

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

**March 21, 2019**

Los Angeles County Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Reyna Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Saeid Shirzadegan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Maria Carlson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Vu Truong, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Dennis Montano, Republic Services  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Landis called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 21, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes from the February 21, 2019, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Ms. Landis, as amended, and seconded by Mr. Mohajer.

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

Odor Complaints

Mr. Truong provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the month of February 2019 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of February, a total of 17 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 4 of them were listed as “No Field Response”.
- In comparison to January 2019, the number of complaints received in February remained unchanged at 17 complaints.
- Compared to February 2018, the number of complaints this February decreased from 18 to 17 complaints.
- The total number of complaints received this year is 34.
- As of March 5, 2019, AQMD has issued one Odor Complaint Notice of Violation (NOV) to SCL for the month of February 2019.

Copies of the latest odor complaint charts were made available to subcommittee.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to approve the following additional items to be included on the current agenda. Mr. Landis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

1. Hearing by AQMD on Order for Abatement conducted on March 19, 2019
2. Consideration of the Dust Control Mitigation Measures
3. Reporting on Monitoring Well 205R

Vegetation Field Meeting Update

Ms. Carlson provided an update on the Vegetation group field meeting which took place at SCL on March 13, 2019. Revegetation is a requirement of Condition No. 44A of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) which requires the Landfill to apply

a temporary hydroseed vegetation cover on any slope or other landfill area that is projected to be inactive for a period of greater than 180 days. The Landfill is required under Condition No. 18B of the Finding of Conformance (FOC) to report quarterly on the progress of landscaping and vegetation activities on closed portions of the Landfill. The purpose of the vegetation meeting was to discuss and observe the progress of SCL's revegetation areas and evaluate the techniques used.

*Third and Fourth Quarter 2018 Vegetation Report Overviews*

- The meeting began with an overview of the previous 3rd and 4th Quarter 2018 reports. Most of the activities were completed in the 4th Quarter of 2018.

*Hydroseeding Activities*

- In the meeting it was agreed that hydroseeding, although a requirement of the Landfill's CUP, was one of the less successful methods for establishment of vegetation because it affects germination.

*City Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area (Pilot Project Area) - Deck C/Lower Deck*

- Due to the rains, the established Deck C is looking prolific, weeding is continuously an ongoing challenge and is done once a month, but more weeding may be needed because of the rain.

*City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck*

- Revegetation at Deck B was completed on December 2018 and is expected to be fully established in three years, and at that time, irrigation will no longer be required.
- Loosening up the soil, especially on Deck B was prevalent and proven to help with revegetation.
- Most of the vegetation was done through imprinting, hydroseeding, or hand seeding. Additionally, some container plants were planted.
- Some invasive, non-native species of plants are growing on Deck B and will need to be weeded.

*City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck*

- The upper deck is sparsely covered with native vegetation. Weeds consisting of Russian thistle, wild oats, brome grasses, and mustard continue to grow without any level of weeding within Deck A.

- Weeding is necessary to prevent the seeds to be blown from upper to lower decks and spreading the weeds.
- Because the soil is so compacted in the area, Republic Services (Republic) tries to prevent roadways from further effecting the soils. Their general rule is to tread lightly. The roads in the vegetation area are covered with an aggregate mixture.

*County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area (Pilot Project Area)*

- The County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project has a major weed problem.
- The cut slopes are steep, and it is difficult to establish vegetation.
- Erosion control is the main concern in this area and the priority was agreed to stabilize the slope and then establish the sage.

*Oak Tree Mitigation Area*

- It was recommended to inspect the dying oak trees in the area. If they have been killed by beetles, they must be chipped down to less than one-inch pieces. After a trip through the oak tree mitigation area, there was not any observable beetle damage to the trees that were inspected.

Ms. Landis commented that one oak tree was recovering nicely from the effect of the beetles and there was another oak tree that had a dead area on it which was facing the roadway. She believes the tree was hit by something thrown from a truck, in liquid form. Ms. Landis added that she has requested the trees to be pruned or if there are any dead areas in the tree, then they must be cut out. However, the consultant responded that it could not be done due to permanent mitigation. Ms. Landis mentioned the discussion is now open for the consultant to discuss with the LEA for resolution.

Ms. Carlson continued that the outcome of the meeting was that the rainy season allowed for the current vegetation to do quite well. The rain made it possible for the weeds to thrive and as the end of the rainy season approaches, it will be an ample time to promote the establishment of the native vegetation on the decks.

Ms. Landis, on a separate note, stated there was no discussion on the extra tonnage of waste being received from the Woolsey fire. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota responded that LEA has checked with the Landfill operators and it seems that none of the landfills received any disaster debris. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota added that LEA requires Landfills to submit a report within 90 days of activation of emergency waiver. Mr. Ruiz mentioned the State's preference is to use Chiquita Canyon

Landfill (CCL) or Simi Valley Landfill (SVL). He also stated that most of the material coming from the State contractor is being taken to SVL.

#### Consideration of the Dust Control Mitigation Measures

Mr. Mohajer stated at the last subcommittee meeting, staff disseminated a copy of the SCL 2018, 4th Quarter Independent Monitoring Report. The report stated a problem with the dust control. Mr. Mohajer commented that the independent consultant's report has identified dust control issues at the Landfill and based on that the Task Force motioned to send a letter to Republic asking them to comply with Condition No. 45 of CUP and Condition No. 16 of FOC. Mr. Mohajer added that Mr. Chris Coyle of Republic has commented that Republic was in compliance and that the LEA has not raised any concerns. Mr. Mohajer stated that the LEA has its own requirements which is enforced within the Solid Waste Facility Permit. Mr. Mohajer asked if the letter sent from Republic considered the separation between the County CUP and the Solid Waste Facility Permit. Mr. Montano of Republic responded that they did take everything into consideration and they are complying with LEA

Mr. Ruiz commented that he agrees with Mr. Mohajer for which the LEA has certain responsibilities. Mr. Ruiz continued that the CUP has certain requirements and the independent consultant is tasked to assist in the compliance of the SCL CUP requirements. He continued that the LEA has their own inspection program that Republic is using that as a basis for their compliance. Mr. Ruiz stated Republic did not deny the findings of the independent consultant, but their response is disingenuous for what it implies the findings are meaningless. Therefore, their response is nonresponsive. Mr. Ruiz commented whether Republic is disputing the findings of the independent consultant, and if that is not the case, then they should consider their recommendation and adjust their procedures.

Ms. Landis made a motion to send a letter to Republic stating they are not in compliance and they are in violation of Condition No. 45 of CUP and Condition No. 16 of FOC. Mr. Mohajer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Hearing by AQMD Hearing Board on Odor for Abatement (OA) conducted on March 19, 2019

Mr. Mohajer stated that at the last subcommittee meeting, there was a discussion of AQMD issuing odor complaint NOV last December at SCL and he wanted to know the cause of the NOV. He continued that AQMD Hearing Board had a hearing on March 19, 2019, and Republic's General Manager stated they were excavating waste in trenches for horizontal piping. The waste was being put into dump trucks and taken from one location to another location, causing the odor.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned he spoke at the AQMD Hearing Board hearing, he asked the reason as to why SCL had not used a tent to cover the trenches since it is a known technology. Mr. Mohajer added it was his understanding that SCL must obtain a permit from AQMD to excavate portion of Landfill. Mr. Shammass responded that SCL may have a master permit for the gas collection system. Mr. Mohajer also wants to know with all the letters sent from Cal Recycle, why the LEA did not do anything. Mr. Mohajer stated that the hearing lasted all day and that the AQMD Hearing Board was scheduling another hearing for May 21, 2019, to consider whether to extend the OA beyond June 2019. Staff will monitor and report.

#### Reporting on Monitoring Well 205R

Mr. Dave Nguyen provided update on Monitoring Well 205R stating the LEA sent a letter to the Landfill Operator requesting a one-year study. Ms. Landis stated they should provide monthly reading reports because there may be a variance from month-to-month basis. Mr. Nguyen stated staff would contact the Landfill Operator to get status on the monthly reading reports.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Ms. Carlson provided an update on the Fourth Quarter 2018 FOC Reports, submitted by landfill operators for CCL and SCL, as well as provided an update on the Conversion Technologies efforts at landfills in the Los Angeles County area. This item was on the agenda for last month's subcommittee meeting, but because of time constraints, was postponed to this month's subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Carlson stated staff received the quarterly monitoring reports from both CCL and SCL on January 15, 2019. The reports are for the period of October, November, and December 2018. A copy of the reports was disseminated to members of the subcommittee on January 16, 2019. She added reports provide information about the incoming disposal tonnages, broken down by source of waste, and waste material type during the fourth quarter of 2018.

##### *Chiquita Canyon Landfill*

- Based on the report CCL submitted to staff, the Landfill disposed of 414,000 tons for the fourth quarter. Compared to the previous year, the fourth quarter of 2017, tonnage increased by 14 percent. Compared to the third quarter of 2018, the tonnage increased by roughly 8 percent.
- The beneficial use diverted from disposal at the landfill was 178,000. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, this amount decreased by 40 percent. Compared to the third quarter of 2018, this amount decreased by 3 percent.

*Sunshine Canyon Landfill*

- Based on the report SCL submitted to staff, the landfill disposed of 523,000 tons. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, this amount increased by 2 percent since last year and compared to the third quarter of 2018, this amount decreased by 1 percent since last quarter.
- The material used for beneficial use at the Landfill for the fourth quarter 2018 was 23,000 tons. Compared to the fourth quarter of 2017, this amount decreased by 68 percent since last year and compared to the third quarter of 2018, this amount decreased by 31 percent since last quarter.

Conversion Technology Update

The Landfill operators provided a quarterly update to Public Works with respect to the regulation of waste and conversion technologies:

*WASTE CONNECTIONS INC. for CCL*

- Waste Connections is working with Fulcrum Bioenergy's Sierra Biofuels Plant to convert MSW into low carbon jet and diesel fuel since 2008. Waste Connection supplies annually nearly 100,000 tons of MSW to Fulcrum.
- Waste Connections is currently developing a proposal for an alternative conversion technology facility for review by Public Works in accordance with Condition 118 of CCL's CUP. The technology type and location are still under consideration by Public Works for proposal.
- Waste Connections also participated in the rulemaking process for the development of regulations implementing California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Statute, Senate Bill 1383.
- Waste Connections also provided comments and recommendations to simplify the process by which alternatives to landfilling may be approved under the regulations, and incentivizing investment in such technology.
- Waste Connections is also a member of the California Compost Coalition which supports conversion technologies to make composting efficient.
- Condition 12 of the FOC requires that CCL work with the Task Force toward achieving the desired legislative and regulatory ends supposedly supporting alternative technologies identified in FOC Condition 12. CCL stated in their conversion technology update that they would like to hear from the Task Force on initiatives for proposed regulations and legislation to work together on.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT for LANCASTER LANDFILL

- Waste Management plans to work with the consultant, Agromin, to construct and operate a small volume digester called LARGO. This facility will have a capacity of approximately 5,000 tons per year, and a medium Covered Aerated Static Pile (CASP) compost operation.
- Waste Management anticipates presenting a project description to the County in the first quarter of 2019. The facility will be capable of processing up to 500 tons per day of a combination of food waste and green material at this facility. Total volume received at the site within the parameters established in the most recent EIR and CUP.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT for ANTELOPE VALLEY PUBLIC LANDFILL

- At the Antelope Valley Landfill, Waste Management is in a preliminary design phase for a similar CASP compost operation system called the Palmdale Organic Waste Recycling Center. This facility is expected to manage 300 tpd – 500 tpd of a mixture, of food and green waste. As with LARGO, the center will maintain total volumes within the already established permit limits. Waste Management has been working with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board to address seismic issues.

#### WASTE MANAGEMENT for SUN VALLEY RECYCLING PARK (SVRP)

- At the SVRP, Waste Management is in the construction phase of this project which will include a 3,000 tpd of MSW transfer station, and a 1,000 tpd Material Recovery Facility that includes 300 tpd – 600 tpd of organics processing capacity. The facility will use equipment to separate food and other organics from non-digestible material collected from commercial and multifamily facilities. The separated organics will be transferred to a digester in Rialto. Initially, the SVRP will provide organics service for the City of Los Angeles “RecycLA” franchise program. It will have capacity to service other surrounding municipalities, as well.

#### REPUBLIC SERVICES for SCL

- Republic Services continues their efforts to support regulations and legislation that promote reasonable and cost-effective expansion of renewable energy, including various forms of conversion technologies at SCL.
- Republic Services is currently working with a variety of coalitions on legislative concepts that will continue to incentivize the use of renewables and expand reasonable and cost-effective conversion technologies.
- One of the coalitions Republic Services is a member of is the Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas; Republic Services is doing the following:

- o Actively supports efforts to include the broadest definition of renewable methane, including sources from gasification.
- o Worked on efforts to include technologies that can utilize diverted organic materials from landfills, as regulated by CalRecycle through Senate Bill 1383.
- Republic Services also is opposing the elimination of eligibility for vouchers by CARB under the Hybrid Vehicle Incentive Program. Republic Services believes this elimination will reduce the incentive for low refuse vehicles fueled by renewable natural gas.

Mr. Landis commented she was interested in the organic waste and whether they are able to do something with the compost, as well as if they are in compliance with the California Department of Food and Agriculture in the way they are handling composting operations.

Mr. Mohajer reiterated his previous request in wanting to receive staff reports in advance for review. Mr. Nguyen commented that subcommittee received this particular report last month, but due to time constraint at the last subcommittee meeting, report could not be presented. Mr. Mohajer stated report should have been resubmitted. Mr. Ruiz stated staff will make every effort to submit reports in advance.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., in the Public Works Headquarters Alhambra Room.