

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

Minutes of August 20, 2015, Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Conference Room B, Headquarters Building
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanne Biehler, represented by Gerardo Villalobos, 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:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rainer Globus, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Anna Gov, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
Jonathan Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jalaine Madrid, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m.

I. APPROVAL OF JULY 16, 2015, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the July 16, 2015, Meeting Minutes was made by Mr. Carlos Ruiz and seconded by Mr. Christopher Salomon, and it was unanimously approved, subject to the following revisions:

- Insert the acronym “SCL–LEA” before the word “Board” and insert the phrase “of Directors” before the word “Motion” on line 1 of the sixth paragraph on page 5 of the Minutes.
- In the third paragraph on page 6 of the Minutes:
 - Insert the word “Landfill’s” before the word “California” on line 3.
 - Insert the word “documents” before the word “requires” on line 4, as well as change the word “requires” to its singular form.
 - Insert the word “Landfill’s” before the acronym “CEQA” on line 6.

II. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided the Subcommittee with an [update](#) on odor complaints at the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) for the month of July 2015.

During the month of July, a total of 23 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with June 2015, the number of complaints received in July decreased by 44 percent (from 41 to 23 complaints). Compared to July 2014, the number of complaints this July decreased by 73 percent (from 83 to 23 complaints).

Mr. Manalo reported that of the 23 complaints received in July, none were called from nearby schools or from complainants who identified themselves as parents of a child attending one of the nearby schools as no school was in session. In addition, there were no Notices of Violation issued by AQMD in the month of July.

Mr. Manalo also provided the Subcommittee with two sets of charts. The first set of [charts](#), provided by AQMD, shows the odor complaints reported to the AQMD from 1995 to July 2015. The second set of [charts](#), developed by staff, shows the number of odor complaints compared with the amount of surface gas exceedances and the amount of leachate collected from January 2009 to July 2015 along with special occurrences and operational enhancements at the Landfill.

Mr. Salomon commented there has been a significant drop in complaints from August 2014 to March 2015 and asked what may have influenced the decrease. Mr. Manalo replied that, while there are instances when certain noted events would correlate with increases in odor complaints, there is not always a direct correlation in the decrease or increase of odor complaints to special occurrences or operational enhancements taking place at the Landfill. However, there is a trend in which a decrease in odor complaints is observed for the months when nearby schools are closed for the summer. Mr. Ruiz commented that it might be too early to tell if there's a downward trend; the upcoming months will reveal if the complaints will continue to decrease.

Mr. Wayne Hunter commented that the number of complaints were on trend with previous time periods. With heavy rains forecasted for California this winter, Mr. Hunter expected that more leachate may be produced at the Landfill, which may lead to an increase in odor complaints. With 4 months left in the year, we will have to wait to see if odor complaints will still be down. Ms. Betsey Landis stated that the Subcommittee will continue to track the number of odor complaints to see if there are any trends that can be observed.

Independent Site Monitoring Status Report

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided the Subcommittee with an update regarding the Independent Site Monitoring Status Report (Status Report) prepared by UltraSystems. He commented that Ultrasystems was hired by the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Technical Advisory Committee to serve as the independent monitor for the Landfill to perform, at a minimum, monthly inspections at the site to determine the Landfill's compliance with its Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. Status reports are generated by Ultrasystems on a quarterly basis. The Subcommittee recently received the [Fourth Quarter 2014 Status Report](#), which detailed results of their inspections at the Landfill on October 8, October 22, November 10, and December 18, 2014. Ultrasystems commented on the status of the Landfill's compliance with certain mitigation measures and permit requirements, such as the City's 10-year Phase Review, odors detected from noticeable gas emission sources, lack of cover or exposure

of trash at the working face, vegetation and tree mitigation efforts, grading and drainage, and archaeological and paleontological surveys.

Since the release of this Status Report in February of this year, some of the concerns UltraSystems discussed with the operator, Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) may no longer be valid. Staff discussed the following issues with UltraSystems:

- The condensate treatment facility that was detected as a source of localized odor at the Landfill was decommissioned in May of this year and is now disassembled in parts and placed at a storage area located north of Basin D.
- The west-side drainage channel connecting Basins A and D still needs to be repaired. Ultrasystems has advised Republic to remediate the problem temporarily while it sets aside funding for the full repair of the channel.
- With regards to erosion control and vegetation requirements, jute netting, straw wattles, and hydro-mulching have been applied in various inactive and/or interim areas of the Landfill.

Additionally, Staff has inquired with the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning (City Planning) as to the status of their 10-year Phase III Review of the Landfill and was informed that the review process is still on-going. A staff report detailing the results of the review will be produced by City Planning and will be circulated for agency review prior to a public hearing before the City Planning Commission, which is scheduled for October 2015.

Mr. Mike Mohajer requested that future submittals of the Status Report include a staff report summarizing the contents of the Status Report along with staff's analysis. Ms. Betsey Landis concurred with these sentiments, and requested staff to include status updates that require further action be taken by the operator and/or confirmation of actions that have been taken by the operator for purposes of keeping track of the progress of the Landfill. Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated that staff will provide staff reports, as requested. Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that he would also like hard copies of these reports be provided to him.

Update on Proposed Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Project

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided the Subcommittee with an update on the proposed Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) pilot project for the Landfill. On August 6, 2015,

Public Works met with County Counsel to discuss the Landfill Operator's compliance of specific Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Conditions and any California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) options that may be required of the Landfill Operator pertaining to their proposed ADC pilot project. Public Works has followed up with Counsel and is awaiting their comments and advice.

On August 10, 2015, Republic submitted a revised ADC pilot project proposal to Public Works. Public Works met with Republic on August 12, 2015, to discuss Public Works' comments on the proposal, and at the conclusion of that meeting, Republic agreed to revise the subject proposal and resubmit to Public Works.

At the last Subcommittee meeting, staff was asked to look into the permeability of the proposed ADC material as well as to determine the difference in landfill capacity between the use of the ADC and the current 9-inch daily soil cover. On August 13, 2015, Republic informed Staff that they have requested permeability information, along with other material specifications, from the manufacturer of the alternative cover, and will provide this information to the Subcommittee once received. In regards to landfill capacity calculations, Republic agreed to include the calculations in their re-submittal of the proposal.

On August 20, 2015, Republic resubmitted a revised proposal to Public Works. Mr. Esparza informed the Subcommittee that Public Works would review the revised proposal.

Mr. Mohajer commented that due dates need to be established by Staff in order for Republic to provide information requested in a timely manner. Ms. Landis was in agreement and therefore requested Staff to include set deadlines for Republic.

Mr. Mohajer stated at the last Subcommittee meeting, he raised the issue regarding the Landfill's CEQA documents, which require the use of soil for daily cover if odor is present. Therefore, Mr. Mohajer requested a motion to be made for the Task Force to write a letter to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) and their Board of Directors stating that they are not in compliance with CEQA and request an explanation on what basis they are dismissing CEQA requirements. Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion and it passed with Mr. Gerardo Villalobos and Mr. Salomon abstaining.

Second Quarter 2015 Vegetation Report

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided the Subcommittee with a combined update on the [Second Quarter 2015 Vegetation Report](#), as well as topics that were discussed at

the August 13, 2015, meeting with Republic, Architerra Design Group, Betsey Landis, the County Biologist, City Planning, the Independent Monitor, and Public Works regarding vegetation efforts at Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

The Second Quarter 2015 Vegetation Report includes revisions and clarifications to terms and definitions discussed in Sections 1, 2, and 3, as requested by the Subcommittee at the February 2015 Subcommittee meeting.

Update on the County Side Sage Mitigation Area

- Conditions remain unchanged; however, as discussed during the May FPRS meeting, plans will be developed by Architerra Design Group (ADG) and Republic for a trial site in the sage mitigation to test stepped terracing and straw wattles with niche pockets.

Update on City Side Sage Mitigation Area

Middle and Upper Decks:

- There have been no changes to the middle or upper decks. The vegetated areas within the middle deck continue to be dominated by non-native species.
- Weeds continue to grow, and at the Quarterly Vegetation meeting held last week, Republic stated that annual clearings for weed control are typically done during the fall season for the middle and upper decks.

Lower Deck (Pilot Sage Mitigation Area):

- Saltbush species dominate the cover and are taller than other plant species. As such, saltbush will be selectively removed to make room for other plant species that have been growing underneath the saltbush. Ms. Landis made note of this, as well as to say that the saltbush will be removed in areas which are affecting the irrigation system.
- Many new seedlings have emerged and hardened off and are beginning to show signs of returning to dormancy with leaf drop.

- ADG recommends reseeding of the pilot project area along with scarification and addition of straw wattle replacement

Additionally, at the Quarterly meeting Republic and UltraSystems provided an update on a conference call they had with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the acceptance of Venturan Sage Scrub Species used in the Pilot Area. The Department of Fish and Wildlife informed them that they will review the list of plant species and provide comments; however, they stated that typically sage mitigation measures such as this would not require approval from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife approval.

Ms. Landis further commented that the Pilot Sage Mitigation Area is beginning to show signs of developing into a healthy ecosystem, with various plant, animal, and insect species inhabiting the area.

III. DISCUSSION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS

Ms. Anna Gov provided the Subcommittee with information regarding Finding of Conformance (FOC) reports submitted by landfill operators, which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills.

The Second Quarter 2015 FOC Status Report for Sunshine Canyon Landfill was disseminated to the Task Force on July 20, 2015. This report provided information on the incoming disposal and beneficial reuse tonnages during the second quarter of 2015. In comparison with the first quarter 2015, the amount of waste landfilled in the second quarter increased by approximately 1 percent. Compared to the second quarter of 2014, the amount of waste landfilled in the second quarter of this year also increased by approximately 1 percent. It should be noted that during the second quarter of this year, approximately 15,200 tons of non-buried, recycled and beneficial reuse materials were accepted at the Landfill. The amount of non-buried, recycled and beneficial reuse materials in the first quarter of 2015 was approximately 11,700 tons.

The Second Quarter 2015 Reclaimable Anaerobic Composter (RAC) Report for Lancaster Landfill was disseminated to the Task Force on July 20, 2015. According to Lancaster Landfill, the RAC pilot project is still in the data collecting stage and the project is scheduled to be completed around August of 2015. We expect to have a final report by the end of September 2015.

IV. UPDATE ON THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT

Mr. Joe Bartolata provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE).

Following the Task Force review and concurrence of the Preliminary Draft CSE, Public Works commenced the CEQA process. On June 16, 2014, Public Works released the Initial Study and Notice of Preparation (NOP) of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the CSE to the 180 responsible agencies for review. Six public scoping meetings were held throughout the County. Comments on the Initial Study and NOP were received from the Task Force as well as nine responsible agencies.

At the Task Force meeting held on October 16, 2014, staff provided an update on the status of revisions to the CSE. Staff also reported that the document would be revised to update the base year and reflect the recent changes in State law. Public Works advised the CSE contract consultant, Tetra Tech/BAS, to hold off on the preparation of the Draft EIR until the revision was complete. The following are the key revisions to the CSE since then:

- Revised the document using the base year of 2014, including updates to the data used in the scenario analyses.
- Revised the document to include the impacts of current legislation, such as mandatory commercial recycling (AB 341), diversion of organic waste from landfills through organics recycling programs (AB 1826), and prohibition on local disposal limits (AB 845) on the Countywide diversion and disposal quantities. Definitions of Engineered Municipal Solid Waste conversion and facilities (AB 1126) were also incorporated into the document.
- Revised the goal to include recycling of organic materials from the waste stream to reflect current regulatory changes.
- Added a policy for developing a Countywide Organics Management Plan.
- Added a policy for a Regional Operational Area Mass Debris Removal Plan.
- Revised the policy regarding the use of alternative daily cover.
- Reviewed the implications of CalRecycle's "State of Disposal in California" and "State of Recycling in California" reports on the countywide diversion and disposal quantities.

Staff will make a presentation to the Subcommittee at the next scheduled meeting summarizing the changes chapter by chapter. A link to the document will also be provided. After concurrence from the Task Force, Public Works will direct

Tetra Tech/BAS to commence the preparation of the Draft EIR and the graphic design of the Preliminary Draft CSE for public review.

Concurrently, staff has commenced the preparation of a Countywide Organics Management Plan (as requested by the Task Force during the May 21, 2015, meeting) and the Regional Operational Area Mass Debris Removal Plan as supplemental documents to the CSE. The goal is to obtain concurrence from the Task Force by the October 2015 meeting. Therefore, staff will continue to work with the Subcommittee in order to achieve this goal.

Mr. Ruiz stated that all of these are proposed revisions, which will be brought before the Subcommittee and once the Subcommittee makes comments, Staff will make any necessary revisions and take the document to the Task Force and proceed with the approval process under Task Force direction.

V. OPEN DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter stated the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee (SCL–CAC) is not receiving copies of all documents submitted to Public Works, and other regulatory agencies, such as grading plans, in compliance with the CUP, for which they need to review, comment, and discuss with regulatory agencies. Ms. Landis stated it was inexcusable for the SCL–CAC not to be provided with copies of these documents and asked Mr. Sherman to provide copies to Mr. Hunter. Mr. Sherman stated he will take this into advisement.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.