

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

**Minutes of April 17, 2014, Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Clark Ajwani, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jeanne Biehler, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Kevin Best, Real Energy, LLC  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patti Costa, Republic Services, Inc.  
Anna Gov, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Michael Stewart, Republic Services, Inc.  
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kawsar Vazifdar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 20, 2014, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the March 20, 2014, meeting was unanimously approved. Mr. Bahman Hajjaliakbar seconded the motion.

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

### Odor Complaints, Surface Emissions, and Leachate

Mr. Clark Ajwani provided the Subcommittee with an update on odor complaints, surface emissions, and leachate at the Sunshine Canyon City/Canyon Landfill (Sunshine Canyon Landfill) for the month of March 2014.

During the month of March, a total of 164 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline.

- In comparison with February 2014 the number of complaints received in March increased by 343 percent (from 37 to 164 complaints).
- Compared to March 2013 the number of complaints received this March increased by 46 percent (from 112 to 164 complaints).

Of the 164 complaints in March:

- 53 were verified to be trash odors
- 29 were verified to be landfill gas odors
- 25 were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival
- 57 were not responded to by AQMD's staff

AQMD issued four separate Notices of Violation for odors (Rule 402) during the month of March.

Additionally, Mr. Ajwani stated staff has been working on the Subcommittee's request to incorporate additional details such as gas collection system breakdowns and enhancements on the graphs depicting Surface Gas Emission and Number of Odor Complaints; and Leachate Collected and Number of Odor

Complaints. Staff incorporated several notable events to date on the graphs that were handed out at the meeting. Staff will continue to enhance the graphs by adding any additional information.

#### Presentation by Republic Services, Inc.

Mr. Michael Stewart, Area Environmental Manager of Republic Services, Inc. (Republic), provided a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on the current status of several issues facing the Sunshine Canyon Landfill:

- Gas Collection and Control System (GCCS) Improvements
- Gas-to-Energy Plant
- Leachate Collection
- Erosion and Settlement Control Measures
- La Habra March 28, 2014, Earthquake Assessment
- Odorous Load Process
- Vegetation Update

#### GCCS Improvements

Mr. Stewart reported there are a total of 647 vertical gas extraction wells on site. Lateral pipes which move the gas from the wells to the perimeter header system and then to flares, have been upgraded to larger sizes. Blowers at flares 1, 3, and 8 have also been upgraded from 40 Horsepower (Hp) to 200 Hp.

He reported significant improvements in the Landfill's gas collection efficiency, including a 70 percent increase in flare production since September 2011 and an 86 percent decrease in surface emissions during the same period.

#### Ongoing GCCS Activities

Mr. Stewart stated Republic tunes the gas collection wells a minimum of twice per month. He added that in 2013 Republic began an aggressive gas well pumping program to remove liquids from the gas wells. Republic also installed an additional 20 wells, since January 2014 and plans to install up to 50 more.

Republic is in the process of installing a 20 Megawatt gas-to-energy facility that is expected to be operational in August 2014.

### Leachate Collection

The Landfill's collection and recovery system has been designed to collect and convey leachate to sumps. The leachate inside the sumps is pumped through a solid high-density polyethylene pipeline to a leachate treatment facility at the rate of approximately 350,000 gallons per month. Approximately 400,000 gallons per month of leachate is pumped directly from gas wells that are taken off-site for disposal.

The Landfill leachate treatment facility is equipped with a granular activated carbon system with a 50,000 gallons per day capacity. The treated liquid is used for dust control as approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Mr. Stewart informed the Subcommittee that Republic is still working towards acquiring a construction permit for the proposed sewer line and anticipates receiving the permit soon. Once permitted, construction will last five to six weeks.

### Erosion and Settlement Control Measures

The Landfill's erosion and sediment control measures are a combination of permanent drainage features and temporary erosion systems which are installed on an annual basis in advance of rainy seasons

### La Habra March 28, 2014, Earthquake Assessment

Mr. Stewart informed the Subcommittee that no damage was observed at the Landfill as a result of the March 28, 2014, La Habra earthquake.

### Odorous Load Process

Ms. Patti Costa, Environmental Manager for Sunshine Canyon Landfill, reported the Landfill identifies odorous loads using the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Odor Classification table. She stated this process has been implemented at each of the six Republic-operated transfer stations around the Los Angeles area, as well as at the Landfill's scale house. Employees are trained to notify personnel of odorous loads which are immediately taken to the working face and processed. Additionally, the process allows managers to reject loads if there is a strong possibility it can cause an odorous situation at the Landfill.

### Vegetation Update

Ms. Costa stated that Republic is in the process of hydro-seeding 30 acres of the Landfill and expect to complete it next week. Republic is also testing different application methods in several test plots. The City Sage Mitigation Pilot Project is currently in the maintenance phase and a random quadrant sampling method is being used to measure the success of the pilot project. Results of project will be included in the quarterly vegetation report to be released later this month. Other vegetation activities at the Landfill include soil sampling from the County Sage Mitigation slope area in March. Republic anticipates providing the Subcommittee with a soil report and growth trial results in June.

Mr. Wayne Hunter commented on the significant increase in odor complaints at the Landfill and noted the most odorous loads that are being accepted at the Landfill are from Stericycle. He asked if Republic had performed any testing on these loads to ascertain if any residual odors remained and why Republic continued to accept loads from Stericycle. Mr. Stewart responded that the loads have not been tested. However, Republic is confident in its ability to manage the odors related to loads brought to the Landfill by Stericycle. In order to get a better handle on this situation, Ms. Betsey Landis requested that more data be obtained from Republic on the frequency and size of loads accepted from Stericycle.

Mr. Mike Mohajer commented on the damage to the Landfill's sedimentation basin as a result of the recent rainfall and stated that Republic, through the Conditional Use Permit requirements, were required to notify the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works of this problem.

#### **IV. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DEIR) FOR THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE SCHOLL CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on the DEIR for the proposed expansion of the Scholl Canyon Landfill, which began operating in the City of Glendale in 1961. Mr. Shirzadegan stated that the Landfill is a Class III landfill owned by the City of Glendale and operated by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (CSD). The Landfill is operated under a Joint Powers Agreement among the City of Glendale, CSD, and the County of Los Angeles. The Landfill has a wasteshed which limits the use of the Landfill to specific surrounding communities comprised of several cities and unincorporated County areas. The Landfill is permitted to accept a maximum of 3,400 tons per

day (tpd) of solid waste for disposal. It has a total permitted capacity of 33 million tons, with a remaining capacity of 4.1 million tons that is expected to be reached around 2032 (at the current disposal rate of 700 tpd). It is permitted for a maximum elevation of 1,525 feet.

Mr. Shirzadegan informed the Subcommittee that, according to the DEIR, one of the purposes of the proposed expansion is to increase disposal capacity at the Landfill. He informed the Subcommittee that the DEIR includes two possible variations for the Landfill's proposed expansion.

Variation I, a vertical expansion, increases the maximum vertical elevation by 180 feet, from 1525 feet to 1705 feet. It adds 5.5 million tons of disposal capacity and extends the Landfill's life by approximately 13 years.

Variation II, a vertical and horizontal expansion, increases the maximum vertical elevation by 180 feet, from 1525 feet to 1705 feet. It would also increase the Landfill's disposal footprint by 13 acres to the north, adds 8 million tons of disposal capacity and extends the Landfill's life by approximately 19 years.

Mr. Shirzadegan reported to the Subcommittee that, according to the DEIR, the project may have a Potentially Significant Impact on the following environmental issue areas before mitigation: aesthetics; air quality; greenhouse gas emissions; transportation and traffic; biological resources; geology; soils and hydrogeology; and noise. Mitigation measures will reduce impacts to less than significant for all areas except for air quality.

Mr. Shirzadegan recommended the Task Force send a letter to the City of Glendale with the following comments regarding the DEIR:

- Specify any impacts to the surrounding community regarding odors.
- Specify the details of how to accomplish non-intrusive lighting.
- Specify mitigation measures to minimize emissions during construction
- Include discussion regarding any potential alternative-to-landfill technology facilities to be developed at the Landfill

Additionally, staff is currently working with Traffic and Lighting Division to provide comments.

Ms. Landis commented that with the Landfill being built up to the ridges of the canyon, there will be odor complaints made about the Landfill, as well as from loads of waste being trucked in as there are homes surrounding the Landfill.

The DEIR states that ornamental vegetation, such as rye grass, will be used at the Landfill rather than native vegetation. The DEIR states that native vegetation dries out quickly and can become a fire hazard. Ms. Landis pointed out that rye grass has a shallow root system, and consequently will not be a good choice to prevent soil erosion, and that it dries out quicker than native vegetation. Native vegetation is actually fire resistant. She added that the DEIR should also be discussing revegetation of the Landfill slopes.

Ms. Landis mentioned she will provide staff with her comments including requiring the Landfill to invest in a second, reserve compressor to be available to deliver gas to the power plant rather than flaring it off, and to develop a Community Climate Change Action Plan.

Mr. Mohajer noted that the Local Enforcement Agency has permitted the Landfill to accept up to 3,400 tpd. However, the DEIR's analyses are based on a projected daily intake of 1,400 tpd. For example, if the Landfill accepts more than 2,600 tpd, the Landfill will then conduct an acoustical analysis to identify impacted areas and provide mitigation. Should such an acoustical analyses at the 2,600 tpd level reveal areas of concern, the Local Enforcement Agency may need to revisit the Landfill's current Solid Waste Facility Permit.

Mr. Mohajer also commented that the DEIR needs to address the potential combined impact of the permitted tonnages to be accepted at the proposed anaerobic digestion facility in addition to the tonnages accepted for disposal at the Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer added that the Landfill will need to apply for a Finding of Conformance from the Task Force for its proposed expansion.

A motion was passed for the Task Force to send a letter to the City of Glendale providing comments on the DEIR for the proposed expansion of the Scholl Canyon Landfill. Mr. Chris Salomon seconded the motion but recused himself from voting.

**V. DEIR FOR THE PROPOSED MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY (MRF) AND TRANSFER STATION IN THE CITY OF IRWINDALE**

Ms. Kawsar Vazifdar provided a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on the DEIR for the proposed MRF and transfer station, which is located at 2200 Arrow Highway in the City of Irwindale. The facility is a 322,972 square foot, single stream recycling facility (fully commingled recycling) designed to receive, process and transfer up to 6,000 tpd. The facility proponent (Athens Services) is proposing to receive material 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with most materials being received between the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. No anticipated diversion rate is described in the DEIR. If the project is approved, construction is anticipated to last approximately 18 months.

Ms. Vazifdar discussed in detail the following Environmental factors: Air Quality; Noise; Odor Control; and Transportation and Traffic.

Ms. Vazifdar recommended to send a letter to the lead agency, the City of Irwindale, proposing the DEIR should consider siting a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facility or a conversion technology facility at the site. The DEIR should further address air quality, noise, odor, and traffic as these are significant unavoidable adverse impacts even after mitigation has been implemented.

Ms. Landis commented that the DEIR should provide more detail on the air filtration system and how the materials collected are treated and disposed. She also inquired as to the concerns of the residents of the City of Baldwin Park.

Mr. Mohajer further added that area residents would be impacted by not only this facility but several other MRFs within a five to six mile radius of the project. This is an environmental justice issue which the DEIR does not address.

Ms. Landis expressed concern over the types of waste materials that would be brought to a HHW facility. She commented that a conversion technology facility may be of greater value to the community because of its energy conversion utility.

Discussion ensued and a motion was made and passed for the Task Force to send a letter to the City of Irwindale providing comments on the DEIR. Mr. Christopher Salomon seconded the motion.



**VI. DISPOSAL OF ORGANICS AT LANDFILLS BASED ON WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDIES**

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed for a future Subcommittee meeting.

**VII. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed for a future Subcommittee meeting.

**VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

It was announced that Ms. Jeanne Biehler will be replacing Mr. Gerardo Villalobos on the Subcommittee as the representative for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.