

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

Minutes of March 17, 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
Carlos Ruiz, 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
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory
Committee
Jason Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
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.
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joseph Venzon, 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 11:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 18, 2016, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the February 18, 2016, meeting was made by Mr. Christopher Salomon, seconded by Mr. Gerardo Villalobos, and approved with Mr. Mike Mohajer abstaining, subject to the following revision:

- Delete number 21 and replace it with number 18 after the word “February” on line 2 of Item II on page 2 of the Minutes.

III. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Nam Doan provided the Subcommittee with an update on odor complaints at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Landfill) for the month of February 2016.

During the month of February 2016, 188 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with January 2016, the number of complaints received in February 2016 increased by 88 percent (from 100 to 188 complaints). Compared to February 2015, the number of complaints in February 2016 increased by 58 percent (from 119 to 188 complaints).

Mr. Doan reported that out of the 188 complaints received in February 2016, 19 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 March 17, 2016, AQMD has issued four Notices of Violation (NOV) to the Landfill for the month of February 2016. AQMD issued two NOVs to the Landfill in the month of January, but the Subcommittee was not informed of this at the February 18, 2016, Subcommittee meeting since the NOVs were issued after the meeting was held.

Update on the use of Alternative Daily Cover

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

Based on the March 16, 2016, ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic Services, Inc. (Republic Services), on February 9, 2016, a small flap of the ADC material, approximately 5 feet in length, was found open likely due to high wind conditions during the previous night. The problem was fixed by site personnel. No other occurrences were reported for the month of February. There were also no observations of fire, vectors, scavenging, or blowing litter at the working face during the reporting period.

Based on UltraSystems' inspection of the Landfill on March 9, 2016, Ultrasystems reported that high winds blowing at 6 to 18 miles per hour during the time of the inspection did not affect the ADC and there was no trash exposure in areas where the ADC material was applied. UltraSystems also monitored community areas between 7 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. and at 11 a.m. and did not detect any landfill odors.

Mr. Manalo reported that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency's (SCL-LEA) also inspected the Landfill and reported that the ADC material was effective in covering the working face during the month of February.

Mr. Mohajer asked what impact the use of the ADC has had in reducing the odor at the Landfill. Mr. Manalo replied that based on odor complaint reports, there is no clear trend in the fluctuation of odor complaints. He stated that since the implementation of the ADC, there has been no visible impact on the decrease or increase of odor complaints.

Mr. Villalobos added that CalRecycle visited the Landfill on March 1, 2016, and conducted their regularly scheduled inspection, which is done once every 18 months. CalRecycle determined the site to be in compliance in regards to the operations taking place at the Landfill. CalRecycle also conducted a neighborhood odor survey prior to the start of Landfill operations on that day and no odor was detected at that time. Mr. Villalobos also stated that the SCL-LEA is examining the time, which the odor complaints are being made by residents of the nearby neighborhoods to better understand the cause of the odors from the Landfill. He added that the SCL-LEA believes the odors originate from the waste that is being imported to the Landfill on the day of the complaints. Ms. Betsey Landis commented that upon studying the previous odor complaint reports, the odor complaints are called in to the AQMD hotline around 8 a.m. after the Landfill has been operating for approximately 2 hours. Mr. Villalobos added that wind speed and direction are also being analyzed to establish some kind of correlation to the time odor complaints are being made.

Ms. Landis also commented that a fair number of odor complaints are made in the evening hours and questioned why complaints peak at certain times. She suggested that the topography of the Landfill may factor into the odor problem and maybe the fill cells could be engineered to reduce wind flow. Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated that the continued odor complaints highlight the need to keep searching for the sources of odor and take the necessary actions to correct the problem.

Mr. Wayne Hunter stated if the odor complaints being reported originate from the waste haulers delivering trash to the Landfill every morning, then it is impossible for the Landfill to operate at their present location and not have an impact on the surrounding neighborhood. He stated the odor problem at the Landfill is not improving and the Landfill operations should be shut down until the problem is fixed. Mr. Salomon responded that while he understood the community's concern with the Landfill, he is not aware of any legal authority the Task Force has to shut down the Landfill's operations. He further explained that this authority is in the purview of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP), Solid Waste Facilities Permit, and under purview of other regulatory agencies. The Task Force offers a forum for discussion but does not have the authority to take such formal action. Mr. Mohajer stated while it is true that the Task Force does not have the authority to shut down operations at the Landfill, the Task Force does have the authority to identify problems and inform the regulatory agencies to enforce their requirements.

Mr. Mohajer commented that he understood that the purpose of the ADC is not to control odor, but to prevent surface emissions, which may contain odors. Mr. Salomon generally agreed with Mr. Mohajer. He said if there is no significant difference in odors resulting from the use of ADC or soil, he queried if the wind conditions are the cause of the evening odors, not the cover material. He stated Republic Services and staff should work together to find a correlation between odor complaints and wind data coming in from the weather station to provide an idea of what are the functional elements that are creating the odors.

Mr. Villalobos stated that the SCL-LEA is currently working on a motion introduced by City of Los Angeles Council Member, Mitch Englander, at the SCL-LEA Board of Directors Meeting on September 19, 2015, to examine if enhancements to the intermediate cover will control surface emissions and contribute to a reduction of evening odor complaints, primarily associated with landfill gas.

Status of New Access Road and Tree Planting

Mr. Manalo provided the Subcommittee with a brief update on the status of the temporary bypass road, which currently serves as the main access road to the Working Face. Republic informed staff that the construction of Liner CC-3B, Part I berm will not be complete until late March due to recent and forecasted rain. Therefore, the remaining part of Phase I, which involves the final seeding of the downward slope from the bottom of the bypass road, is expected to be complete in early April.

Ms. Landis expressed an interest in viewing the list of seeds, and the type of tree species that will be planted. Mr. Manalo stated that according to Republic, the list of seeds is the same one that has been approved by the vegetation meeting group which meets quarterly to discuss vegetation efforts at the Landfill. Mr. Manalo added that there is no clear timeline set for when any seeding or plantings will take place.

Mr. Mohajer requested for this item to remain on the monthly Subcommittee Meeting Agenda until the projects are completed.

Public Health Presenting on Potential Health Impacts Associated with Odors Generated by Landfill Gas

Mr. Villalobos stated that although Dr. Cyrus Rangan had confirmed he would be present for today's Subcommittee meeting, he was unable to attend the meeting today.

IV. COMPOSTING FACILITY INSPECTIONS AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT STATEWIDE

Mr. Joseph Venzon presented the Subcommittee with research findings on compost facility inspection regulations in the State of California, as requested by the Subcommittee for this month's meeting.

Mr. Venzon stated in total, there are currently 359 active composting facilities in California, which require frequent operation inspection for adherence to State Regulations. Per the California Code of Regulations Sections 17854 to 17862.1, the majority of these facilities require continuous inspection at a frequency of once every 3 months by each facility's respective Local

Enforcement Agency (LEA). The LEA acts on behalf of CalRecycle who maintains the overall responsibility in ensuring the facility's operations are conducted in accordance with proper health and safety regulations. The stringency of enforcement with respect to these regulations may vary by facility, depending on the facility's classification. Each facility could classify as one of four regulatory tiers. The designation of a facility's regulatory tier is dependent on two factors, the type of compost material handled on-site, and the volume of material handled on-site.

Ms. Landis asked how the frequency of inspections vary in the State. Mr. Venzon responded by saying that the frequency could vary from monthly to yearly if a composting facility is granted an exception by the LEA and CalRecycle. Mr. Venzon added that a facility may apply to their respective LEA for reduced inspections; if it is deemed, the facility does not pose any additional risk to public safety. Mr. Villalobos discussed that the LEA would look at the frequency of inspections made and how well a facility complies with inspection orders. He also added the frequency of inspections is based on the type of permit or notification a facility holds. He stated the frequency could also depend on the type and volume of materials the facility receives, as well as the type of activity the facility performs. For example, a composting facility, which is required to be inspected quarterly, may be inspected monthly if the LEA determines there are problems that need to be corrected at the facility.

Mr. Ruiz asked if granting an exception for decreased inspection frequency to a composting facility was common. Mr. Villalobos stated that within Los Angeles County's Jurisdiction, every composting facility is inspected quarterly. Mr. Venzon provided additional information that only 15 percent of the facilities in the State are granted exceptions. Mr. Mohajer requested staff to provide a brief report expanding on the inspection requirements and schedules for composting and mulching facilities by the LEA, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, AQMD, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mohajer requested staff to place Calabasas Landfill's Revised Solid Waste Facility Permit and site changes, as well as any updates regarding Lancaster Landfill on future Subcommittee Agendas until the projects are resolved.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.