

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

**Minutes of May 16, 2013, 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:

Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services, Inc.  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Lukas Przybylo, 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 11:12 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 18, 2013, MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of April 18, 2013, was approved with Mr. Mike Mohajer abstaining.

**III. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

First Quarter 2013 Vegetation Report

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided a summary on the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (SCL) first Quarter 2013 Vegetation Report. The report contains the progress of SCL's vegetation efforts on the interim cover, final cover, and sage mitigation areas.

The interim areas on the County and City sides will be seeded, amended, or mulched in the latter part of 2013 to take advantage of the winter rains. Weed abatement was completed on a section of the south City area. Republic Services Inc., (Republic) anticipates performing weed abatement as necessary and when weather permits.

Conditions on the County side sage mitigation area remain unchanged. A substantial portion of the County-side mitigation area continues to be bare and problematic for vegetation to become established.

In the pilot project area on the City side, the vegetation and soil surface layer on the lower deck has been cleared. The soil for planting native vegetation has been prepared. Soil amendments have been worked into the soil, and the irrigation system is in place. Boulders have been placed throughout the area to create microclimates.

Ms. Betsey Landis asked for reason why nothing had been planted. Mr. Anthony Bertrand, SCL General Manager, answered that there have been delays with procurement, construction, and getting contracts in place. However, container plants will be installed within the next two weeks. Ms. Landis commented

that it would be a good preventative measure to use mulch throughout the pilot project area to prevent weeds from growing.

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Lukas Przybylo reported that 112 odor complaints were made to South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) in April 2013.

- 3 complaints were verified by inspectors to be trash odor
- 40 complaints were verified to be landfill gas odor
- 3 complaints were verified as a combination of trash and landfill odors
- 45 complaints were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival
- 21 complaints were not responded to by inspectors

The number of complaints received in April 2013 (112 odor complaints) was the same as those filed in March 2013 (112 odor complaints). The number of complaints in April 2013 (112 odor complaints) was 13 percent lower than those filed in April 2012 (129 odor complaints). Additionally, the installation of 37 additional gas extraction wells was completed in mid-April.

The Subcommittee also commented that the title of AQMD's odor graph "Complaints Reported to the AQMD Alleging Sunshine Canyon Landfill as the Source" should be clarified to indicate the nature of the complaints to be odor related.

### Sewer Connection

According to the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, there are two sewer connection designs being considered at this time. One is a gravity type design and the other one involves a pump station. The sewer connection with a pump station is preferable as it might avoid potential issues with underground utilities. No permit has yet been issued because options are still being discussed. Staff will continue to monitor and provide an update on any progress made at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Landis asked if the sewer connection was still scheduled for completion by July 2013. Mr. Bertrand responded by saying that Republic had a meeting with the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, and they

were able to finalize a design which included a lift station and force main. Republic and the City agreed that this design would be less intrusive to traffic and utilities on San Fernando Road. Republic expects to have the plans back to the City for their review by the middle of June 2013 and permitted by August 1, 2013.

#### Interagency Efforts

AQMD, along with other regulatory agencies, including the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works), and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency, formed the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Interagency Task Force (Interagency Task Force) to develop additional mitigation measures in an effort to reduce odors at the SCL. The Interagency Task Force meeting originally scheduled for May 8, 2013, was re-scheduled to May 22, 2013. Staff will provide an update regarding this meeting at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

#### Proposed Access Road

At a recent Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee meeting, Republic shared draft conceptual drawings for the various phases of the planned access road. Copies of the drawings shared at the meeting have been provided to the Subcommittee. According to the conceptual drawings the work has been divided into four phases. For each of the phases, the landfill plans to hydroseed and plant vegetation to screen construction activities and traffic from the surrounding communities.

In Phase 1, the existing access road will be shifted to the west onto the existing slope, which will provide uninterrupted access to the site for refuse disposal. A secondary road to the right will allow grading and construction activities. Phase 2 also proposes two independent roads, one dedicated for the disposal of trash, and one for grading at the base of the terminal buttress, or slope to hold trash behind it. In Phase 3, once the terminal buttress reaches design elevations, the temporary west access road will be abandoned, leaving a single road for all landfill traffic. In Phase 4, the slope will be vegetated and areas likely to be visible from outside will be hydroseeded. Republic indicated that engineering drawings are being finalized and will be made available towards the end of May 2013.

Ms. Landis asked if the access road will be realigned again in the future. Mr. Bertrand replied that the completed access road would be the final entrance and road configuration.

Mr. Bertrand stated that the front entrance berm project has not been approved by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board). Republic anticipates providing the designs to the Water Board by the end of May 2013 for their review and approval. Approval may take up to nine months.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz asked if the access road will change as the landfill grows. Mr. Bertrand answered that as the landfill grows in elevation there will be one switchback road on the final configuration of the berm. Mr. Ruiz then asked if the access road will require a change in the Sequencing Plan that was approved by Public Works, to which Mr. Bertrand replied by saying no.

Mr. Bertrand stated that Republic was close to completing SCL's Joint Technical Document (JTD) update in compliance with the 5-year review process. The JTD hasn't been revised since the original permit was approved. The updated JTD will include all the new facility information, such as plans, flares, sewer lines, etc. Mr. Gerardo Villalobos added that the JTD may also be amended within the 5-year updates to keep it current.

Mr. Ruiz suggested that the JTD be shared concurrently with Public Works to avoid any conflicting comments that may come up from the review by Public Works and other agencies. Mr. Ruiz suggested that the conceptual plans be provided to Public Works for a quick review on whether there are any potential impacts to the Sequencing Plan. If the Sequencing Plan is affected, it must be submitted to Public Works for review and comment. Mr. Bertrand agreed to share information with all responsible agencies.

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that the draft conceptual drawings were more in line with what he had envisioned as an entrance. Mr. Hunter requested to see another drawing depicting the final build out, but Ms. Landis commented that she thought the information provided is adequate for the purpose at hand.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL IN THE CITY OF WHITTIER**

Mr. Karlo Manalo informed the Subcommittee that on May 8, 2013, the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) reposted the Savage Canyon Landfill Notice of Exemption for an additional 30 days due to some posting issues at the Los Angeles County Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (County Clerk). The Notice

of Exemption was initially filed with the County Clerk on April 11, 2013, for the existing use practices of soil importation at the Savage Canyon Landfill. As a result of reposting the Notice of Exemption, the LEA postponed making a determination on the status of the application for the revised Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP). Staff will continue to monitor the SWFP revision process and will report findings to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Mike Mohajer asked for confirmation that the revised SWFP was subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and whether or not the 1977 environmental document approved by the City of Whittier is being considered by the LEA for purposes of SWFP revision. Mr. Villalobos answered that the SWFP is subject to CEQA review, and the LEA is reviewing the 1977 document for compliance. He also confirmed that the City of Whittier's Community Development Department and City Council have approved the CEQA document for this revision process.

Mr. Ruiz asked if there has been action taken by their City Council approving the project or if the LEA was going to be the lead agency for this project. Mr. Villalobos answered that the revision was not considered a project because it is an existing use.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the grading of the Landfill has changed. Mr. Villalobos added that the base elevation has not changed and discussed that the LEA is updating the SWFP to make it consistent with the final elevation and disposal footprint.

**V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no discussion/public comment.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.