

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

Minutes of May 18, 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
Nam Doan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Brenda Eels, CH2M
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dorcas Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
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
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 2017, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2017, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Maurice Pantoja, 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 April 2017.

During the month of April 2017, 117 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with March 2017, the number of complaints received in April 2017 decreased by 57 percent (from 274 to 117 complaints). Compared to April of last year, the number of complaints received this April decreased by 35 percent (from 181 to 117 complaints). The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 10,818 and the total number of complaints received this year is 845.

As of May 18, 2017, AQMD has issued 1 Notice of Violation (NOV) to the Landfill in the month of April 2017. The total number of NOV's issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 214.

Update on Maintenance Issues and Impacts of January and February 2017 Storm Events

Mr. Truong provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Landfill's frontage road retaining wall and maintenance issues and impacts related to the January and February 2017 storm events. Mr. Truong reported that Republic Services, Inc. (Republic Services), the owner/operator of the Landfill, responded to Task Force comments on these maintenance issues in a letter to the Task Force, dated April 19, 2017. In that letter, Republic Services stated that regarding the frontage retaining wall and walkway along San Fernando Road, they will conduct a geologic/geotechnical evaluation of the slope area above the frontage retaining

wall for a determination of the stability of the slope area and a structural review and evaluation of the frontage retaining wall. Once these two evaluations have been completed, Republic Services will discuss the findings and propose actions needed to restore the wall and walkway. Republic Services expects to complete the evaluations by June of 2017.

Regarding maintenance repairs related to the January and February 2017 storm events, Republic Services completed the following activities by February 21, 2017:

- Ponded water was pumped out as much as possible.
- Flow lines were re-established to correct areas of ponded water.
- Repaired customer haul road and wet weather deck areas.
- Repaired erosion of the North face of Cell CC-3A and repaired areas in Cell CC-3B.

Republic Services also removed sediment from the basin below Cell CC-3B by the end of March 2017.

Ongoing activities at the Landfill include:

- Removing sediment from the Terminal Basin, which is expected to be completed by May 26, 2017.
- Removing additional sediment that collects in stormwater channels by October 1, 2017.
- Inspecting stormwater conveyance systems.

Staff will continue to follow-up on the on-going activities.

Update on the Use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)

Mr. Nam Doan reported that the most recent ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic Services was received on May 15, 2017, which includes the month of April 2017.

Mr. Doan reported that the amount of geosynthetic panel product used for April 2017 was 24.6 rolls (2,300,100 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 April 2017 from 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 April 2017.

On April 28, 2017, Republic Services submitted an official request for an extension of the ADC Pilot Program. Public Works granted the request and extended the project until October 12, 2017.

Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project

Mr. Doan provided the Subcommittee with an update on the ICE Project at the Landfill. On May 15, 2017, Republic Services submitted a monthly progress report for the month of April 2017, providing methane monitoring data and daily visual inspections of the cover material enhancements. For the month of April, the instantaneous data report showed 3 of 8 grid locations with levels of methane concentration above 500 parts per million (ppm), which is an exceedance over the regulatory standards. The grids with exceedances had levels at 2,600 ppm, 9,314 ppm, and 920 ppm. The integrated data report showed 1 of 8 grid locations above 25 ppm the legal limit. The grid in exceedance had a methane level of 48.99 ppm. After some discussion, Mr. Ruiz stated that staff will investigate the exceedances at the Landfill and request in writing from Republic Services the measures Republic Services took to remediate the problem.

Mr. Mohajer commented that Republic Services continues to blame the 9-inch cover soil requirement for landfill gas problems rather than pumping out water from the gas wells – a normal practice to reduce landfill gas in landfills operated by Republic Services and other operators.

Mr. Mohajer also informed the Subcommittee that at the last Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Community Advisory Committee meeting, he had spoke to a Republic Services' engineer, who is in charge of various Republic Services' landfills, regarding the company's mitigation measures when there is water intrusion in the gas wells. According to the engineer, the normal practice would be installing pumps to extract liquid from the affected wells. He also informed that he wasn't sure why Republic Services did not do this until recently since he was with the company for only 2 ½ years.

Update on the NOV Issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) on October 25, 2016

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided the Subcommittee with an update on the NOV issued to Republic Services by DRP on October 25, 2016. Republic Service's request for an appeal was considered by a Hearing Officer on May 2, 2017, and the Hearing

Officer denied the appeal. On May 4, 2017, DRP sent a letter to Republic Services informing them of the penalty fees they are required to pay the County of Los Angeles pursuant to Condition 11 of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP), of which they are required to pay DRP \$1,000 per day up to an accrued total of \$174,000. On May 11, 2017, Republic Services paid the penalty fees to DRP and in a letter to DRP, stated that they are paying the penalty fees under protest and without waiver of Republic Service's right to seek judicial review of the Hearing Officer's decision.

Mr. Mohajer requested in writing for staff to send the Task Force a statement that Hearing Officer's decision is final and may only be appealed under specifically defined criteria. After some discussion, Mr. Ruiz commented that staff will respond to this request.

Update on the NOV Issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) on November 9, 2016

Mr. Maurice Pantoja provided a status update on DPH's Notice of Abatement issued to the Landfill and reported that Republic Services is not in compliance with the Notice of Abatement in reducing odor complaints at the Landfill comparable to other landfills in the area. Public Health sent a letter to Republic Services on May 9, 2017, notifying them of this and will be meeting with Regional Planning to discuss issuing an NOV to Republic Services. Public Health received a letter from Republic Services on May 17, 2016, which stated they are disputing the claim that odors at the Landfill are a public nuisance. County Counsel is currently reviewing the letter. Mr. Pantoja also mentioned that the Task Force should soon be receiving a comment letter from the Director of Environmental Health in response to the Task Force letter of February 2017, which provided comments on the corrective action plan submitted by Republic Services.

IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion Project. He informed the Subcommittee that the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission certified the Final Environmental Impact Report and approved the new CUP for Chiquita Canyon Landfill on April 19, 2017. Since the approval, DRP has received a total number of 5 appeals from various organizations. Currently, the Board Hearing on the CUP has not been scheduled.

Mr. Shirzadegan provided a comparison between the conditions in the old and new CUP's and highlighted the following conditions in the new CUP:

- The wasteshed boundary is for the Santa Clarita Valley area.
- The CUP expires after 60 million tons (solid waste and beneficial use materials) have been disposed, or 30 years after the effective date of the CUP, or after the landfill reaches its limits of fill (1,430 feet), whichever comes first.
- The daily maximum tonnage that can be accepted is 12,000 tons per day (tpd), in any combination of solid waste and beneficial use/composting. The monthly maximum tonnage and yearly maximum tonnage is 175,000 tpd and 2.1 million tpd, respectively.
- The landfill will be receiving solid waste and beneficial use materials from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Site operation and maintenance hours are from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Mr. Shirzadegan also discussed that no hazardous contaminated soil is accepted at the landfill. The contaminated soils they do receive consist of commingled wood, crushed C&D with soil and utilized as daily cover, road base, or other beneficial use on site. In addition, no materials are received from the Santa Susana Laboratory in Ventura County.

Lastly, Mr. Shirzadegan commented that the landfill operator has addressed the Task Force comments on the FEIR submitted to them in a letter, dated April 4, 2017.

V. CONSIDERATION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE (FOC) FOR THE CALABASAS LANDFILL

Mr. Nam Doan provided a presentation on the proposed FOC for the Calabasas Landfill which has never received an FOC from the Task Force. On April 4, 2016, the Local Enforcement Agency issued a revised Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) to the landfill. †

To clarify, Mr. Mohajer indicated that the Calabasas Landfill has been in operation since early 1960s prior to the formation of the Task Force and the preparation of the first County Solid Waste Management Plan (CoSWMP) in 1976. As such, the Landfill was grandfathered into the CoSWMP and its subsequent revisions/replacement {i.e. the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste

Management Plan and its Countywide Siting Element CSE)) pursuant to the actions of the cities in Los Angeles County, the County Board of Supervisors, the California Waste Management Board and the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

With that background information, Mr. Doan followed up by stating that since a revised SWFP has been issued to the landfill, staff, in concert with County Counsel, has determined that an FOC is required per Chapter 10 – Finding of Conformance of the CSE. According to the requirement, an FOC must be obtained when there is “significant change” to the operation of a solid waste disposal facility. For the purpose of the CSE, “significant change” included any revision in the facility’s SWFP as in the case of Calabasas Landfill. The proposed FOC will recognize revisions to the SWFP that include:

- Change in ancillary hours of operations from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Ancillary activities include refuse spreading and compaction operations, equipment maintenance, grounds maintenance, and site security measures.
- Acreage reduction: in refuse fill plan from 416 acres to 305 acres (based on recent CSD surveys) and facility boundaries from 505 acres to 491 acres to reflect a land conveyance to the City of Calabasas for a Caltrans road project.
- Change in estimated closure date from 2028 to 2029 (using CSD’s most recent projected receipt of refuse).

Mr. Mohajer requested that staff review and provide the Subcommittee with the following:

- A full-size site plan showing existing boundaries, the proposed reduced boundaries, the proposed location of the anaerobic digestion facility, the location of the existing gas-to-energy facility, and residential developments located within 1,000 feet from the fill area of the landfill.
- The permit issued to the landfill by the National Park Service, which expires in 2018, and whether it would be reissued.
- Consideration whether the landfill has met the requirements of AB 32 and SB 32.
- The location of the Saratoga Development and school with respect to the landfill fill area.

- As required, the CSE's table 10.4, the Task Force's staff must analyze the proposal for compliance/consistency with the CSE and sign the review sheets rather than the landfill operator which was the case at hand.

Mr. Mohajer stated that he is not able to further consider the application without this information. Mr. Ruiz added that staff will work with the Sanitation Districts to obtain the requested information and provide it to the Subcommittee at the next Subcommittee meeting.

VI. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS

Discussion on this item was postponed due to the lateness of the hour.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments made from the public.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.