

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

Minutes of July 15, 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
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Antonia Castro, City of Pomona
Chip Clements, Bryan Stirrat & Associates
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carol Ly, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Iheanacho Ofo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 17, 2010

A motion to approve the Minutes of the June 17, 2010, meeting was unanimously approved.

III. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO CITY OF POMONA'S NONDISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT (POMONA VALLEY TRANSFER STATION)

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa gave a PowerPoint presentation on the July 15, 2010 Staff Report (see Attachment 1) on the City of Pomona's (City) request for the Task Force to review and approve an Amendment to the City's Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE), in accordance with the requirements of Section 41734(a)(1) of the California Public Resources Code and Section 18764(b), Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

Mr. Aiyetiwa reported to the Subcommittee that the City's initial NDFE was approved by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, now California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) in 1995. The City is proposing to amend its current NDFE to include the Pomona Valley Transfer Station, a proposed facility that currently does not exist.

The proposed facility, to be located at 1371 East 9th Street in the City of Pomona, would be permitted to process up to 1,500 tons per day (tpd) of municipal solid waste, including yard waste, and construction, demolition and inert debris. However, the facility is anticipated to process 1,200 tpd within three to five years with a diversion rate of up to 5 percent. The facility would operate Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that based on Staff's findings, (1) the City of Pomona's NDFE Amendment conforms with the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, complies with environmental regulations and State laws and regulations, and the facility will not impair solid waste management activities in Los Angeles County; and (2) Staff recommends Task Force concurrence with the City's NDFE Amendment.

In discussing the NDFE Amendment, the Subcommittee expressed concern over the July 14, 2010 letter from the legal representatives of Universal Waste Systems to the Task Force objecting to the subject NDFE Amendment on the grounds that Universal Waste already has an agreement with the City of Pomona to build and operate a 1,500 tpd transfer station (to be located at 1730 East First Street, Pomona), and that the proposed Pomona Valley Transfer Station has not been considered or approved by Pomona City Council. Ms. Antonia Castro, representing the City of Pomona, stated that the facilities are two separate projects and neither facility has been approved by the Pomona City Council. The City is requesting Task Force's concurrence with the proposed NDFE Amendment.

The Subcommittee also inquired if storm water runoff would be contained on site. Ms. Castro said that all storm water best management practices would be in place, and that the facility would be in compliance with all storm water quality requirements.

In conclusion, the Subcommittee made a motion to recommend that the Task Force (1) concur with the subject amendment to the City of Pomona's NDFE and (2) request the owner/operator to prepare monthly reports to be submitted on a quarterly basis to County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division, as indicated in the Staff Report. The Subcommittee also requested Staff to prepare a letter from the Task Force to CalRecycle and the City of Pomona notifying them of the Task Force's concurrence with the NDFE Amendment and to request that the owner/operator of the facility comply with all storm water quality requirements. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Ms. Linda Lee gave the Subcommittee a monthly update on re-vegetation efforts at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill. Ms. Lee reported that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) resumed its hearing on July 8, 2010, to consider an amendment to the Order for Abatement as petitioned by Republic Services/Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) at the last hearing on June 15, 2010. The petition requested that the three misting systems required by the Order for Abatement be suspended, except for during times of the Working Face Study

and Meteorological Study, unless odor complaints are received by the SCAQMD, for which BFI will reinstate operations within 48 hours of notice. BFI contests that the misting systems are not effective in reducing odors and would rather utilize a neutralizer system in the transfer trucks since the neutralizers would have direct contact with odiferous material rather than atomizing in the air and potentially blowing away. It was the decision of SCAQMD to suspend only the southeast misting system (nearest residents) and reconsider suspension of the other two systems at a later date.

Ms. Lee also discussed staff's review of a number of study proposals and reports, including a meteorological study, neutralizer studies, and a vegetation plan, BFI submitted to SCAQMD as required by the Order for Abatement. Ms. Lee discussed Figure 2 (Sunshine Canyon Landfill Restoration Plan) of Attachment 6: Draft Vegetation Planting Plan. She indicated that the illustration shows the proximity of residents to the Landfill and delineates a planting of 1,000 trees required by the City of Los Angeles to prevent dust from reaching the residents.

After Ms. Lee's update, Ms. Betsey Landis, Subcommittee Chairperson, commented that there has been very little discussion in the various reports regarding the use of tarps at the Landfill. She was concerned about the odors resulting from the use of tarps and would like BFI to provide a more complete discussion on the subject. Mr. Mike Mohajer added that the City/County LEA will provide an update on this issue and their roles and responsibilities at the August 19, 2010 meeting of the Task Force.

During the discussion on Attachment 6: Draft Vegetation Planting Plan (Planting Plan), Sunshine Canyon Landfill, the Subcommittee instructed Staff to make the following changes:

- **Section 5.0, Page 3, 3rd bullet:** Make a note under the ownership information for William C. Cloyd and on Figure 2 of the Planting Plan that the site has been bulldozed for home development and is not vegetated as depicted. BFI is using year-old information that does not accurately depict current conditions, and the Figure needs to be updated in order to develop better re-vegetation plans.
- **Section 6.0, Page 4, last bullet:** The bullet should be revised to change the planting dates from October 1st to April 1st, to November 1st to

March 1st and include a statement that no plantings will occur when the soil temperature is greater than 70 degrees Fahrenheit in order to minimize seed damage from high temperatures.

- **Section 6.0, Page 5, Table 1.0:** Pine trees should be removed from the list of plants since they are highly flammable. Add Deer Lotus (*Lotus Scoparius*) to the list of plants since it is a very hardy species.
- **Section 6.0, Page 5, last bullet:** Replace the word “at” to “in a hole with” to more accurately describe the proper depth for planting.
- BFI needs to include a re-vegetation plan in the oil well area shown as a barren grey patch on Figure 1.

In conclusion, the Subcommittee made a motion to send a letter to SCAQMD with a copy to BFI, BFI’s consultant (Environmental Science Associates), County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill City/County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) providing Subcommittee’s comments on the re-vegetation plan discussed at today’s meeting. The motion passed with Mr. Bahman Hajialiakbar voting for Mr. Carlos Ruiz. Mr. Christopher Salomon was not present for the vote.

VI. Open Discussion/Public Comment

Mr. Mohajer stated that on July 26, 2010, there will be a meeting between the Task Force and Regional Planning regarding Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer also stated that he attended the Joint Community Advisory Committee meeting where it was reported that 1.5 billion standard cubic feet of methane was flared at Sunshine Canyon Landfill in 2009, even though the Landfill’s Conditional Use Permit states that methane collected from the Landfill is supposed to be put to beneficial use. The Subcommittee would like to make sure the LEA is aware of this situation.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

To be announced at a later date.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.