to accommodate the solid waste handled by these facilities.

The Subcommittee requested staff to give an update on both SERRF and CREF at the October 2016, Subcommittee meeting.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.