

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

**Minutes of January 15, 2015, Meeting**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
12<sup>th</sup> Floor Executive Conference Room  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, California

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanne Biehler, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Stephen Beitz, Real Energy, LLC  
Kevin Best, Real Energy, LLC  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Iris Chi, County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning  
Alma Fuentes, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Kumari Gossai, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
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/Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Community Advisory Committee  
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Ralph Kroy, North Valley Coalition/ Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Cesar Leon, Tetra TechBas  
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Andrea Provenzale, Granada Hills Resident  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.  
Carlos Slythe, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Michael Stewart, Republic Services, Inc.  
Julia Weissman, County Counsel  
Ken Zimmer, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:13 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 20, 2014, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of November 20, 2014, Meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer. The motion was seconded by Ms. Jeanne Biehler, and it passed unanimously.

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

Odor Issues

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided the Subcommittee with an update on odor issues at the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill.

During the month of November a total of 80 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with October, the number of complaints received in November decreased by 64 percent (from 223 to 80 complaints). Compared to November of 2013, the number of complaints decreased by 14 percent (from 93 to 80 complaints).

During the month of December a total of 277 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. In comparison with November, the number of complaints received in December increased by 246 percent (from 80 to 277 complaints). Compared to December of 2013, the number of complaints this December increased by 285 percent (from 72 to 277 complaints).

Mr. Mohajer commented on a [December 23, 2014, letter](#) from the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning (City Planning) to the Task Force and a [January 12, 2015, letter](#) from the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) responding to the Task Force's letter of December 11, 2014, in which the Task Force requested additional information as to the "land use" agencies efforts regarding nuisance mitigations pursuant to the County's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and the Landfill's City of Los Angeles Zoning Ordinance, as well as the Mitigation Monitoring measures of the Landfill's Environmental Impact Reports. Both Agencies' letters stated that air quality monitoring has not shown evidence of an imminent or substantial risk to health, safety, or welfare to the local community. The letters also stated that no additional enforcement efforts are planned or warranted at this time by City Planning and Regional Planning. Mr. Mohajer commented that it would be helpful to understand the basis City Planning and Regional Planning had

considered in arriving at this assessment of the Landfill's overall compliance with their conditions, given that the Landfill received seven Notices of Violation (NOVs) from AQMD during the month of December due to verified odor complaints.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz commented on the Public Works' letter, dated October 22, 2014, requiring Republic Services, Inc. (Republic), to implement corrective measures pursuant to the operator's CUP to mitigate odors from the Landfill. He believes these measures are enforceable through the CUP; therefore, he would like the planning agencies to provide greater clarity on their respective processes and at what point they would take action on the odor complaints.

Mr. Chris Salomon inquired into whether AQMD was performing air quality sampling in, or around, the Landfill, as part of the requirements outlined in the CUP. Ms. Biehler commented that she was uncertain as to whether AQMD performed sampling, but stated that she believed the agency likely used a more qualitative standard in measuring air quality. Ms. Iris Chi added that the air quality monitoring mentioned in Regional Planning's letter referred to the results from the ambient air monitoring.

Mr. Salomon and Ms. Betsey Landis commented that while the issuance of multiple NOVs may not qualify as a public health concern, they may, nonetheless, represent a significant public nuisance concern that should be addressed.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion recommending that the Task Force send letters to City Planning and Regional Planning asking for clarification on the criteria used in the Agencies' determination that there is no evidence of an imminent or substantial risk to health, safety of the community, and that no additional enforcement efforts are planned or warranted at this time. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ruiz, and it passed with an abstention from Ms. Biehler.

#### Regional Water Quality Control Board's Waste Discharge Requirements – Revision of Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mr. Karlo Manalo informed the Subcommittee that on December 19, 2014, the Water Board released a Public Notice for comments on the proposed revisions to the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) which is included in Sunshine Canyon Landfill's Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR). The MRP requires the operator to implement groundwater monitoring at the Landfill.

The proposed revisions to the program, among other things, include the following:

- Reclassification of certain down-gradient wells to up-gradient wells
- Reduction in sampling frequencies for certain wells
- Removal of groundwater level monitoring for groundwater extraction wells
- Reduction in frequency of data analysis of certain “Supplemental Parameters”
- Reduction in frequency of confirmative sampling

Mr. Manalo reported that the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Summary in the CUP relies on the Water Board to monitor and enhance the groundwater monitoring as it deems necessary. Upon staff’s review of the proposed revisions to the program, staff recommended the following comments be sent to the Water Board:

- Monitoring wells PZ-4, DW-2, and DW-3 are the only down-gradient wells located southeast of the unlined City South portion of the Landfill that can detect any future potential groundwater contamination in this area. Moreover, this portion of the Landfill has no protective systems in place that can prevent any potential Landfill contaminants from spreading out to the nearest groundwater. Consequently, wells PZ-4, DW-2, and DW-3 need to be retained as down-gradient wells to further assist the Landfill in ensuring that potential contamination to the closest groundwater, as well as to off-site properties in the vicinity of the Landfill, are prevented.
- For all groundwater monitoring points, all “Supplemental Parameters,” except for field “Supplemental Parameters” and all constituents of concern listed in Table T-2 of the MRP (including those that are not listed in Table T-2 but are detected through sampling), should be monitored and analyzed at least once each year to avoid any potential migration of contaminants to the nearest groundwater.
- Confirmative sampling should be conducted by Water Board staff on at least two random occasions from two or more groundwater monitoring points, and as needed, for every five years to ensure that the quality and validity of the data collected at the Landfill are maintained.

- The subject Public Notice does not address the impact(s) of the proposal on the appropriate Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) identified in the Landfill's California Environmental Quality Act's (CEQA) final documents which, as a "Responsible Agency," were utilized by the Water Board to grant the subject facility's WDR. As such, the proposed MMRP revisions need to be reviewed to ensure full consistency and compliance with the appropriate MMRPs enumerated in the Landfill's CEQA documents, which are under the purview of the Water Board.

Mr. Manalo informed the Subcommittee that the deadline for submission of comments to the Water Board is January 19, 2015. Due to time constraint, staff drafted a Task Force letter to the Water Board providing these comments for the Subcommittee's consideration.

Ms. Landis expressed her concerns with the existing MMRP's reporting requirements and provided staff with her comments on the proposed revisions to the MMRP. She questioned the adequacy of the frequency of monitoring and reporting requirements of the MMRP and the lack of urgency when responses to incidental releases or potential contamination of the groundwater.

Mr. Salomon commented that Water Board's area of purview is distinctly different from that of AQMD with respect to the subsurface conditions of water and constituent movements. He stated that the development of a subsurface seepage may take place over a much longer period of time than a surface discharge. Given these complexities, extended time for review and study of subsurface discharge may be appropriate. He further added that where surface discharge is present, a more timely response is more appropriate.

Ms. Landis commented that the Landfill's proximity to a residential community poses a significantly greater risk of contamination to potable water supplies and should prompt a greater sense of urgency from the Water Board in their response to leachate discharge. This is one of many comments Ms. Landis verbally provided to the Subcommittee. Mr. Ruiz suggested that staff review and summarize her comments for inclusion in the letter to the Water Board.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter to the Water Board with comments identified by staff on the proposed revisions to the MMRP, including a request for an additional 30 days for the Task Force to provide additional comments to the Water Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ruiz, and it passed with abstention from Mr. Salomon.

Status Update on Efforts to Promote Conversion Technologies

Mr. Rob Sherman, General Manager for Republic's post collection activities in Los Angeles County, provided a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on Republic's efforts to promote conversion technologies (CTs). Mr. Sherman stated that Republic has strongly supported organics and composting legislations, including SB 498, AB 1826, and AB 1594, focusing their efforts on biomass technology, composting, and anaerobic digestion.

Mr. Sherman stated that Republic has also supported legislation that provides cap and trade funding for composting and anaerobic digestion projects, as well as legislation providing tax credits for diversion-based facilities and equipment. Republic has recently testified in support of CalRecycle's proposed compostable materials/transfer processing regulations (amendment of Title 14 and 27 of the California Code of Regulation). Republic is working towards establishing effective methods for collection of material that will be fed into the different technologies and pre-processing activities. He informed the Subcommittee that Republic has also been piloting commercial scale operations for CT in various locations outside of the County. He commented that the challenge for Republic is determining what is commercially viable and scalable at their facilities. Mr. Sherman also noted their involvement with Clean World Partners in Sacramento, Zero Waste Energy in San Jose, a utility district in Oakland, and other facilities they are working with to process organic materials and food waste.

Mr. Sherman acknowledged that Republic is required, per Sunshine Canyon Landfill's Finding of Conformance, to actively engage in supporting CT regulations, as well as to respond to concerns over legislation Republic deems unsupportive of CT. He commented that Republic plans to more consistently inform the Task Force, specifically the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee, of its efforts to develop CT at their facilities.

Mr. Mohajer commented that CalRecycle and the Water Board are adopting (or modifying) regulations for composting and waste discharge regulations for composting facilities. He commented that these agencies have favored composting over CTs; however, the Task Force has previously commented to these agencies that CT should be treated with equal priority as composting. For example, composting facilities should be required, as CT facilities are, to obtain a general permit from the Water Board to discharge stormwater or any other untreated material. He stated that there is a need for positive participation by Republic representatives in the development of regulations that may impact conversion technologies. Mr. Sherman agreed and will discuss with the Republic staff in Sacramento.

Mr. Mohajer informed that the State Water Resources Control Board released the Draft Environmental Impact Report and General Waste Discharge Requirements for Composting Operations for public commenting. A public workshop will be held on February 13, 2015, to provide information on the documents; and the comment period for both documents will end on March 2, 2015. Mr. Mohajer requested that a presentation be made on these documents at the February 2015 Task Force meeting.

Ms. Landis inquired if any of the CT facilities Republic has partnered with were designed for aerobic composting. Mr. Sherman informed the Subcommittee that each of their facilities, thus far, have been designed for anaerobic digestion.

#### Proposal to Accept Sediment from the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal Project

Mr. Ken Zimmer provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) updating the Subcommittee on the proposal for the Landfill to accept sediment from the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal Project (Project). At the previous Subcommittee meeting, the Subcommittee requested staff to provide further information as to the quality of the soil to be accepted at the Landfill. Mr. Zimmer informed the Subcommittee that Public Works would be testing the material once per week as part of protocol prior to its removal from the Project. He stated that although higher levels of arsenic can be found in the material, they are naturally-occurring and are consistent with general background concentrations in the State. The arsenic levels are also below thresholds regulated by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for workers and campers. Other materials, such as organochlorine pesticides and volatile organic compounds are below regulatory thresholds. Mr. Zimmer further informed the Subcommittee that the projected timeframe for completion of the Project is three to five years.

Mr. Mohajer inquired into which specific agencies set the respective threshold standards for permitted levels of arsenic and other constituents for the Project. He advised that once these agencies were identified, their respective threshold limits should be compared to those established within the Landfill's WDR.

Ms. Landis inquired into the environmental impacts from the removal of sediment from the Project. Mr. Zimmer commented that while there will be no impact on air quality or noise, there were traffic impacts in the City of Pasadena and aesthetic impacts at the basin. Public Works will be working to mitigate the impact caused by the removal of natural habitat.

Mr. Mohajer inquired into the effect stockpiling of the Project's sediment have on the community. Mr. Ruiz commented that the Landfill operator is encouraged to use on-site soil, per the Landfill's CUP and is allowed to stockpile soil under certain conditions.

Mr. Hunter commented that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee (CAC) had recently voted to oppose the Project at their January 8, 2015, meeting citing the need for a Supplemental EIR on the Project to include Sunshine Canyon Landfill, which is currently not included in the Project's Final EIR. Mr. Hunter commented on the CAC's concerns over residential exposure from the transportation and deposition of the sediment. Ms. Landis reiterated the need for an addendum to the EIR.

Mr. Zimmer commented that Public Works would comply with all CEQA requirements called for, including preparing an addendum to the Project's EIR due to the inclusion of Sunshine Canyon Landfill as one of the potential destination for the Project's sediment disposal.

#### Proposed Agreement for Air Quality Monitoring Services

Ms. Anna Gov provided an update on the proposed contract agreement for air quality monitoring services at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. She stated that there has been an ongoing air quality monitoring program for the Landfill since December 2008. The City's Condition C.10.a of Ordinance No. 172933 and the County's Condition 81 of the CUP, require an independent consultant to conduct tests of landfill dust and diesel particulates (PM 10 and BC) around the perimeter of the landfill, with special attention given to the area south of the Landfill above the residential community. Ms. Gov stated that the current air quality monitoring contract expires in June 2015.

Ms. Gov informed the Subcommittee that on January 7, 2015, the Los Angeles City Energy and Environmental Committee considered an agreement with Regional Planning and Sonoma Technology Inc. to provide air quality monitoring services at the Landfill. The term of the contract is for five years with two 12-month renewal options from the date of execution. The final day for the City Council to take action on the contract is January 16, 2015.

The agreement includes the following two new programs that were not in the prior contract for the provision of air quality monitoring services at the Landfill:

- A north-side (upwind) monitoring station.

- The option to request that the consultant conduct volatile organic compounds (VOC) and carbonyl samplings.

Mr. Mohajer inquired into whether the contract required an approved Memorandum of Understanding from the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Chi commented that the contract did not require approval from the Board of Supervisors, as it is part of the Landfill's County-approved CUP. Mr. Mohajer stated that agencies should have been granted an opportunity to review the contract and provide comment. He added that there is a need for more collaboration between the regulatory agencies and the community. Ms. Landis added that lack of communication between agencies is a problem the Task Force has taken issue with in the past.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Task Force to send letters to City Planning and Regional Planning encouraging more coordination amongst agencies on future service contracts and actions regarding the Landfill. Mr. Salomon seconded the motion, and it passed with abstentions from Mr. Ruiz and Mr Salomon.

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

Ms. Gov provided update on the Azusa Land Reclamation (ALR) FOC. ALR submitted an application on July 29, 2014, to the Task Force for an FOC in response to the Task Force's June 26, 2014, letter indicating that an FOC would be required.

Ms. Gov informed that per the Task Force's request, an email was sent on November 17, 2014, to the facility operator, requesting the missing items be submitted in order for the FOC package to be completed. Staff has been contacting the operator on a regular basis. She stated that, at this time, the facility operator is still working on the requested information. A Task Force letter was also sent to the facility operator on January 14, 2015, requesting the missing items to be submitted.

Ms. Gov informed the Subcommittee that the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist and Addendum to the 1988 Negative Declaration was filed on November 18, 2014, with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health. On November 12, 2014, the Local Enforcement Agency issued the revised Solid Waste Facilities Permit.

Ms. Gov reported that at the October 16, 2014, meeting, the Task Force requested Counsel's opinion on whether the Inert Debris Engineering Fill Operations (IDEFO) of Zone V at the site should be included in the FOC. Upon discussions with staff, County Counsel Julia Weissman indicated that although the Siting Element does not expressly address the issue of whether the IDEFO portion of a permitted facility should be included within an FOC, there is a reasonable argument that the IDEFO can be included in the FOC.

Ms. Julia Weissman reiterated that it is appropriate for the site's IDEFO (Zone 5 of the ALR) to be included within its FOC, given that the facility, in its entirety, is subject to the Solid Waste Facilities Permit. She added that the environmental impacts would not be adversely affected by any single portion of the site, but rather the impacts would be taken into account as a whole.

**V. OPEN DISCUSSION PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no discussion/public comment.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.