

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

**Minutes of October 16, 2014, 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  
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Amromin, Waste Management, Inc.  
Brent Anderson, Waste Management, Inc.  
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patti Costa, Republic Services, Inc.  
Rainer Globus, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Isaac Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bahman Hajialiakbar, 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  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Michael Stewart, Republic Services, Inc.  
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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2014, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the September 18, 2014, meeting was made by Mr. Carlos Ruiz. The motion was seconded by Mr. Gerardo Villalobos, and it passed with Mr. Mike Mohajer and Mr. Chris Salomon abstaining.

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

Odor Complaints

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill odor complaints for the month of September 2014.

During the month of September, a total of 302 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with August, the number of complaints received in September increased by 273 percent (from 81 to 302 complaints). Compared to September of 2013, the number of complaints this September increased by 122 percent (from 136 to 302 complaints).

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that the 302 odor complaints reported in the month of September was the highest number recorded since we have been tracking odor complaints, and it appears that the total number of complaints for 2014 will be close in matching the total number of complaints reported in 2013. He commented that the mitigation efforts undertaken by the Landfill to curb odor complaints have been ineffective, adding that more concerted efforts by the County are needed.

Mr. Mohajer requested an update on the status of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Interagency Working Group's (Working Group) most recent efforts toward odor mitigation. Ms. Emiko Thompson informed the Subcommittee that the Working Group last met in June 2013, to develop a set of recommendations for each of the agencies to implement within their respective authorities and purviews. Ms. Thompson also reported that the Landfill operator, Republic Services, Inc., has made operational and structural enhancements at the Landfill to address the odor complaints. She also reported that AQMD had retained a

consultant to analyze the facility's landfill gas management system and to make recommendations on what areas are in need of enhancement. The AQMD anticipates reporting its findings by the end of the year.

Ms. Betsey Landis added there has been insufficient progress in decreasing odors at the Landfill and questioned whether the volume of waste was too much for the Landfill to process. Mr. Ruiz commented that Public Works will take the necessary steps, within its regulatory authority, to address odors at the Landfill.

After further discussion, Mr. Mohajer requested that staff provide a written report, at the next Subcommittee meeting, on what responsible agencies have done to address the odor issues and to provide a monthly update thereafter until odor issues have been resolved. Furthermore, Mr. Mohajer requested staff to provide an update on what the land use agencies are doing in reference to nuisance mitigation per the Landfill's City Zoning Ordinance and County's Conditional Use Permit.

#### Sunshine Canyon Landfill Proposed West Drainage Channel Master Plan

Ms. Patti Costa provided a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Proposed West Drainage Channel Master Plan. She stated that, per the design described in the 2007 Joint Technical Document, drainage from Basin A will be diverted around the west side of the Landfill into the Terminal Basin via a concrete-lined trapezoidal channel and a corrugated metal pipe down drain. She informed the Subcommittee that 1,900 feet of the drainage channel, from Basin A to the northwestern edge of the City South area will be constructed over native material, while 3,200 feet of the drainage channel will be constructed over fill material. Two alternative alignments are being proposed for the down drain which will drain into the terminal basin.

Ms. Costa stated that, per Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, all permanent drainage facilities are to be designed and constructed to prevent washout of refuse from a 100-year storm event. Additionally, the Landfill will comply with Condition 38 of its Conditional Use Permit (CUP), which requires the Landfill to install appropriate drainage structures in compliance with all drainage requirements of Public Works. The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) also requires approval of the design plan and final construction plans prior to start of construction of the proposed drainage channel. Ms. Costa assured the Subcommittee that the drainage channel will be properly designed to convey all flows with no overflow.

Ms. Costa also indicated the Landfill anticipates resubmitting the Proposed West Drainage Master Plan in late November which will incorporate information

requested by Public Works and the RWQCB. Agency approvals are expected by March 2015, with construction of Phase 1 on the City South area over fill material to commence in 2016, and Phase 2 from Basin A to the northwest edge of the City South area over native material to begin in 2017.

The Subcommittee commented that the proposed drainage system is not sufficient for a 100-year storm as the drainage channel at the bottom of the Landfill would not be able to handle the flow of water in such a storm event. In response to the comments made by the Subcommittee and public, Ms. Costa reiterated that Republic would be providing a revised Master Plan by late November as part of which issues and concerns will be addressed.

Ms. Landis inquired if the Landfill's sewer construction project had been completed. Ms. Costa responded the sewer connection was completed and became operational on September 18, 2014.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION OF A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE AZUSA LAND RECLAMATION LANDFILL**

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) and update on the consideration of a Finding of Conformance (FOC) for the Azusa Land Reclamation Landfill (ALR) which is located at 1211 Gladstone Street in the City of Azusa. The Landfill is divided into five zones: Zone I, which accepted municipal solid waste (MSW) from 1960 to 1996; Zone II, which currently accepts inert waste but accepted MSW from 1989 to 1991; Zone III, which accepts tires and inert waste; Zone IV, which accepts tires and other inert waste, and is used for mining operations; and Zone V, which is currently being used for mining operations and is proposed to be reclaimed using engineered fill. The total permitted disposal footprint of the revised solid waste facility permit (SWFP) is 266 acres. The current SWFP allows the facility to accept 6,500 tons per day (tpd) of non-hazardous special waste (asbestos) and unclassified inert waste. The facility is open to the public during the hours of 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

In December 2012 ALR submitted an updated application, along with CEQA documents, for a revised SWFP in response to the Local Enforcement Agency's (LEA's) five-year permit review and to, among other things, increase the permitted tonnage from 6,500 to 8,000 tpd. ALR also submitted a FOC proposal to the Task Force on July 29, 2014, pursuant to Section 10.4 of the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE), dated June 1997. According to Section 10.4 of the CSE, existing solid waste disposal facilities that institute a significant change to their operation must obtain a FOC from the Task Force. For the purpose of the CSE, any revision in the facility's SWFP

would constitute a significant change.

The proposed revision to the facility's SWFP includes the following:

- Clarification of the total acreage of the permitted Landfill area to 302 acres and disposal area to 266 acres.
- Clarification of the permitted tonnage to 8,000 tpd, and 39,000 tons per week (which averages out to 6,500 tpd for six operating days).
- Clarification of the types of inert waste and beneficial use materials accepted.
- Clarification on the disposal operations for the co-disposal of waste tires and inert waste.
- Revision of the base grades for Zones III and IV to reflect ongoing disposal of inert waste and the elimination of MSW from permitted waste.
- Revision of the base and final grades in Zone V to an Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operation (IDEFO) to accommodate potential commercial development.
- Update the remaining estimated site capacity and site life.

Staff finds that the proposed revision to the SWFP is in conformance with the CSE and recommends the Task Force grant a FOC subject to the "Conditions of Approval" specified in the Staff Report and upon receiving the following documents as soon as they become available:

- Certified Initial Study/Environmental Checklist and Addendum to the 1988 Negative Declaration
- Revised Figures 2 and 3 in the FOC proposal depicting the exit from the Landfill and access to the Materials Recovery Facility/Transfer Station.
- Revised Figures 6 and 7 in the FOC proposal showing street names.

Mr. Mohajer commented that in the City's FOC application the location of the Landfill is indicated to be shared by the City of Azusa and the City of Irwindale. However, he sees no reference to the City of Irwindale in the staff report that was provided. Therefore, he would like to know if the FOC application is for one or both cities. He also commented that the Subcommittee had previously requested

a site map of the facility identifying the boundary of the property from a known point and a limit of fill, and this has not been provided. Ms. Landis requested that she needed to see a current aerial map showing all surrounding uses to the Landfill and to determine the site's excavation activity in proximity to sub-surface groundwater.

Mr. Mohajer also commented on page 3 of the FOC application, which stated that the Landfill proposes to increase the permitted tonnage to 8,000 tpd and 39,000 tons per week, which averages out to 6,500 tpd for six operating days. He stated that this tonnage proposal is not consistent with the 1996 FOC and the 1996 SWFP.

Mr. Mohajer also inquired into whether Zone V, which is considered an IDEFO, would require a SWFP. Mr. Villalobos informed the Subcommittee that Zone V will be operated consistent with what is required of an IDEFO and as part of the revised SWFP for the entire Landfill. Mr. Mohajer then asked if the Task Force has any jurisdiction over the inclusion of an IDEFO as part of a FOC. Mr. Ruiz commented that since IDEFOs are not required to operate under a SWFP or registration permit, IDEFOs will not fall under the requirements of the CSE. Mr. Mohajer further indicated that any materials that are placed in Zone V will not count towards disposal for the purpose of complying with AB 939 and will therefore not be subject to compliance with the CSE. Mr. Mohajer suggested the Task Force exclude Zone V from consideration of a FOC.

Mr. Salomon requested staff to confer with County Counsel for a legal opinion on whether the Task Force can issue a FOC for Zone V which is an IDEFO. He added that if County Counsel finds it to be legally tenable, the Task Force could then proceed with granting a FOC for Zone V.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the Task Force has never granted a conditional FOC and would find it difficult to do in this case as Chapter 10.7 of the CSE requires that a CEQA document pertaining to the FOC application has to be certified. In addition, he would like to make sure that the Traffic Study referenced in the CEQA document for the Azusa Materials Recovery Facility includes the traffic generated by the facility's landfill and mining operations. Mr. Brent Anderson of the ALR commented that the Traffic Study for the Azusa Materials Recovery Facility did include the landfill and mining operations.

Mr. Mohajer inquired whether there would be any structures (notably residential structures) located within 1,000 feet of the Landfill. Mr. Anderson stated there would be no structures within 1,000 feet of the Landfill. Mr. Mohajer also inquired whether the Landfill had conferred with the City of Azusa on whether a system was in place to protect the residences to the east side of the Landfill from

nuisance. Mr. Anderson stated that the portion of the Landfill adjacent to the residences will be the IDEFO (where inert material would be disposed of), which would not generate the same odors associated with MSW. Mr. Manalo informed the Subcommittee that the City of Azusa Building Code has the same requirement as that of the CSE.

Ms. Landis inquired whether Zone V would be provided with a liner when the land is reclaimed. Mr. Anderson answered that Zone V would be inert-filled with dirt and concrete. Ms. Landis expressed concern over the facility's definition of inert fill as it pertains to the facility's list of contaminants of concern and industrial solvents known to be found in well water in the San Fernando Valley and surrounding areas. She also commented on a concern over the facility accepting inert material from the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Mr. Anderson commented that the inert material accepted from the Santa Susana Field Laboratory was fiberglass panes, which had been screened multiple times. He also stated that the facility had a comprehensive load check program and profiling system that tests material before it is disposed at the site, and that the material's point of pickup is noted.

Mr. Mohajer inquired into the status of corrective actions on Zone I, referencing the 1996 Corrective Action Program undertaken by the facility as a result of volatile organic compounds detected in groundwater determined to be caused by landfill gas migrating from this area. Mr. Anderson stated that the program is reviewed biannually and that he would follow up with the Subcommittee at a future Subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Landis inquired into the status of the facility's CEQA certification. Mr. Gerardo Villalobos commented that once CalRecycle concurs with the Revised SWFP, the LEA will be filing a Notice of Determination, and thereafter the operator will be issued the Revised SWFP within five days. Mr. Mohajer requested that the Subcommittee be notified when the LEA has filed the Notice of Determination with the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse.

Ms. Landis commented that the Subcommittee could not recommend the Task Force to consider granting a FOC for the ALR until the issues discussed during the meeting are addressed.

## **V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS**

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

**VI. OPEN DISCUSSION PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no discussion/public comment.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.