

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

**Minutes of April 19, 2018, Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chris Coyle, Republic Services  
David Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gladys Gallardo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Isaac Reyes Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Nancy Hernandez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Vu Truong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

A brief announcement to the Subcommittee members was made by Ms. Nancy Hernandez, introducing Ms. Carol Oyola and Margarita Quiroz as the new personnel who will take over the responsibilities in coordinating the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee meetings. Mr. Carlos Ruiz explained that the Division is going through a restructuring process by consolidating administrative functions. The change was implemented as of April 23, 2018. Ms. Betsey Landis favored this change.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 15, 2018, MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated he wants the word “when” removed from the beginning of paragraph one, on page three. Ms. Landis made a motion to approve the March 15, 2018, Minutes, and seconded by Mr. Ruiz. Minutes were approved with minor correction.

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

### Odor Complaints

Ms. Gladys Gallardo provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the month of March 2018 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of March, a total of 21 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 13 of them were No Field Response(s).
- In comparison with February 2018, the number of complaints received in March increased by 17 percent (from 18 to 21 complaints).
- Compared to March of last year, the number of complaints this March decreased by 92 percent (from 274 to 21 complaints).
- The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009 is 11,072 and the total number of complaints received this year is 71.

- The total number of Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009 is 214. As of April 16, 2018, AQMD has issued zero Odor Complaint NOVs to Sunshine Canyon Landfill for the month of March 2018.

A copy of the latest odor complaint charts by AQMD and a copy of the graphs prepared by staff displaying “Odor Complaints Vs NOVs, Surface Gas Emissions, and Leachate Generation” were provided. The information on the graphs were from monthly AQMD and LEA reports, as well as a monthly and quarterly reports prepared by Republic Services.

Additionally, Ms. Gallardo stated that based on the Subcommittee’s request at the last FPRS meeting, staff reached out to AQMD for clarification on their odor complaint procedures for the SCL. AQMD confirmed that during working hours, Tuesday through Friday, AQMD may respond to every odor complaint made to the AQMD hotline. During afterhours and including weekends, AQMD will respond to three odor complaints made within an hour.

Ms. Gallardo stated that an LEA’s odor summary table was provided at the March 2018 FPRS meeting for the period of October 2016 to October 2017. The Subcommittee requested that staff reach out to the LEA to request updated information on the LEA’s odor monitoring surveys conducted at or around the SCL. The LEA responded that their odor surveys were only done during the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) pilot project period.

Concerning the two leachate spills of 10 and 100 gallons that occurred at the Landfill in January 2018, Ms. Gallardo stated they contacted the LEA and they referred them to the Water Board for information. Staff contacted the Water Board on April 18, 2018, and were informed that their practice is to either pump and dispose the leachate offsite, allow the spill to be absorbed by the soil and dispose it at the working face, or dispose it in their leachate system.

Mr. Mohajer requested staff to check with the Water Board, on what basis they allow the leachate to go back into the landfill. Ms. Landis agreed. Mr. Ruiz stated that staff will follow up with them and report their findings. Mr. Mohajer added that if they do not reply to staff, he would like to send a formal letter. Ms. Landis stated she would like a statement of regulations and who is responsible. Mr. Mohajer said Mr. Eugene Tseng is the SCL – LEA consultant, and he organized a chart showing each agency and their respective responsibilities at the SCL.

Mr. Ruiz asked Mr. Chris Coyle what his understanding on the rule managing leachate spills and how the spill was handled. Mr. Coyle replied by saying what was mentioned was accurate, depending on when, where, and how much was spilled. Regarding the current spill of 100 gallons, he did not know the exact details of how it was handled. Mr. Mohajer, as well as Ms. Landis, said they believe the SCL – LEA replied by saying they disposed of the 100 gallons of leachate spill by putting it in their waste water system. The Subcommittee members expressed their concern for the SCL – LEA's need to make sure they are clear regarding their reports.

Furthermore, Mr. Mohajer asked Ms. Gallardo if AQMD has changed their inspection procedures when an odor complaint is called in. Mr. Ruiz asked Ms. Gallardo if she was aware of AQMD changing their procedure. Ms. Landis requested that staff investigate whether AQMD changed their procedures since 2009.

#### Update on the use of ADC

Mr. Vu Truong provided an update on the ADC pilot project for the SCL.

On April 10, 2018, Public Works sent the conditional approval letter to Republic Services extending the ADC pilot project for another year until October 25, 2018. A copy of the letter was provided to the Subcommittee via email on April 11, 2018.

Mr. Truong stated that Public Works denied Republic Services' request for the permanent use of the ADC material at the SCL based on, but not limited to, the following reasons:

1. Republic Services did not demonstrate a significant decrease in odor complaints for a minimum of a 12-month period or greater.
2. Republic Services did not fully demonstrate that they can control fresh trash odor between the hours of 6 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Additionally, as requested by the Subcommittee at the last meeting, staff reached out to Republic Services requesting information regarding specific days when SCL used soil as daily cover, in lieu of the ADC, during the month of January 2018 due

to heavy wind conditions. Republic Services stated the winds in January did not impact the use of ADC. The most recent time Republic Services used a full soil cover due to wind was on December 5, 2017.

Staff also reached out to the LEA requesting clarification on wind conditions, such as wind speed that would alert the operator to suspend the use of ADC and revert to soil as daily cover. The LEA responded to staff and stated they are currently reviewing a Joint Technical Document amendment. A copy of the amendment package was recently provided to staff. The amendment package stated that six inches of soil will be used in place of the ADC material during extreme wind events. However, it does not define what extreme wind events are, such as wind speeds. The Joint Technical Document amendment package is currently under review by the LEA.

Mr. Ruiz asked if State Regulations establish the same standard in defining extreme wind events as defined in the EIR for the landfill. Mr. Mohajer added that the LEA should specify what is extreme wind and its wind speed. Mr. Ruiz suggested that staff look into the State Regulations to check how high and extreme winds are defined.

#### Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Mr. Michael Harmon provided an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project at the SCL. On December 8, 2017, Public Works received Republic Services' Final Evaluation Report for the ICE Demonstration Project.

On March 13, 2018, Public Works sent a letter to Republic Services commenting on the ICE Project Evaluation Report. A copy of the letter was provided to the Subcommittee via email on March 19, 2018. Republic Services responded with a letter dated April 11, 2018, which staff is currently reviewing.

#### DPH NOV recommendation based on Order to Abate dated November 9, 2016

#### Status Update

Mr. John Kaddis attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Maurice Pantoja. Mr. Kaddis stated there was no update.

Clarification on DPH NOV recommendation to DRP

Mr. Harmon provided a brief chronology and update on Public Health's recommendation to Regional Planning for a Notice of Violation (NOV) to be issued to Republic Services.

On November 9, 2016, Public Health issued an Order to Abate to Republic Services, requiring Republic to abate conditions at the SCL that attribute to the odor nuisance. Public Health required Republic Services to comply with the Order to Abate by a compliance date of March 30, 2017.

On January 13, 2017, Republic Services provided Public Health with a Corrective Action Plan as requested in accordance with the Order.

After March 30, 2017, Public Health found that although Republic Services implemented mitigation measures at the SCL, significant odor issues remained and determined that Republic Services did not comply with their Order to Abate as of the March 30, 2017, compliance date. Consequently, in May 2017, Public Health recommended to Regional Planning that an NOV be issued to Republic Services for failure to comply with the Abatement Order issued by Public Health on November 9, 2016.

On January 18, 2018, a representative from Public Health reported at the FPRS meeting that the Department of Regional Planning and Public Health met in early December 2017 to discuss the status of the recommendation for an NOV. At that time, both agencies acknowledged that the odor nuisance had reduced significantly since July 2017, agreed to continue to monitor the number of odor complaints. They will also re-examine the progress of mitigation measures at SCL.

Staff recently reached out to Regional Planning for an update and were informed that an NOV has not been issued. The issue is currently being monitored by both Departments of Regional Planning and Public Health.

**IV. UPDATE ON DPH'S ANALYSIS OF DR. NORDELLA'S ALISO CANYON/PORTER RANCH HEALTH STUDY PRESENTED ON OCTOBER 13, 2017.**

Mr. Kaddis stated that he did not have an update to report.

## **V. ANTELOPE VALLEY LANDFILL PERMIT REVISION APPLICATION**

Mr. Isaac Reyes Gomez provided the Subcommittee with information regarding the Antelope Valley Landfill Permit Revision Application.

On February 2018, Task Force sent a letter to the landfill operator requesting the FOC application because the facility applied for a revised Solid Waste Facility Permit to increase the daily tonnage and to update the estimated closure year of 2032 to 2042.

On March 28, 2018, staff contacted the operator requesting an update on the FOC application and were informed that the FOC application would be submitted for DPW's review by mid-April.

On April 4, 2018, the operator contacted DPW for clarification regarding the FOC application and its process. Staff provided clarification on April 5, 2018, and notified the operator to submit the FOC no later than May 7, 2018.

Staff are currently waiting for the FOC package from Antelope Valley Landfill and will provide updates on this matter at the next FPRS meeting.

Mr. Ruiz asked what type of clarification was needed by the operator. Mr. Reyes Gomez replied that the operator asked if the FOC application requirements changed since 2011, and the reply was no.

## **VI. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE**

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with an update regarding the Chiquita Canyon Landfill FOC.

Chiquita Canyon Landfill submitted the revised version of the FOC package on April 5, 2018, and staff received the accompanying set of plans on April 8, 2018. Staff is currently reviewing the documents, ensuring indication of consistency and accuracy.

Currently, due to the landfill expansion, the applicant applied for a new Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit. According to Water Board staff, they will attempt to approve the WDR permit by November 2018, or before this date.

Currently, the applicant is also working to obtain a new Solid Waste Facility Permit. According to the LEA staff, the application is still under review as of April 2, 2018, but the LEA anticipates approving the application in April or May. Subsequently, the LEA will take approximately 30-to-60 days to prepare the permit conditions, then CalRecycle will have an additional 60 days to review the application and possibly concur with the recommendations. Further updates will be provided in the next FPRS meeting.

Mr. Mohajer asked that since the landfill does not have a revised Solid Waste Permit and a revised Waste Discharge Requirement permit, if that would prohibit the processing of the FOC if they have submitted everything else. Mr. Ruiz replied that in the FOC process, there is not a requirement that those permits be granted before the FOC. If the Waste Discharge Requirements have not been issued, for the purposes of the FOC, staff would work with the draft permits and prepare the FOC. Staff will request that once the final permits are issued, the operator will submit a copy of the final. Mr. Mohajer stated that since all requirements have been submitted, this should allow staff to move forward in processing the conditions of the findings.

## **VII. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Mr. Reyes Gomez provided the Subcommittee with information regarding the Finding of Conformance (FOC) reports submitted by landfill operators that include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills.

1. Semi Annual Spring 2017 Waste Characterization for the Antelope Valley Landfill
  2. Semi Annual Spring 2017 Waste Characterization for the Lancaster Landfill
  3. 1st Quarter 2018 Monitoring Report for Chiquita Canyon Landfill
- 1) Staff received the 2017 Semi Annual Spring Waste Characterization Report for the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility dated April 04, 2018.

In comparison to the previous waste characterization report, about 30 percent more paper-waste, 33 percent less plastics-waste, and about 84 percent less yard waste was received at the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility for this reporting period.

Mr. Ruiz suggested that Staff re-examine the figures or a possible shift in lows that are being sent to the Antelope Valley Landfill versus the Lancaster Landfill. Mr. Reyes Gomez said staff did address this question to the landfill, but have not received a response as of yet.

- 2) Staff received the 2017 Semi Annual Spring Waste Characterization Report for the Lancaster Landfill dated April 6, 2018.

In comparison to the previous waste characterization report, about 32 percent less paper-waste and 49 percent more plastics-waste were received at the Lancaster Landfill for this reporting period.

- 3) Staff received the First Quarter 2018 Monitoring Report for Chiquita Canyon Landfill dated April 13, 2018.

Based on the report, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill received 514,901 tons in the first quarter of 2018. This amount was about 15 percent less than the fourth quarter of 2017.

The total beneficial reuse material (including diversion and soil) for the first quarter of 2018, was 163,576 tons. This amount was about 34 percent less than the fourth quarter of 2017.

Mr. Mohajer inquired what materials are considered to be beneficial reuse. The list given included rubber, concrete, asphalt, and shredded green waste. Mr. Mohajer wanted to know if some of the reuse material was used on-site and some shipped or moved. Mr. Ruiz explained of a change in the operation because of a new permit that was issued by the County, setting new limits regarding the use of beneficial reuse materials. Public Works has been considering the amount of reuse material that is claimed to be used, like MRF fines, some of those quantities seem to be excessive. The landfill operator claims that they have fewer odor problems because they use more soil and MRF fines, but Public Works

noticed that quantities of soil and MRF appear to more than necessary to control odors. Additionally, the new CUP sets limits on the beneficial reuse material; thus, this requires more careful managing of the materials that come into the landfill. This could be part of the reason why we see quantities decreasing.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.