Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

FACILITY INSPECTION REPORT

CIWQS Inspection ID: 51280435

Facility Name: Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (CI 2043)

Inspector: Wen Yang, SEG _____ April 21, 2023
Scott Landon, WRCE
Emma Averill, WRCE

Reviewed by: Milasol Gaslan, Sup. WRCE _____ April 24, 2023

Summary: The inspection focused on stormwater retention basins, drainage channels, interim and final covers of the landfill. Areas of concern, including damage to stormwater management system and ponding of stormwater on top of the landfill, were observed.

Date and Time: April 3, 2023, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, announced.

Weather: Cloudy and windy. There was a major storm event in the week prior to the inspection.

Purpose: To assess site conditions to ensure compliance with the waste discharge requirements and stormwater permit.

Present: Kate Downey and Paul Koster (Republic Services) and Fouad Mina (Geo-Logic Associate, Consultant) were present during the inspection.

Background: The Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill), located at 14747 San Fernando Road Sylmar, California, is a Class III landfill that is owned and operated by Republic Services Company (Discharger). The Landfill is regulated under waste discharge requirements (WDRs) Order No. R4-2008-0088, adopted by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) on October 2, 2008, for the discharger of municipal solid waste (MSW). The facility is also regulated under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activities in California (IGP, WDID No. 19I001306, enrolled since March 27, 1992).

On March 21, 2023, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LAC DPW) informed the Regional Water Board that, based on a January 31, 2023, inspection performed by the Los Angeles County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), the Landfill's terminal sediment basin drainage outlet had experienced damage during recent winter storms and that the damage had resulted in sediment and trash exiting the site and discharging into the County's storm sewer system. The inspection was conducted to verify relevant findings of the LEA inspection and to assess compliance with the WDRs and/or need for corrective actions.

Observations:

1. The amount of sediment accumulated in the Terminal Basin was much more than what was observed in previous years (Photo 1). One of the three risers at the outlet of the basin was seriously damaged (ripped from the top) so it was shorter than the other two (Photo 2). As a result, water was flowing out of the basin through the damaged riser only. The depth of sediments in the basin is at the same level as that of the damaged riser. As such, no retention time to allow settling of sediments was available when stormwater enters the basin and then immediately leaves the basin at the outlet. At the other end of the outlet, outside of the basin, yellowish water from the outlet was flowing into a box culvert that is part of the Los Angeles County storm sewer system (Photo 3). The coarse grain size of sediments accumulated at the bottom of the channel indicates that a significant amount of sediment may have been washed into the storm sewer during the storm events since January 2023.

2. Sediment Basin A at the western edge of the Landfill was filled with stormwater, with thick sediment settled at the bottom (Photo 4). The top screens of the two risers at the outlet of the basin were missing. No significant amount of water was being released from the basin at the time of inspection. The Discharger indicated that stormwater collected in the basin was from the native slopes to the west and was used for dust control at the Landfill.

3. Sediment Basin D at the northern end of the Landfill (Photo 5) and Sediment Basin B at the eastern edge of the Landfill (Photo 6) were generally in good condition and had ample capacity left.

4. As Sediment Basins A, B and D primarily receive runoffs from the native side slopes surrounding the Landfill, sediment accumulated in these basins are from the eroded hillsides adjacent to each of the basins, respectively, not from internal landfill areas (Photo 7).

5. An area of depression (approximately 15 x 30 square yards) was observed on the top decks of the closed City Landfill South. The LEA January 31, 2023, inspection report indicates that there was ponding of stormwater in this area. Although no water was observed in the area during the inspection, there was evidence that the area might have had standing water not long ago (Photo 8). The Discharger indicated that the area would be re-graded in the upcoming dry season to improve stormwater drainage. The remediation work will be performed in conjunction with the Landfill's re-vegetation plan.

6. An area of stormwater ponding in an area of approximately 50 square yards, with a maximum depth of approximately 6 inches, was observed at the eastern portion of the Landfill, at the vicinity of Sediment Basin B (Photos No. 9). Regional Water Board staff

pointed out that ponding of stormwater on top of the Landfill is a violation of the WDRs and must be corrected. On April 5, 2023, the Discharger informed Regional Water Board staff that standing water in the area had been removed. A photo provided by the Discharger on April 6, 2023 (Photo 10) confirmed that the ponding had been removed.

7. The sideslope final cover of the closed City Landfill South was generally in good condition, with no significant erosion or washout problems observed (Photo 11).

8. The concrete lined perimeter stormwater channels surrounding the Landfill's footprint were generally in good condition, with no significant damage (Photo 12).

Follow Up:

1. Review the most recent Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the Landfill submitted under the IGP.

2. Coordinate with the LAC DPW on possible enforcement actions.

3. Conduct follow-up inspections to verify that all violations and areas of concern are corrected/remediated.

Attachments: Photos taken during inspection

Photo 1. The Terminal Basin at the entrance of the Landfill, looking southeast. This sediment basin is at the mouth of the Sunshine Canyon and receives all stormwater runoff generated in the canyon.

Photo 2. A close-up of the three risers of the Terminal Basin that discharge stormwater offsite. The riser on the right (arrow) was damaged (cut from the top end) during a storm in January 2023.

Photo 3. Water from the Terminal Basin flows offsite through this box culvert into Bull Creek, which is part of the Los Angeles County storm sewer system. Note the coarse-sized sediments that accumulated at the bottom of the channel (arrow).

Photo 4. Sediment Basin A at the west edge of the Landfill. The top screens of the two risers had been damaged in recent storms and a significant amount of sediment accumulated at the bottom of the base.

Photo 5. Sediment Basin D at the northern end of the canyon, looking north. This basin was in good condition and had ample capacity for stormwater runoff from the slopes to the north of the landfill.

Photo 6. Sediment Basin B at the eastern edge of the Landfill, looking east. This basin receives water from Basin D to the north and discharges to the landfill's perimeter channel that ends at the Terminal Basin to the south.

Photo 7. Graded slopes of native rock/soil to the north of the Landfill. Erosion of such slopes is the prime source of accumulation in sediment basins A, B, and D.

Photo 8. An area of depression on the top deck of the closed City Landfill South. The area is vulnerable to ponding of stormwater.

Photo 9. Ponding stormwater on the top deck, at the eastern edge, of the Landfill, near Sediment Basin B.

Photo 10. A photo of the same area shown in Photos 9 (provided by the Discharger on April 6, 2023), indicates the ponded stormwater had been removed.

Photo 11. Sideslopes of the closed City Landfill South, looking southwest. The final cover was generally in good condition, with minor scale slope failures on the base (arrows).

Photo 12. A view of the perimeter stormwater drainage channel surrounding the Landfill. The concrete lined channels were generally in good condition.