

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

Minutes of September 15, 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
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood
Council
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Virginia Pajarito, 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 11:06 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2011 MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the July 21, 2011 meeting was unanimously approved.

III. AB 341 IMPACT ANALYSIS

Mr. Carlos Ruiz reported on AB 341. Mr. Ruiz summarized the main issues of the bill and explained four key areas that this bill affects. The four key areas are listed below:

- 75 percent diversion goal – The bill would include a legislative declaration that no less than 75 percent of solid waste would be source reduced, recycled or composted, and that a report be submitted to legislation to achieve that goal. The bill excludes conversion technologies from being utilized to achieve diversion goals of 75 percent or higher and does not provide local governments with the necessary tools to achieve and sustain the desired diversion rates.
- Planning – The bill would strip the Task Force's authority to review Non-Disposal Facility Element amendments for consistency with countywide waste management plans and potential region-wide impacts. It would only require an update by the subject jurisdiction and submittal to CalRecycle with a copy to the Task Force.
- Mandatory Commercial Recycling Provisions – The bill would duplicate, and make more stringent proceedings already being carried out by state agencies. The mandate would apply to businesses, including a commercial or public entity, that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste, or multifamily residential dwellings of 5 units or more.
- Permitting of Solid Waste Facilities – The bill would allow a solid waste facility to add a non-disposal activity that will increase the amount of solid waste that may be handled through a modification process of the Solid Waste Facility Permit, rather than a revision process.

The subcommittee discussed the above components of the bill and the associated potential negative impacts.

IV. UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Chuk Agu provided the subcommittee with an update on the status of the Revised Countywide Siting Element (CSE), including the CSE Revision Project Timeline.

Upon the subcommittee's deliberation, Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion that staff prepare and provide to the subcommittee a flowchart or timeline describing the approval process of the preliminary draft CSE by the Task Force. The motion was passed with one abstention from Ms. Landis.

V. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL, UPDATE ON REVEGETATION

Ms. Linda Lee provided a summary of Sunshine Canyon Landfill's Second Quarter 2011 Status Report. Ms. Lee explained the Report describes the status of vegetation efforts on interim cover, final cover, and sage mitigation areas and that the report was submitted as required by Condition 18 of the Finding of Conformance for the Landfill.

Ms Lee provided the following updates regarding both the County and City sides of the landfill:

- Interim vegetation work has been reduced significantly due to construction activities related to the Landfill's gas control system.
- Republic Services Inc. is working on amending the Final Sage Interim Report to include additional native species that are tolerant of drought and disturbed conditions.
- Republic Services Inc. has been engaging in discussions regarding various revegetation approaches that may yield more positive results. Republic Services Inc. anticipates submitting a revised vegetation plan in the third quarter.

Regarding the County side of the landfill, Ms. Lee provided the following updates:

- Weed conditions have improved from dense weed coverage to minimal weed cover since last quarter.
- Majority of the northern and upper portions of the sage mitigation area continues to have minimal plant growth.
- ESA Biological recommended incorporating a soil amendment or mulch with high organic content and installing signs indicating that the area is undergoing revegetation.

Regarding the City side of the landfill, Ms. Lee provided the following updates:

- Germination from hydroseeding has been stunted and suppressed due to shading from competing weeds and poor maintenance of the general area.
- ESA Biological recommended immediately implementing a summer weed control program to control existing weed species, including removing dead materials and monitoring and controlling weeds on a quarterly basis.
- Republic Services Inc. anticipates another round of weeding to be performed in the third quarter.

Ms. Landis asked Ms. Lee if she had any comments regarding the progress. Ms. Lee replied that there was not much progress during the second quarter.

After some discussion, Ms. Landis inquired about the number of wells at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Ms. Lee stated that 52 new gas extraction wells were installed and that 50 existing wells were repaired. Ms. Lee explained that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has taken the lead in requiring Republic Services Inc. to further improve the landfill gas collection system.

Ms. Landis then asked if staff would be reporting on the odor concerns at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Ms. Lee explained that AQMD is working with the regulatory agencies and Republic Services Inc. regarding the odors and that if there is new progress, staff may be able to share that with the subcommittee.

The subcommittee then discussed the ongoing matter regarding Sunshine Canyon Landfill accepting out-of-county waste, which is not allowed under the conditional use permit. Although it is a Planning Department issue, the subcommittee requested staff to provide a status report in regards to the agencies working together to address the matter during the next meeting.

Mr. Wayde Hunter stated that he would like to see a regular report regarding the odors at Sunshine Canyon Landfill as it is an ongoing problem that has not gone away.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that he attended a community meeting on September 1, 2011, where Republic Services reported on the odor problems at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Mr. Mohajer further stated that he had a concern with the Final Odor Plan of Action, dated June 24, 2011, which contains a different statement than what Republic Services made at the community meeting. Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to Republic Services requesting them to substantiate or remove the following statement on page 5, Section 2.3, Daily Cover, of the Final Odor Plan of Action: "The soil is required to be left in place and not removed. This is not standard industry practice". The motion was passed with one abstention from Mr. Villalobos.

VI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no open discussion/public comment.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

To be announced at a later date.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.