

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

Minutes of May 26, 2011 Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Conference Room A
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
Greg Ainsworth, Environmental Science Associates
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
Wesley I Colvin III, County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning
Carrie Ferrier, Clements Environmental
Chip Clements, Clements Environmental
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Ted St. John, AECOM
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rosario Lim, Active Recycling
Virginia Pajarito, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Errol Segal, Active Recycling
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Becky VanSickle, Republic Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2011

Ms. Betsey Landis requested two changes to the Minutes. Both changes were on page 4, Item V, Status of 1st Quarter 2011 Revegetation Report. The changes were in the fourth paragraph of this section. The first change was in the second sentence, changing sage to “inland sage scrub plants”, and the second change was at the end of the third sentence adding “in such large quantities”. A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2011, meeting, and was unanimously passed subject to incorporation of the changes.

III. CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO INCORPORATE ACTIVE RECYCLING MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITY AND TRANSFER STATION INTO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES’ NONDISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT

Ms. Emiko Thompson gave a presentation on the Active Recycling Material Recovery Facility and Transfer Station ([see attached](#)). The purpose of the presentation was to obtain the Task Force’s comments on the proposed City of Los Angeles Nondisposal Facility Element (NDFE) amendment.

Ms. Thompson presented the findings of the proposed NDFE amendment as it first, conforms to the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan; secondly, is in compliance with Environmental Regulations, since amending the NDFE is not subject to environmental review; and lastly, complies with State Laws and Regulations. Based on these findings, it was proposed that the following recommendations be made to the Task Force: Concur with amending the City’s NDFE to include Active Recycling Material Recovery Facility and Transfer Station, and Request that the facility submit monthly reports, on a quarterly basis, to Public Works, that contain the types and quantities of waste received for processing, recycling, and disposal.

Ms. Landis asked if the facility would be covered with a roof. Ms. Thompson stated that it would not be covered. Ms. Landis expressed concern with the proximity of this facility with the surrounding homes, as well as the potential for odors from the green waste and high winds causing debris to become airborne.

Mr. Segal responded that green waste will stay on the site no longer than 48 hours. Mr. Chip Clements added that odor as well as other issues will be taken into consideration when obtaining the solid waste facilities permit. Ms. Landis asked if construction debris will also only be allowed to remain at the site for no longer than 48 hours. Mr. Segal replied in the affirmative. Ms. Landis asked if the site is acting as a Transfer Station with some recycling. Mr. Clements stated that the majority of the materials is ultimately diverted and not sent to landfills. Ms. Landis asked if there were any similar facilities nearby, to which Mr. Clements replied there are not many of these types of facilities that accept Construction and Demolition and green waste, and that this area is currently underserved. Ms. Landis then asked if the site operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Mr. Segal responded stating that their permit allows 24 hour operations for recycling but the actual operating hours are from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and that the site is opened to the public from 6 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Mr. Mike Mohajer then asked Mr. Clements for clarification as to which type of permit they plan to obtain. Ms. Landis mentioned that the type of permit would be contingent upon the City of Los Angeles Local Enforcement Agency's decision. Mr. Mohajer inquired about the need for a California Environmental Quality Act document, to which Mr. Clements and Ms. Carrie Ferrier responded that they are still in the process of determining the requirements in coordination with the City and Local Enforcement Agency. Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated that the parameters of the operations may change depending on what type of entitlement is granted. For purposes of the NDFE, Mr. Mohajer stated that the local land use decision is irrelevant and not required. He further explained that under existing law an NDFE can be approved for an existing or proposed facility. Ms. Landis suggested removing "complies with environmental regulations," from the Staff Report since this would be determined by the City. Mr. Mohajer agreed with this recommendation.

Additionally, Mr. Mohajer recommended that the green waste be removed within 24 hours or that it be encapsulated to prevent odors. Ms. Landis concurred with this recommendation.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to concur with the staff recommendations subject to the following modifications (1) recommendation that green waste be removed within 24 hours or be encapsulated; (2) recommendation that the finding exclude the existing buy back center; (3) ensure that the green waste and Construction

and Demolition operations comply with the Clean Water Act requirements; (4) amend the Staff Report to reflect the current operating hours of the facility, as 7 days a week, from 6 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. However, based on statements by the facility owner/operator, also clarify that the facility is operated 7 days a week, from 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and (5) revise the legend of Exhibit A, to read "Transfer station with low recovery rate." The motion passed with Mr. Chris Salomon opposing the first recommendation to remove the green waste within 24 hours.

IV. DISCUSSION OF SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL QUARTERLY VEGETATION REPORTS – LINDA LEE AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM REPUBLIC SERVICES AND COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

Ms. Linda Lee asked the subcommittee if they would allow four guests to sit at the table to answer questions regarding revegetation at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The subcommittee welcomed the following guests to sit at the table with them Ms. Becky VanSickle, Environmental Compliance Specialist from Republic Services; Mr. Greg Ainsworth, Biologist and Consultant from Environmental Science Associates for Republic Services; Dr. Ted St. John, Senior Ecologist and Consultant from AECOM for Republic Services; and Dr. Wesley Colvin, Biologist for the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning.

Regarding soil conditions at the old City Landfill, Ms. Landis asked the guests if they believed the recommendations from True Growers Laboratory were correct or whether they could be dealing with orchards rather than native plants. Mr. Ainsworth responded that the soil analyses and recommendations were based on native soil conditions. He further stated that he thought more macronutrients were needed. Ms. Landis stated that it was typical of the soil onsite to have high sulfate and felt the assumptions made in the analysis were incorrect and was concerned about the nitrogen levels in the proposed soil amendments. These native plants do not require a lot of nitrogen.

Ms. Landis then asked if they were conducting more soil analyses and what the next step was going to be. Mr. Ainsworth indicated he just took more samples of the native soil onsite, and that the deeper soil samples appeared sandier. The next step would be to clean up the gravels, and implement a weed maintenance program.

Mr. Mohajer stated that he would like to see Republic develop definitive plans and actions to address and resolve the continued lack of vegetation growth at the closed and active portions of the Landfill. Ms. Landis suggested that a better top soil mixture be applied, and indicated her willingness to help the group on certain revegetation issues if needed.

Mr. Mohajer suggested Public Works to facilitate discussion with Republic Services and the County Flood Control District regarding the feasibility of utilizing sediment from the County Flood Control facilities for revegetation at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. He requested Public Works staff to report back next month. Additionally, Ms. Landis requested for imported soils to be tested first, so that current onsite soil conditions are not exacerbated.

V. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Item not discussed as time did not permit.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Time did not allow open discussion/public comment.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

June 16, 2011

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.