

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

Minutes of May 27, 2010 Meeting

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

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chris Benigno, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carol Ly, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mateusz Suska, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

A motion to approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2010, meeting was unanimously approved.

III. UPDATE ON RE-VEGETATION EFFORTS AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Ms. Emiko Thompson presented a Staff Report ([See Attachment](#)), dated May 20, 2010 on the re-vegetation efforts at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill. Ms. Thompson provided the Subcommittee with the following background information:

- Task Force sent a letter, dated March 25, 2010, to BFI/Republic Services (BFI) regarding BFI's lack of progress in re-vegetating the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill, and requested that BFI develop a work plan with specific deadlines to achieve reliable plant growth.
- BFI sent a letter to the Task Force, dated April 15, 2010, stating that BFI would continue to provide quarterly status reports and incorporate best practices from a variety of sources.
- At the April 15, 2010, Task Force meeting, the Task Force expressed dissatisfaction with BFI's response letter which lacked details and did not address the Task Force's specific requests.
- BFI sent a second letter, dated April 20, 2010 (see Attachment), including a work plan for the next 12-month period.
- Staff's summary of the Task Force's letter, dated March 25, 2010, BFI's response letter of April 20, 2010, and staff's remarks are included in a Summary Table (see Attachment to Staff Report).

Regarding the Task Force request to develop a work plan, the Summary Table describes the following list of actions to be undertaken by BFI at the Landfill as part of the re-vegetation effort:

- Continue hydroseeding slopes that are inactive for more than 180 days;
- On the City side of the Landfill, control weeds on the coastal sage top deck and implement the soil amendment seeding plan in Fall 2010; and
- On the County side of the Landfill, modify the irrigation system on an on-going basis, repair eroded V-ditches and terraces in Summer 2010, develop a soil amendment plan in the Summer for implementation in the Fall, and implement a seeding plan to start in the Fall.

Based on the fact that BFI has committed to take a series of progressive actions between now and Spring 2011, staff recommends that the Task Force direct staff to continue to monitor BFI's progress on their re-vegetation plan, and provide updates to the Subcommittee.

In response to Task Force's request for BFI to consult other landfill operators on proven re-vegetation methods, the Summary Table includes a list of the following actions BFI has committed to undertake:

- Consult other landfills by Summer 2010 regarding proven re-vegetation methods and include findings in the next quarterly status report;
- Incorporate successful best practices at Sunshine Canyon Landfill in Fall 2010.
- Include updates on BFI's re-vegetation plan in the quarterly status reports.

Regarding the Task Force request for BFI to provide a copy of their re-vegetation plan that is required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Order for Abatement, BFI indicated a copy will be provided to the Task Force when it is submitted to SCAQMD (see Attachment to Staff Report). Under the Order for Abatement, BFI is required to: (1) develop a re-vegetation plan for the southern berm areas affected by the 2009 Sesnon and Sayre fires in the City's portion of the Landfill by June 1, 2010; and (2) complete the actual planting by August 31, 2010, or any later date recommended by the designated arborist.

Ms. Thompson also discussed the May 5, 2010, site visit to Sunshine Canyon Landfill by staff, Subcommittee members Ms. Betsey Landis and Mr. Mike

Mohajer, Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition, and Ms. Becky Bendikson, Chairperson of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee. The areas observed during the tour included:

- Temporary and permanent slopes on both the City and County portions of the landfill, hydroseeded areas on some temporary slopes
- Permanent sage mitigation slopes on the County portion, and areas where testing of soil amendment was conducted.
- The southern berm area that was affected by the 2009 fires and the subject area under SCAQMD's Order for Abatement. The group noted some re-growth in the fire-damaged trees and a few new oak trees that had been planted.

Furthermore, Ms. Thompson discussed the May 19, 2010, letter (see Attachment to Staff Report) from the Department of Regional Planning (DRP) to BFI. The letter requested BFI to submit a number of documents to enable DRP to evaluate BFI's compliance with Condition No. 44 of Sunshine Canyon Landfill's Conditional Use Permit No. 00-194-05, including a revised re-vegetation plan within 60 days and quarterly progress reports that should include:

- A site plan showing slopes that have been inactive for more than 180 day; and
- A fill sequencing plan showing anticipated fill within 10 feet of the horizontal and vertical limits, locations of cut slopes, results from the soil sampling and amendments, and types of plants that will be used.

The Subcommittee noted that while the SCAQMD's Order for Abatement provides for odor mitigation measures, the May 19, 2010, DRP letter is silent on this issue. Mr. Mohajer expressed interest in meeting with the Director of Regional Planning to discuss this issue and other pertinent items that were not included in the letter.

Ms. Landis commented that the field trip was very helpful in understanding the re-vegetation efforts made by BFI. However, she would like BFI to re-vegetate the helipad area to mitigate the impact from helicopter noise which funnels straight down to nearby residents.

Ms. Landis also commented that the Staff Report needs to be revised to indicate the deadline of the re-vegetation plan mandated by SCAQMD's Order for Abatement is August 31, 2010 or "any later date recommended by the designated arborists."

In conclusion, the Subcommittee made a motion (which was unanimously approved) to recommend the following to the Task Force:

- Approve staff recommendations in the Staff Report;
- Suspend further action until after: (a) BFI completes planting in the Southern Berm areas of the Landfill as required by the SCAQMD, and (b) BFI develops a revised re-vegetation plan and obtain necessary approval from the appropriate County agency; and
- Instruct Staff to monitor BFI's re-vegetation progress, including BFI's compliance with SCAQMD's Order for Abatement, and provide monthly updates to the Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee made a second motion for the Task Force to send a letter to BFI encouraging BFI to re-vegetate the top cover of the City portion of the Landfill that is currently being used as a helipad. This motion was also approved with one "nay" vote by Mr. Christopher Salomon.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

To be announced at a later date.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.