

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

**Minutes of February 16, 2017, Meeting**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Headquarters Building, Conference Room B  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Nam Doan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Vu Truong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2017, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2017, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz, and unanimously approved.

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

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [odor complaints](#) at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) for the month of January 2017.

During the month of January 2017, 200 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with December 2016, the number of complaints received in January 2017 increased by 239 percent (from 59 to 200 complaints). Compared to January of last year, the number of complaints received this January increased by 100 percent (from 100 to 200 complaints). The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 10,173 and the total number of complaints received this year is 200.

As of February 16, 2017, AQMD has issued 4 Notices of Violation (NOV) to the Landfill in the month of January 2017. The total number of NOV's issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 198.

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that AQMD incorrectly reported the number of NOV's as 4, when it is actually 6. Mr. Hunter's comment was noted.

### Status on the New Access Road and Tree Planting

Mr. Truong stated that staff was informed by Republic Services, Inc., (Republic Services) that the CC-3B Part 1 Berm was completed at the end of September 2016 and the hydroseeding related to the access road was completed in November 2016.

Update on the use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)/Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project

Mr. Michael Harmon provided the Subcommittee with an update on the ADC Pilot Project at the Landfill.

Mr. Harmon stated that staff received the most recent ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic Services on February 15, 2017, which includes the month of January 2017. Republic Services reported that site operations personnel are ensuring additional ballast material is placed along the edges of the geosynthetic panel to keep them from uplifting.

The amount of geosynthetic panel product used for January 2017 was 29.75 rolls (2,781,625 square feet). It is estimated there continues to be a 40 percent reduction in the use of soil used for daily cover in the month of January 2017 by using the geosynthetic panel product instead of soil. No observations of fire, vector, scavenging, or blowing litter at the working face related to the use of the ADC material were reported for the month of January 2017.

For the ICE Project, Mr. Harmon reported that as of February 9, 2017, Republic Service has stated that 2 project grids have been sprayed with the "Posi-shell." The application of the product on additional grids identified in the December 20, 2016, Public Works approval letter will resume at a later date due to rainy weather conditions. Mr. Hunter suggested that if the "Posi-shell" cover material is not effective in rainy weather, then another more effective product should be considered.

Mr. Mohajer inquired if staff has any information on the performance of the ADC material in the rain. Mr. Ruiz stated that staff will look at points in time where there were surges of odor complaints and attempt to correlate them to rain events. Ms. Betsey Landis said she would also like to see a report from Republic Services on the condition of the Landfill after the next rain episode is over.

Mr. Mohajer also asked for a copy of the January 2017 monthly Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) report to the State Water Resources Control Board which discusses the storm water discharge from the facility on January 20, 2017. He also inquired how the various sedimentation basins have been holding up after each rain, and Mr. Ruiz said he would send staff to the Landfill to report on their condition after the next rains have ended.

Mr. Mohajer commented that on page 8 of the January 26, 2017, Minutes, it was written that "Regarding erosion and dust control, in late September 2016, the

frontage retaining wall and walkway is slowly being pushed towards the street from the hillside. Trees and soil are bulging out from the fences and walls towards the street. No maintenance has occurred.” Therefore, Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter to Republic Services requesting information on the actions they have taken to correct the erosion problems along the frontage retaining wall and walkway. Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Hunter further asked if there were any means regulatory agencies could use to cease operations at a landfill when heavy rains are occurring to limit the amount of water intrusion into the waste mass which could exacerbate the landfill gas problem. Mr. Ruiz commented that the SCL-LEA has the authority to close the Landfill if there is a situation that could impact public health and safety. Public Works through its approval on the Landfill’s erosion control plan, and requirements on the drainage system, could also require corrective action if the system is not operating properly. Mr. Maurice Pantoja commented that he will find out what authority the SCL-LEA has to close down the Landfill and what happens to the trash already accepted at the Landfill, and he will report back at the next meeting.

#### Revegetation Update

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided the Subcommittee with an update on the February 13, 2017, meeting of the Landfill vegetation meeting group. The meeting group approved the interim area seed mix, with minor changes, as discussed at the January 2017 Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Bukoff also stated that Republic Services is in the planning stages for developing the new Pilot Revegetation Project on City South Deck B. Republic Services expects to begin site preparation and planting in April 2017 with a completion date of early May. Staff will monitor the progress of this project and keep the Subcommittee updated.

Ms. Landis commented that some of the members of the meeting group toured the Pilot Project area on City South Deck C and noticed that the coastal sage scrub is doing well. The meeting group also toured Deck B, where the new pilot project will be implemented, and they commented that there are a lot of drainage issues that need to be worked out before the new pilot project can be implemented. Mr. Gregg Denson of Architerra Design Group, Republic Service’s consultant, was aware of this and was confident that he could keep the project on schedule.

#### Update on NOVs issued by Regulatory Agencies

Mr. Gabriel Esparza stated that staff previously provided the Subcommittee with an update regarding the NOV issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) to Republic Services on October 25, 2016, due to Republic Services lack of response to odor mitigation requirements imposed by Public Works. On January 26, 2017, Regional Planning responded to Republic Services' request for appeal of the NOV, and informed Republic Services the appeal will be considered before a Hearing Officer on March 7, 2017.

Regarding Los Angeles County Public Health's Order to Abate issued to Republic Services on November 9, 2016, Republic Services provided Public Health with their Corrective Action Plan, dated January 13, 2017. Staff disseminated a copy of the Corrective Action Plan to Task Force members via email on January 30, 2017. Staff prepared a draft comment letter on the subject matter and sent it to Task Force Members for review and comment by noon on February 14, 2017. By noon of February 14, 2017, staff did not receive any additional comments to the draft Task Force letter and disseminated the Task Force comment letter to Public Health on February 15, 2017. Mr. Hunter thanked the Task Force for their efforts.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL AND LANCASTER LANDFILL**

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with an update on the California Environmental Quality Act process for Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Mr. Shirzadegan reported that the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) is scheduled to be published on February 16, 2017, and the Regional Planning Commission will be holding public hearings on the document on March 1, 2017, and in April 2017.

Mr. Mohajer requested that staff send a link to the Subcommittee for them to view the FEIR, along with information on the hearings, such as date, time, and location. Mr. Mohajer also requested staff to verify that his comments made in 2014 on the document have been addressed. In addition, Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the Task Force sent a letter to Chiquita Canyon Landfill commenting on the DEIR, and he would like staff to make a presentation at the next Subcommittee meeting on how the comments were addressed and recommend the course of action the Task Force should take.

Mr. Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee an update on the large-scale anaerobic digestion and composting operation (Lancaster Advanced Recycling for Greenwaste and Organics Project) planned for Lancaster Landfill. At this time,

Waste Management, the landfill operator, has decided to not pursue developing this project. Alternatively, Waste Management is in the preliminary states in developing a smaller scale composting project without anaerobic digestion at the site; however, there is no written proposal for the project. Staff will provide the Subcommittee with more information once it becomes available.

## **V. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Mr. Nam Doan provided the Subcommittee with information regarding the Finding of Conformance Reports submitted by landfill operators which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills.

### Fourth Quarter 2016 Monitoring Report for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill

The report provides detailed information of incoming disposal tonnages broken down by various sources, such as residential and commercial, as well as material types, such as refuse, C&D, and greenwaste, during the fourth quarter of 2016. Based on the report, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill received 762,505 tons in the fourth quarter of 2016. This amount was approximately 5 percent less than the third quarter of 2016, during which the total tonnage received was 802,242 tons.

The total tonnage of MRF fines diverted from disposal during the fourth quarter of 2016 was 53,254 tons, which was about 13 percent less compared to the third quarter of 2016. During the third quarter of 2016, 61,108 tons of MRF fines were diverted.

### Fourth Quarter 2016 FOC Monitoring Report for Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility

The report provides the number of loads and tonnages of refuse received for combustion, the amount of energy produced, and the treated ash tonnages during the fourth quarter of 2016. Based on the report, the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility received approximately 34,289 tons during the fourth quarter of 2016, which was about 1 percent less compared to the fourth quarter of 2015.

During the fourth quarter of 2016 the facility also produced a total of approximately 22,982 megawatt-hours of energy which was about 4 percent less compared to the fourth quarter of 2015.

Additionally, the facility produced about 6,002 tons of ash in the fourth quarter of 2016 which was about 5 percent less compared to the fourth quarter of 2015.

Ms. Landis referenced the comments she made at the January 26, 2017, Subcommittee meeting on Chiquita Canyon Landfill's practice of sending household hazardous waste materials to Nebraska for recycling. She reported that the material was paint and wanted it on record that there is something wrong in the State of California if a landfill finds it cheaper to send paint to another state for recycling when there is already a process to recycle paint in the State of California.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments made from the public.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.