

Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**Minutes of April 17, 2014**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, California

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Grace Chan, rep by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Gail Farber, rep by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works  
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of  
Public Health  
Gerry Miller, rep by Rafael Prieto, City of Los Angeles  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep by Ed Pupka, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Enrique Zaldivar, rep by Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach Public Works Department  
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kevin Best, Real Energy  
David Coscia, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patti Costa, Republic Services  
Rainer Globus, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC  
Tobie Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Michael Stewart, Republic Services  
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle  
Curtis Williams, City of Santa Clarita

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:10 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2014 AND ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH 20, 2014, MINUTES**

The February 20, 2014, minutes were approved as revised, and the March 20, 2014, minutes were approved with minor corrections.

**III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Tobie Mitchell reported the subcommittee received an update from their consultant on the survey of locations interested in hosting CT projects. The consultant re-interviewed the interested local MRF and transfer stations, who had previously expressed interest in 2010. The operators expressed continued interest in hosting a project, but right now their focus is on increasing performance of the MRFs and developing new capacity and new high-quality feed stock to use for a conversion process. The consultants are also developing a comprehensive list of operating CT companies and facilities in the US and throughout the world to be listed on the County website and shared as a resource in the future. Ms. Mitchell also reported that the subcommittee discussed SB 498 and the concern that CalRecycle is still handling conversion facilities on a case-by-case basis and legislation is definitely needed to have standard and uniform direction.

**IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY PLAN & REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE (FPRS)**

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the subcommittee received an update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill and there was an increase in the odor complaints for the month of March. Staff had developed graphs showing the amount of leachate captured, surface gas emissions, and the number of odor complaints over the years. Staff is currently working on incorporating notable events such as gas collection system breakdowns and gas system enhancements on these graphs which might be useful in determining the causes of odors. Ms. Landis further reported there was also a presentation given on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill by Mr. Michael Stewart of Republic Services, which is discussed in Item V below.

The subcommittee also discussed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Proposed Expansion of the Scholl Canyon Landfill and DEIR for the Proposed Irwindale MRF & Transfer Station Project. Motions will be presented to the Task Force when these items are brought forth later on the agenda.

Ms. Jeanne Biehler was introduced as a new subcommittee member to replace Gerry Villalobos.

**V. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL—MICHAEL STEWART, REPUBLIC SERVICES**

Mr. Michael Stewart along with Patti Costa of Republic Services gave the [attached presentation](#) on the status of the following issues pertaining to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill: gas collection system improvements; gas-to-energy plant; leachate collection; erosion and settlement control measures; assessment from the March 28, 2014, La Habra earthquake; odorous load processing; and vegetation update.

Gas Collection System Improvements

Mr. Stewart reported there are a total of 647 vertical gas extraction wells on site. Lateral pipes which move the gas from the wells to the perimeter header system and then to flares, have been upgraded to larger sizes. Blowers at flares 1, 3, and 8 have also been upgraded from 40 Horsepower (Hp) to 200 Hp. He reported significant improvements in the gas collection efficiency, including a 70 percent increase in flare production since September 2011 and an 86 percent decrease in surface emissions during the same period.

Ongoing GCCS Activities

Mr. Stewart stated Republic tunes their wells a minimum of twice per month. He added that in 2013 Republic began an aggressive gas well pumping program to remove liquids from the gas wells. Republic also installed an additional 20 wells, since January 2014 and plans to install up to 50 more.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated the data submitted by Republic regarding the quantity of leachate does not substantiate Republic's claim that the 9 inches of soil cover is prohibiting the leachate from percolating down.

Leachate Collection

The leachate collection and recovery system is designed to collect and convey leachate to sumps. The leachate in the sumps is pumped through a solid high-density polyethylene pipeline to a leachate treatment facility at the rate of approximately 350,000 gallons per month. Approximately 400,000 gallons per month of leachate is pumped directly from gas wells, and are taken off-site for disposal.

The Landfill's leachate treatment facility is equipped with a granular activated carbon system which has a capacity of 50,000 gallons per day capacity. The

treated liquid is used for dust control as approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

#### Erosion and Settlement Control Measures

The Landfill's erosion and sediment control measures are a combination of permanent drainage features and temporary erosion systems which are installed on an annual basis in advance of rainy seasons

#### La Habra March 28, 2014, Earthquake Assessment

Mr. Stewart informed the Subcommittee that no damage was observed at the Landfill as a result of the March 28, 2014, La Habra earthquake.

#### Odorous Load Process

Ms. Patti Costa, Environmental Manager for Sunshine Canyon Landfill, reported the Landfill identifies odorous loads using the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Odor Classification table. Employees are trained to notify personnel of odorous loads which are immediately taken to the working face and processed. Additionally, the process allows managers to reject loads if there is a strong possibility it can cause an odorous situation at the Landfill.

#### Vegetation Update

Ms. Costa stated that Republic is in the process of hydro-seeding 30 acres of the Landfill and expect to complete it next week. Republic is also testing different application methods in several test plots. The City Sage Mitigation Pilot Project is currently in the maintenance phase and a random quadrant sampling method is being used to measure the success of the pilot project. Results of project will be included in the quarterly vegetation report to be released later this month.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz asked the below questions to Mr. Stewart regarding the installation of vertical gas extraction wells: Describe how the problem with water getting trapped in the wells is occurring? How does Republic establish or determine the depth of well? Where does the well end within each 20 to 30 foot lifts? How is the water accumulated? Is the water getting trapped in each layer, or does the water remain stagnant at the bottom of the well?

Mr. Stewart mentioned that during the installation of vertical gas extraction wells, the first 20 feet from the surface are installed with a solid pipe. The remaining length of the well are installed with perforated pipe and are drilled into the ground until a layer of liquids is reached or until the bottom of the pipe is at least 20 or 30 feet from the bottom liner to avoid puncturing the liner system. He added that layers within the landfill where the nine inches of soil cover is intact create individual "honeycomb cells" in which any water accumulated through the degradation process are trapped within these cells and are prevented from

percolating down to the bottom of the landfill. During installation of new gas extraction wells, some of these cells where water is present are encountered which will need to be pumped out prior to installing the perforated pipes.

Mr. Ruiz followed up with the below questions: When the location of a new well is established, will the depth to the bottom liner be determined? Are the different layers within the location of the new well established once the drilling process takes place? As the drilling process takes place, are the layers of trash and soil cover determined, and is the depth of the well adjusted accordingly?

Mr. Stewart mentioned that the depth to the bottom liner is determined once the location of a new well is established. He also stated that the portion of the 9-inch soil cover gets mixed in with the trash as the auger drills into the ground. The different layers of soil cover and trash will be difficult to identify from one another. Each of the wells is programmed to a certain depth. Once the drilling takes place and encounters a saturated layer in the process, the drilling is stopped and the depth of the well is adjusted to that depth.

Mr. Ruiz then questioned how different does Republic see that the 9-inch soil requirement is from the typical regulatory requirement of the 6 inches in terms of where the liquids might accumulate at the bottom of each lift because they percolate to the next level. Mr. Ruiz added that in both 9-inch and 6-inch requirements, there will be slight build-ups of liquids that will be present in the layers, and asked if Republic has plans to address this issue.

Mr. Stewart responded that if given the opportunity to cover the trash the conventional way of using 6 inches of cover, they will peel back the soil. He added that with the current requirement, they are required to leave the 9 inches of soil cover. When Mr. Ruiz asked Mr. Stewart if Republic will be subject to the 6-inch requirement, Mr. Stewart responded by stating that they will peel back the soil cover.

Mr. Ruiz asked Mr. Gerry Villalobos if the peel back option is allowed in California and whether CalRecycle has provided guidance to the Local Enforcement Agencies to determine which cover requirement will be allowed. Mr. Villalobos mentioned that the peel back option is neither allowed nor prohibited by the State, and added that CalRecycle has given the discretion to the Local Enforcement Agencies of each jurisdiction to determine which requirement is allowed for certain sites.

Ms. Landis acknowledged Mr. Stewart's comment that the 9 inches of soil cover becomes impermeable when it is in the landfill and commented that unless the 9 inches of soil is baked in a very hard porcelain area, water is going to percolate through the layers. She also added that the drilling process will cause the different layers of materials to mix as the landfill as a whole is saturated. At a rate of 350,000 to 400,000 gallons per month of leachate collected, the landfill is considered saturated and that 9 inches of soil cover has nothing to do with the generation of leachate.

Mr. Mohajer also commented that if Republic is allowed to use less soil cover, this will give them more capacity to dispose trash, which in turn, will bring more revenue. He suggested further for Republic to use perforated pipes for the length of the wells given that each lift is approximately 20 to 30 feet in height.

Mr. Ruiz requested Republic to check the drainage requirements particularly with respect to designing for a specific storm event.

Mr. Ruiz also asked the following questions below: How precisely does Republic identify the odorous loads per SCAQMD's Odor Classification Table, and how frequent are the loads checked. Does Republic have a staff that checks the odorous loads, and how many loads have been found to be odorous?

Mr. Stewart responded that all loads are checked as they come in. He mentioned that the landfill has someone assigned to monitor odorous loads at the scale. He also mentioned that there have not been many loads that have been found to be odorous as transfer stations are required by the landfill's odor load program to identify odorous loads prior to delivering trash to the site.

Mr. Villalobos asked if Republic has a tracking mechanism or field head to determine which wells, after they have been evacuated and recharged, have liquid and which ones have been cleared of liquids. He also asked if Republic has tracked which areas have higher percentage of wells that have liquids or are relatively wet. Mr. Stewart mentioned that they have a map that tracks all the installed wells and which wells have liquids. He added that liquids from the wells are recharged to a public sewer system. They are also able to track whether these wells are recharged with liquids and to what level they are recharged to.

Mr. Ruiz also asked what percent of the disposal area is covered with the 9-inch soil cover. Mr. Stewart responded that about 90 to 95 percent of the active areas (disposal areas which have not undergone proper closure as clarified by Mr. Ruiz) excluding any closed portions of the landfill. Mr. Ruiz stated that Public Works has not approved grading plans or disposal in all areas of the landfill. For example, in the County-side, a stockpile was placed on top of the trash and

Mr. Ruiz recalled that there has not been a phase approved since 2010 where trash is allowed to be placed on top of the previously filled areas. Mr. Stewart responded that the stockpile has been removed from the entire County areas. When asked if Republic have been approved by Public Works for any grading plans, Mr. Stewart responded that they have not been approved by Public Works. Mr. Ruiz mentioned Public Works has approved the fill sequencing plan for the landfill.

#### **VI. TASK FORCE/CITIES WORKSHOP**

Ms. Mary Ann Lutz proposed for the Task Force to sponsor a workshop to inform the municipalities what the Task Force offers. The workshop is suggested to be held in June or July and will be hosted at the Department of Public Works Headquarters. The topics will include fees and benefits to individual cities. A workshop committee was formed and members are Mary Ann Lutz, Mike Mohajer, Pat Proano, Carlos Ruiz, Ron Saldana, Chris Salomon, and Gerry Villalobos.

Mr. Mike Mohajer added the Southern California Waste Management Forum Annual Business Meeting and Workshop to be held May 7, 2014 and will include a legislative session on all new legislation and regulations being introduced this year that may affect local jurisdictions. Those interested can register online at [http://www.scwmf.org/forum\\_workshop\\_5\\_7\\_14.pdf](http://www.scwmf.org/forum_workshop_5_7_14.pdf).

#### **VII. AB 1126 – CALRECYLCE IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS**

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported the Task Force wrote a letter to CalRecycle requesting they expedite writing the regulations for implementation of AB 1126. In response, CalRecycle stated regulations weren't needed because they adopted guidance for the regulations in November 2013. The matter was referred to County Counsel who reviewed the regulations and adopted guidance. They determined regulations should be adopted and sent the [attached e-mail](#) to CalRecycle justifying their determination.

#### **VIII. MANDATORY COMMERCIAL ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLING, AB 1826**

Mr. Chris Sheppard gave the [attached presentation](#) on AB 1826. After further discussion, Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ron Saldana, to oppose AB 1826 unless amended to define organic waste and organic waste recycling and require state agencies to provide tools and incentives for the new development. The motion passed with abstentions from Ed Pupka and Chis Salomon.

## **IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Chris Sheppard distributed and presented the [attached Legislative Summary Table](#). The Task Force considered, discussed, and took position on the legislative bills listed below.

AB 1594 – Mr. Mike Mohajer moved to oppose unless amended seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis. The motion passed with abstentions from Mr. Ed Pupka and Mr. Gerry Villalobos.

AB 1743 – Mr. Mohajer moved to support if amended/oppose unless amended seconded by Ms. Landis. The motion passed unanimously.

AB 1893 – Mr. Mohajer moved to support seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz. The motion passed with abstention from Mr. Pupka.

AB 1970 – Mr. Mohajer moved to support seconded by Mr. Chris Salomon. The motion passed with abstentions from Mr. Pupka and Mr. Villalobos.

AB 2284 – Mr. Mohajer moved to support if amended/oppose unless amended seconded by Ms. Reina Pereira. The motion passed with abstention from Mr. Pupka.

AB 2371 – Mr. Mohajer moved to oppose emphasizing the need for extended producer responsibility seconded by Ms. Landis. The motion passed with abstention by Mr. Pupka.

AB 2390 – Mr. Mohajer moved to support seconded by Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed with abstentions from Mr. Pupka, Mr. Salomon, and Mr. Villalobos.

AB 2633 – The Task Force decided to watch this bill.

AB 2568 – Mr. Mohajer moved to support and amend to add allocation based on population seconded by Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed with abstentions from Mr. Pupka, Mr. Salomon, and Mr. Villalobos.

SB 1274 – Ms. Pereira moved to oppose unless amended seconded by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed with abstention from Mr. Pupka.



Mr. Sheppard also stated SB 1014 did not make it out of the Business and Professions committee due to a lack of votes. Senator Jackson will attempt to pursue the bill again next year.

**X. DRAFT EIR FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE SCHOLL CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan gave the [attached presentation](#) on Scholl Canyon Landfill DEIR. A discussion ensued after the presentation. Ms. Betsey Landis stated that analysis in the DEIR is based on 1,400 tpd and not the permitted 3,400 tpd and as such, the landfill should limit its permit to 1,400 tpd. Additionally, she mentioned that the Landfill should invest in a second, reserve compressor to be available to deliver gas to the power plant rather than flaring it off.

Ms. Landis also added that the DEIR states that rye grass will be used at the landfill rather than native vegetation since the native species dries out quickly and can become a fire hazard. She pointed out that rye grass has a shallow root system and, consequently, will not be a good choice to prevent soil erosion. Additionally, this species dries out quicker than native vegetation, which is actually fire resistant. Ms. Landis also indicated that the DEIR's referenced materials are out of date and is not applicable to the modern day's landfill.

Ms. Landis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer, to send a letter including comments made at the Task Force and FPRS meetings. The motion passed with abstentions from Ms. Reina Pereira, Mr. Ed Pupka, Mr. Carlos Ruiz and Mr. Gerry Villalobos. Mr. Chris Salomon recused himself from voting.

**XI. DRAFT EIR FOR THE PROPOSED IRWINDALE MRF & TRANSFER STATION PROJECT**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar gave the [attached presentation](#) on the Irwindale MRF and Transfer Station. After further discussion, Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer, to send a letter to the City of Irwindale stating the DEIR should consider air quality, noise, traffic, and environmental justice issues and incorporating the siting conversion and HHW facilities and other comments discussed at the subcommittee meeting. Comments are due by May 16, 2014. The motion passed with abstentions from Mr. Ed Pupka, Mr. Chris Salomon, and Mr. Gerry Villalobos.

## **XII. UPDATE ON THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT'S DRAFT CEQA DOCUMENT**

Mr. Patrick Holland gave an update on the Countywide Siting Element CEQA document and stated they are scheduled to meet with County Counsel to review comments regarding the draft Initial Study. After receiving guidance from County Counsel and getting clarification on the EMSW issue, staff tentatively plans to release the draft Initial Study along with the Notice of Preparation to the responsible agencies (such as the 88 cities, all applicable State agencies, including State Clearinghouse, and local association of governments) and Task Force for review and commenting in June 2014. A Draft Environmental Impact Report will be prepared based on the comments received on the Initial Study and Notice of Preparation. The Draft Environmental Impact Report will be submitted to the Task Force for review and comment prior to its release for public review. The Preliminary Draft Siting Element and the Draft Environmental Impact Report are anticipated to be released for public review in early 2015 (February 2015).

## **XIII. 2014 LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT**

Mr. David Coscia reported staff is working on the 2014 Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Five-Year Review Report. On May 15, 2014, staff will present a draft to the Task Force for their review, and accept comments and corrections for inclusion in the Report. Staff intends to submit the Report to CalRecycle no later than July 2014.

## **XIV. CALRECYCLE**

Ms. Jennifer Wallin reminded the Task Force that Howard Levenson will be coming in May, and questions could be sent to her in advance to forward to Mr. Levenson. Ms. Wallin also reported the following:

- The Tire incentive program grant is currently open and applications are due April 28.
- The HHW grant applications are due April 30.
- There will be a workshop April 29 regarding the highest and best use of residuals.

Ms. Wallin also reported, in response to Mr. Carlos Ruiz' inquiry, that the AB 341 report to the Legislature has not been officially submitted.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that on behalf of the Task Force that they value her attendance the updates she provides and suggested moving her up on the agenda.

#### **XV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kevin Best of Real Energy stated that CT technology gets easier if you get the organics out first as evidenced by AB 1126. It is done through a provision in AB 1826 called similar source separation where the organic waste ends up in the transfer station. CalRecycle and Water Board put regulations together prior to mandatory recycling to allow organics to go to waste water treatment plants, which are generally closer to landfills and the vehicles. The cost increase to cities is projected to be \$13 per ton, which is relatively nominal. He believes the overall message to cities at the workshop should be there are solutions to the organics issue.

#### **XVI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2014, in Conference Room B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

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