

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

**Minutes of April 21, 2011 Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Pat Proano, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Becky Bendikson, City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory  
Committee  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Rafael Garcia, Republic Services  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:17 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 17, 2011**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the March 17, 2011, meeting was unanimously approved.

**III. ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS BY SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**

Mr. Gerardo Villalobos gave a PowerPoint presentation on how to download inspection reports for Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Landfill), or other landfills, through CalRecycle's Solid Waste Information System (<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/SWFacilities/Directory/>). Ms. Betsey Landis noticed there were many violations for various incidents at the Landfill, e.g., gas management and control, nuisance control, daily cover, etc. She asked if the violations would show up as corrected in later reports; and Mr. Villalobos said that they would.

Mr. Christopher Salomon asked what happens if violations continue on a regular basis. Mr. Villalobos stated that CalRecycle will issue a Notice of Intent, which places a facility on a list for monitoring compliance. If the facility is still on the list for four consecutive months within a six-month period, then CalRecycle puts these facilities on a list of facilities that are not complying with State regulations. Ms. Landis also noticed that in 2010 there were six weeks where there were grading fill concerns that did not lead to violations. She also pointed out other areas of concern listed on the reports and expressed concern about the high number of unresolved issues at the Landfill.

Mr. Pat Proano indicated that Republic Services, Inc., (Republic) is aware of the problems and is currently addressing them. Republic has hired a new gas manager who will be responsible for overseeing the installation of new gas wells and repair of old ones. Mr. Proano mentioned that he has been working with Republic on a daily basis and has been directed by the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office to bring an end to these problems. As a result, Republic has submitted an Odor Mitigation Plan to Public Works and an Odor Plan of

Action to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), which will be discussed in the next section of these Minutes.

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

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa informed the Subcommittee that Public Works is reviewing the Odor Mitigation Plan. Mr. Aiyetiwa reported that in March 2011 Republic began making repairs to the damaged gas collection system due to previous landslide and subsurface actions. He also reported that odor complaints rose from 173 in February 2011 to 221 in March 2011, and AQMD issued five notices of violation to Republic in March 2011.

Mr. Aiyetiwa discussed the County Department of Regional Planning's response to the Task Force's letter of March 29, 2011, requesting the status of retaining contractual services for an independent mitigation monitor. Regional Planning's response letter, dated April 5, 2011, indicated the final selection of the independent monitor will be made on May 11, 2011, at the next Technical Advisory Committee in accordance with the City/County Memorandum of Understanding.

After some discussion, Ms. Landis inquired if the aging gas collection system will be addressed in the odor mitigation plan. Mr. Rafael Garcia of Republic, stated that his company is working on optimizing the gas collection system at the Landfill through installation of new gas collection wells and repairs made to the old system. Mr. Proano added that the situation is complicated, and there is no easy or immediate solution to the problem, and that is why he is working with Republic to develop a systemic solution that will address all the problems at the Landfill.

Ms. Becky Bendikson asked that her organization, Sunshine Canyon Community Advisory Committee, be provided with copies of the Order Mitigation Plan and the Odor Plan of Action reports so that her members can be fully informed about odor and other issues at the Landfill. Mr. Aiyetiwa said that based on the Conditional Use Permit requirement, that he will request that Republic Services provide the report to the Sunshine Canyon Community Advisory Committee.

Ms. Landis commented that it would be very helpful to have some type of daily weather and odor forecast report that can be accessed through a website.

Mr. Garcia stated that he will address the feasibility of producing such a website with his management. Since Republic is committed to solving the odor problem at the Landfill, Mr. Garcia also mentioned that Republic has hired an independent agency to monitor the odors at the Landfill to give an impartial assessment of the situation.

#### **V. STATUS OF 1ST QUARTER 2011 REVEGETATION REPORT**

Mr. Aiyetiwa informed the Subcommittee that Mr. Greg Ainsworth of Environmental Science Associates, the Landfill's vegetation consultant, and Mr. Wesley Colvin, the County Biologist, will be available at the next Subcommittee meeting to discuss vegetation issues at the Landfill.

Mr. Aiyetiwa then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the revegetation efforts at the Landfill during the 1st Quarter of 2011. As required by Condition 18 of the Finding of Conformance for the Landfill, Republic submitted a detailed Report on April 12, 2011, describing these efforts. The Report discusses Republic's interim cover, final cover, and sage mitigation areas.

Mr. Aiyetiwa compared photographs from the 1st Quarter 2011 and 4th Quarter 2010 demonstrating a greener landscape due to the winter rains. He also pointed out the effects of an herbicide abating process used to control weeds in this quarter.

During the discussion of the Revegetation Report, Ms. Landis commented on the soil analysis performed by Environmental Science Associates and inquired about the study assumptions and purpose of the study. Ms. Landis believed the analysis did not appear to be testing for the best conditions for growing inland sage scrub plants, which is the long-term goal. In addition, the report discussed that the soil needed to be amended with nitrogen, which Ms. Landis and Mr. Ted St. John, a consultant for Republic Services, had already determined to be not needed in such large quantities. She further stated that soil compaction and sulfates were the real problem here. Ms. Landis stated that she would like to find out what the soil sampling protocols were and would be preparing questions for Mr. Ainsworth.

**IV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**V. NEXT MEETING DATE**

To be announced at a later date.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.