

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

**Minutes of July 20, 2017, Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Debra Bogdanoff, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
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  
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory  
Committee  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Vu Truong, 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 11:11 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 15, 2017, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the June 15, 2017, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz and unanimously approved.

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

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [odor complaints](#) at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) for the month of June 2017.

During the month of June 2017, 10 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with May 2017 the number of complaints received in June 2017 decreased by 47 percent (from 19 to 10 complaints). Compared to June of last year, the number of complaints received this June decreased by 86 percent (from 74 to 10 complaints). The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 10,846 and the total number of complaints received this year is 873.

As of July 20, 2017, AQMD has issued no Notices of Violation (NOVs) to the Landfill in the month of May 2017. The total number of NOVs issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 215.

### Update on the Use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)

Mr. Truong reported that staff received the ADC Pilot Project monthly reports from Republic Service, Inc. (Republic Services) on June 15 and July 14, 2017, for the months of May and June 2017, respectively. Republic Services reported that site operations personnel are ensuring additional ballast material is placed along the edges of ADC as noted on the daily inspection reports.

The amount of geosynthetic panel product used for May 2017 was 16 rolls (1,496,100 square feet) and for June 2017 was 16.75 rolls (1,566,125 square feet). It is estimated there continues to be a 40 percent reduction in the use of soil used

for daily cover in the months of May and June 2017 by using the geosynthetic panel product instead of soil. No observations of fire, vector, scavenging, or blowing litter at the working face related to the use of the ADC material were reported for the month of May and June 2017.

#### Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Mr. Michael Harmon provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project at the Landfill. On June 15 and July 15, 2017, respectively, Republic Services submitted the monthly progress reports for the months of May and June 2017, providing methane surface emissions monitoring data and daily visual inspections of the cover material enhancements.

For the month of May, the instantaneous data report showed four of the eight grid locations with levels of methane concentration above 500 parts per million (ppm). For the month of June, the instantaneous data report showed two of the eight grid locations with levels of methane concentration above 500 ppm. The integrated data for the month of May showed two of the eight grid locations above 25 ppm, and the June report showed one of the eight grid locations above 25 ppm.

On July 14, 2017, Mr. Rob Sherman of Republic Services sent an e-mail response to the Task Force's request for information of June 20, 2017, regarding corrective actions taken to reduce surface emission exceedances. Mr. Sherman conveyed that mitigation measures and corrective actions implemented by the Landfill to address methane gas surface emissions are in accordance with AQMD Rule 1150.1.

Mr. Ruiz asked if Republic Services retested the grid locations with exceedances. Mr. Harmon stated that Republic Services was contacted on June 20, 2017, regarding the corrective actions to the exceedances; they stated that the gas well heads were adjusted to reduce the surface emissions. Mr. Ruiz asked staff to follow-up on the results of the corrective actions.

#### Update on County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health's (DPH) NOV Referral to the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (DRP) on November 9, 2016

Mr. Maurice Pantoja provided an update on DPH's letter of May 30, 2017, to DRP requesting DRP to issue an NOV to the Landfill based on non-compliance with the

Notice of Abatement issued by DPH on November 9, 2016. Mr. Pantoja stated that it is his understanding that DRP is waiting to see if the number of odor complaints continue to decrease before deciding whether to issue an NOV to the Landfill. Mr. Hunter commented that an NOV should be issued as Republic Services has not met the requirements of the Notice of Abatement regardless of the fact odor complaints are beginning to go down.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan previously reported that on April 19, 2017, the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission certified the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and approved the new Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Chiquita Canyon Landfill. The Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on June 27, 2017, to hear various groups' appeals on the CUP. At the hearing, the project applicant and proponents testified in favor of the project and the applicant asked the Board to modify the conditions of the CUP to reduce the fees, increase the tonnage allowances, and increase the hours of operation. After hearing the arguments made by the project proponents and opponents, the Board certified the FEIR, adopted the CEQA findings, and indicated its intent to deny the appeals. The Board also instructed County Counsel to prepare the final findings and modified conditions for the Board's consideration on July 25, 2017. Modifications addressed concerns about tonnage intake, air quality monitoring, parks and open space plans for closed portions of the landfill, and mitigation fees measures recommended by County staff. Staff to the Task Force will monitor the Board Meeting on July 25 and update the Subcommittee at their next meeting.

Mr. Ruiz discussed that the Clean Hands Waiver will not be extended and Chiquita Canyon Landfill must meet certain conditions of the CUP before July 31, 2017, in order for the landfill to continue operating. Mr. Hunter inquired as to what the CUP states, what the permitted daily tonnage is, and the percentage of the daily tonnage, which is allowed for beneficial use. In response to Mr. Hunter's question, Mr. Ruiz stated that for the first seven years of operation under the new CUP the landfill has a disposal capacity (including beneficial reuse materials) of 2.8 million tons per year or 8,974 tons per day (tpd). For the remainder of the permit life, tonnage capacity is restricted to 1.8 million tons per year, or 5,769 tpd. Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa added that up to 1/3 of the disposal capacity can be made up of beneficial use materials.

## **V. UPDATE ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE (FOC) FOR THE CALABASAS LANDFILL**

Mr. Harmon provided an update on the proposed FOC for Calabasas Landfill. At the June 2017 Subcommittee meeting; the Subcommittee requested staff to work with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (CSD) to obtain additional information and clarifications on information provided by the CSD. Upon receipt of the pending information, staff will review and provide updated information to the Subcommittee for review and consideration at a subsequent meeting. Discussion ensued and Mr. Mohajer requested that staff send the CSD an e-mail (copies to Subcommittee members) stating that the pending materials must be provided by next month so consideration of the FOC can be concluded. Mr. Ruiz concurred with the request for information.

## **VI. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Mr. Nam Doan provided the Subcommittee with information regarding FOC reports submitted by landfill operators, which include monitoring progress reports for various landfills.

### Second Quarter 2017 FOC Monitoring Report for Chiquita Canyon Landfill

The Second Quarter 2017 Monitoring Report for Chiquita Canyon Landfill detailed information of incoming disposal tonnages broken down by various sources, such as residential and commercial, as well as material types, such as refuse, C&D, and green waste. Based on the report, Chiquita Canyon Landfill received a total of 378,058 tons of landfilled materials in the second quarter of 2017. This amount was about one percent more than the first quarter of 2017, during which the total tonnage received was 375,517 tons. The beneficial use material (diversion and soil) total for the second quarter of 2017 was 611,875 tons. This amount was about 52 percent more than the first quarter of 2017, during which the total tonnage received was 401,961 tons.

### Second Quarter 2017 Status Report for Sunshine Canyon Landfill

The Second Quarter 2017 Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill provides information on the incoming disposal and beneficial use tonnages during the

second quarter of 2017. Based on the report, Sunshine Canyon Landfill received a total of 519,283 tons of landfilled materials in the second quarter of 2017. This amount was about 13 percent more than the first quarter of 2017, during which the total tonnage received was 459,530 tons.

During the second quarter of 2017, 64,755 tons of beneficial use materials were accepted at the landfill. The amount of beneficial use materials in the first quarter of 2017 was approximately 33,578 tons. As shown in the table provided to you this morning, the tonnage of beneficial use increased by 93 percent from the first quarter of 2017 to the second quarter of 2017.

Mr. Doan also stated that staff received an e-mail from Mr. Mohajer on July 18, 2017, which requested staff to look into the differences between FOC reports from Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Chiquita Canyon Landfill and determine if the same type of information should be reported in both landfill's reports as Sunshine Canyon Landfill does not report in the same detail format as Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Mr. Mohajer asked that this e-mail be distributed to members of the Subcommittee after this meeting.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Ruiz requested staff to send an e-mail to Republic Services requesting that the latest FOC report consistent with the requirements be submitted to the Task Force within 10 days.

Mr. Mohajer also requested that staff reports should always accompany reports/documents distributed to the Subcommittee for review.

#### Update on the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility (CREF) and Southeast Recovery Reuse Facility (SERRF)

CSD informed staff that CREF's Power Purchase Agreement with Southern California Edison (SCE) expired on December 31, 2016. The facility is currently still operating and is expected to operate throughout 2018, but its future beyond that point is uncertain. The facility is selling its power on the day-ahead open market with the California Independent System Operator (CAISO). If the facility shuts down in 2018, the refuse will be sent to a landfill.

CSD also stated that SERRF is in a 30-year Power Purchase Agreement with SCE. This agreement ends on December 7, 2018. SERRF is currently working with CAISO and SCE to sell electricity beyond the current Power Purchase Agreement

end date. SERRF will have enough funds in reserve to operate beyond December 2018 and will operate on a year-to-year basis contingent on financial viability. If the facility shuts down in 2018, the refuse will be sent to a landfill.

The potential closure of these facilities affects the amount of solid waste several Los Angeles County communities can divert from the waste stream. Jurisdictions will also no longer be able to claim a 10 percent diversion credit by CalRecycle for using these facilities. Discussion ensued and Mr. Mohajer requested copies of CSD's reports on these facilities.

#### **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no additional comments made from the public.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.