

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

November 19, 2020

WEB CONFERENCE

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gabriel Esparza, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Omid Mazdiasni, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dennis Montano, Republic Services
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sarah Solomon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Vu Truong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Daniel Wibisono, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tuong-Phu Ngo, Republic Services
Eugene Tseng, Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Betsey Landis called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 15, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes from the October 15, 2020, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Carlos Ruiz, and seconded by Mr. Sam Shamas. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from the AQMD for the month of October 2020 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of October 2020, 121 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 54 were classified as trash, 7 were classified as landfill gas, 21 were listed as No Field Response, and the rest were listed as odor from other source, and none, which meant no odors were detected from site visit.
- Compared to September 2020, the number of complaints received in October 2020 increased from 105 to 121 complaints.
- Compared to October 2019, the number of complaints for September 2020 increased from 82 to 121 complaints.
- As of November 5, 2020, AQMD issued 4 Notice of Violations (NOVs) related to odor for the month of October 2020.
- According to the AQMD report, the total number of complaints received during 2020 is 540.

Ms. Landis mentioned that the same areas are reporting odor complaints and believes that it is a combination of wind direction and trash.

Mr. Wayde Hunter, of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, mentioned that the SCL Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) had AQMD staff participate at their last meeting on November 10, 2020. The SCL-CAC requested that AQMD go back to responding on a one-odor-complaint-per-hour call basis instead of responding after three odor complaints. AQMD responded that they would take it into consideration.

Soil Importation

Ms. Sarah Solomon, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the soil importation activities at SCL.

As previously reported to the Subcommittee, Republic Services (Republic) submitted their most recent soil importation request to Public Works on September 21, 2020. Republic's submittal included the following:

- Request approval to import approximately 14 million cubic yards of clean soil over the next 18 years to the Landfill at a typical rate of 5,000 tons per day, to be used as daily cover, stability berm features, final closure cap construction and capital project improvements. This request is in addition to the 12,100 tons per day as currently permitted.

According to Condition No. 4 of the Landfill's existing Finding of Conformance (FOC), which was granted by the Task Force on December 18, 2008, the maximum daily tonnage is limited to 12,100 tons per day and beneficial use materials are not to exceed 6,600 tons per week.

The FOC's tonnage limitations are consistent with the Landfill's current City and County land use permits, as well as the analysis in the existing California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents that were prepared for the combined City/County Landfill.

According to the Countywide Siting Element (CSE), all solid waste disposal facilities must have a FOC with the CSE. An FOC provides that uniform compliance for public health and safety, and environmental protection is maintained between all jurisdictions, while ensuring consistency with the siting criteria in the CSE. An FOC is necessary for incorporation of new solid waste disposal facilities or expansion of an existing facility into the CSE.

In addition, Chapter 10.4 of the CSE indicates that "...existing solid waste disposal facilities that institute a "significant change" to their operation must obtain an FOC.

For the purposes of Chapter 10.4, it appears that if the soil importation is in addition to and beyond the Landfill's permitted daily and weekly tonnage limits, it may be considered a significant change and may require a new FOC from the Task Force. Public Works responded to Republic's September 21, 2020, request in a letter dated November 10, 2020. Public Works' letter stated Republic's submittal is incomplete and provided comments on additional information needed as part of the overall review process.

A copy of Public Works' letter was provided to the Task Force members via email, and Public Works is currently awaiting Republic's response.

Ms. Landis commented that the Subcommittee should ask for a motion to send Republic a letter seeking change to the FOC to accommodate the increase of imported soil. Mr. Carlos Ruiz responded that Public Works is working with SCL and has requested information in order to assess the need for the importation of the material. Mr. Ruiz recommended the Subcommittee continue monitoring the situation because the actual numbers of imported material may change. Mr. Ruiz mentioned that at some point Republic was bringing in additional material, but they have stopped, and they will not bring in additional material until they receive an approval from Public Works. Mr. Sam Shammass asked if there was a chance to not require an FOC if they change their proposal significantly. Mr. Ruiz responded if they stay within the permitted tonnage limits then they do not need a new FOC, but if they go beyond 12,100 tons per day, an FOC is required. Ms. Landis recommended a formal letter should be sent to Republic from the Task Force. Mr. Ruiz made a motion for staff to send a letter to Republic from the Task Force that if soil importation exceeds 12,100 tons per day, as identified in the FOC, then a new FOC is required. Ms. Landis seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Vegetation Report

Ms. Solomon provided an update on the Third Quarter 2020 SCL Vegetation Report.

Republic submitted the Third Quarter 2020 Vegetation Project Status Report on November 4, 2020. During the third quarter of 2020, a weeding strategy was implemented to remove invasive weeds that had flourished since the Wildfire. The following weed species have been targeted for removal; Russian Thistle, Wild Oat, Short Pod Mustard, Brome Grass, False Barley, Tree Tobacco, and Yellow Star Thistle.

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

- A substantial amount of regrowth has occurred, including the most prevalent natives such as California Sunflower, Saltbush, Horseweed, and pockets of Wild Ryegrass.
- Weeding efforts have greatly reduced the cover of the noxious non-native annual species and there has been an abundance of Ventura CSS species germinating and crown-sprouting. The species following the rebound include Purple Sage, Coast Sunflower, White Sage, Creeping Wild Rye, Deerweed, Black Sage, and Mexican Elderberry.
- There are new species from the original seed mix sprouting up in decent numbers and are Scarlet Bugler, Telegraph Weed, Monkey Flower and Smooth-Leaf Yerba Santa and now the VCSS is going through dormancy.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- There is evidence of desiccation of the seedlings especially the Common Yarrow and other native species that have recently spouted and are beginning to harden off and defoliate.
- Plant diversity is noted and many of the species in the seed mix have germinated and the containerized plants also are doing well and are blooming or just finished which are the White Sage, Mexican Elderberry, Menzies's Goldenbush, and Prickly Pear.
- Large amount of sage scrub has resprouted and some of which are flowered this past Spring. The weed cover is generally low-to-moderate and most annual species are currently dormant or have desiccated.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- A stand of native California goldfields located in the southern center of the Upper Deck that is notable.
- Vegetation is dominant in this portion of the Upper Deck, which includes non-native species, demonstrating that the soils in this portion of the deck are suitable for supporting native vegetation.

County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area

- Native vegetation coverage is good in vegetated areas; California buckwheat and California sunflower are dominant.
- Establishment of vegetation remains problematic due to low pH, high salinity, rocky soils with poor soil structure, and boron toxicity which has suppressed recruitment of native species.

Ms. Landis voiced her concerns regarding the vegetation reports provided by SCL's Environmental Manager where JMA recommendations are noted on the report as "this recommendation will be considered at a later date". Ms. Landis commented on wanting to see more activity from Republic. Mr. Dave Nguyen, staff to the Task Force, commented that this report was written for the third quarter of 2020 so perhaps some suggestions may have already been implemented. Mr. Ruiz stated that staff could reach out to Republic to communicate the Subcommittee's recommendation.

Mr. Hunter mentioned that the Subcommittee and staff have worked with Republic on the issues, but Republic simply indicates they will do it at an undefined time. He suggested that staff formally write a letter requesting that Republic address the issues. Mr. Ruiz responded that staff can write a Task Force letter administratively to Republic, expressing the Subcommittee's concerns regarding vegetation.

Mr. Dennis Montano of Republic commented that Republic had not stopped its efforts involving vegetation. Republic, had in fact, planted 14 trees the last weekend. Mr. Montano stated he would speak with Republic's Environmental

Manager to discuss the possible miscommunication. Ms. Landis responded that the Vegetation Report had a table on actions to be taken on JMA's recommendations and it noted that nothing will be done until a later date. Ms. Landis suggested that Mr. Montano discuss the Vegetation Report with SCL's Environmental Manager. Mr. Montano agreed to do so.

Waste Characterization Study

Mr. Daniel Wibisono, staff to the Task Force, provided information regarding the First Semi-Annual SCL Waste Characterization Report (Report) as requested by the Subcommittee at last month's meeting.

The Landfill is to conduct two waste studies in a calendar year: one in March and the other in September. Due to COVID-19, the March study was delayed to June. On July 24, 2020, staff received the Spring Report dated July 24, 2020. A copy was provided to the Subcommittee Members on July 28, 2020, and again on November 12, 2020.

The Report only captured the incoming waste for a one-week period and may not depict the estimate of waste stream composition for different seasons. The reporting week was June 15 – 20, 2020.

- During the study period, organic materials composed 59 percent of the total waste stream.
- Other wastes such as, inert solids and household hazardous waste composed 22 percent of the total waste stream.
- The remaining 16 percent of the waste stream were composed of plastic, metals, and glass.

Staff also received the 2020 Fall Report dated October 19, 2020. The reporting week was September 21 – 26, 2020.

- During the study period, organic materials composed 60 percent of the total waste stream.
- Other wastes such as, inert solids and household hazardous waste composed 17 percent of the total waste stream.
- Glass composed 10 percent of the total waste stream.

Mr. Ruiz commented that the two reports exhibited the percentage of organic material being disposed, as holding steady at about 60 percent.

Ms. Landis asked if it also included green and organic waste. Mr. Ruiz responded he expects that the majority of the waste that leaves the County that is reported in the annual reports are black bin material and those figures do not capture the green waste that is being diverted to chipping and grinding or composting facilities.

Ms. Landis asked that if the 51 percent going into the Landfill includes organics. Mr. Wibisono responded that staff categorized it according to the proposed short-lived climate pollutants, proposed organic definitions that include living organisms and their metabolic waste, waste products, and including but not limited to, food, green material, landscapes, pruning waste, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, paper products, manure, biosolids, digestate and sludges. Mr. Ruiz commented it was a broader definition of organic waste. He also stated that CalRecycle's regulations under SB 1383 will require jurisdictions to plan for the management of all of the organic waste that is currently being disposed that was targeted by CalRecycle for diversion. CalRecycle is not targeting every single organic material, such as contaminated organic waste that is unrecyclable.

IV. DISCUSSION ON FOC REPORTS

Mr. Wibisono provided an update on FOC Reports. He first presented the Waste Characterization Report for various landfills. The information presented only reflected the incoming waste during the one-week period when the study was conducted. It does not depict the entire year or season.

Staff received the 2020 Semi Annual Fall Waste Characterization for Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility dated October 9, 2020.

- During the study period, organic materials composed 73 percent of the total waste stream.
- Plastics composed 23 percent of the total waste stream.
- The remaining 4 percent of the waste stream were composed of glass, metals and other wastes, including household hazardous waste.

Staff received the 2020 Semi Annual Fall Waste Characterization for Lancaster Landfill dated October 9, 2020.

- During the study period, organic materials composed 57 percent of the total waste stream.
- Plastics composed 18 percent of the total waste stream.
- Metals composed 13 percent of the total waste stream.

Staff received the 2020 Semi Annual Fall Waste Characterization for Chiquita Canyon Landfill dated October 15, 2020.

- During the study period, organic materials composed 53 percent of the total waste stream.
- Other wastes such as, inert solids and household hazardous waste composed 21 percent of the total waste stream.

- Metals composed 13 percent of the total waste stream.

Mr. Wibisono presented the Quarterly Monitoring Reports for various landfills. The reports provided the information on the tonnage received by the landfills during the third quarter of 2020.

Staff received the Third Quarter 2020 Monitoring Report for SCL dated October 15, 2020.

- Based on the report, SCL disposed of 670,000 tons in the third quarter of 2020. Compared to the second quarter of 2020, the disposal tonnage decreased by 5 percent.
- The beneficial reuse material, including diversion and soil, totaled 26,000 tons for the third quarter of 2020. Compared to the second quarter of 2020, the beneficial reuse tonnage decreased by 10 percent.

Staff received the Second Quarter 2020 Monitoring Report for Chiquita Canyon Landfill dated October 15, 2020.

- Based on the report, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill disposed of 483,000 tons in the third quarter of 2020. Compared to the second quarter of 2020, the disposal tonnage increased by 14 percent.
- The beneficial reuse material, including diversion and soil, totaled 144,000 tons for the third quarter. Compared to the second quarter of 2020, the beneficial reuse tonnage decreased by 3.5 percent.

V. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Omid Mazdiasni, staff to the Task Force, gave an update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL).

Odor Complaints

AQMD agreed to provide odor complaint data on a quarterly basis. The next odor complaint update will be presented in January 2021. CCL did not receive any NOVs in October 2020.

Lawsuits Updates

- CCL filed two separate lawsuits against the County.
 - The first lawsuit was filed on October 20, 2017, challenging operational conditions, and fee conditions of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). On June 22, 2020, the Court issued a ruling in favor of the County on most

operating conditions. The parties are currently in negotiation discussions. If no settlement is reached, the litigation will proceed to Phase 2 for the determination of additional claims pertaining to the challenged conditions.

- The second lawsuit challenged a decision by the hearing officer that upheld an NOV issued by Regional Planning on December 11, 2017. The trial in the second lawsuit was previously set for June 25, 2020. The trial date will be continued to Fall 2021.
- Another lawsuit was filed by Environmental and Community Groups on August 24, 2017, against the Los Angeles County and CCL. It alleged that the project Environmental Impact Report was inadequate and not in compliance with CEQA. The court issued a decision on October 10, 2019, in favor of the County and CCL. The Community filed an appeal and the hearing was held on November 18, 2020. Currently, there are no details. An update will be provided at the next Subcommittee meeting.

NOVs for Non-Compliance with the CUP

- The Department of Regional Planning issued four NOVs issued for CUP Condition 68, 77, 79, and 113 to Waste Connections on June 11, 2020, at the request of Public Works.
- CCL filed its appeal on August 6, 2020. Regional Planning scheduled a virtual hearing for November 24, 2020. The hearing was rescheduled for January 26, 2020.

At the previous meeting, Mr. Mohajer asked for the time and location of the odor complaints. Mr. Mazdiyasni presented a brief slide presentation to show that most complaints came from the Val Verde community while there were less complaints from the Castaic and Sylmar communities and that most odor complaints came between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m., which is typically associated with fresh trash odors. Mr. Mazdiyasni noted that the distances between the Val Verde and Castaic communities to the Landfill are approximately 1,500 feet and 5,000 feet, respectively. Mr. Mazdiyasni also informed that the Landfill received no NOVs in October.

VI. DECEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

A motion to cancel the December Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Carlos Ruiz, and seconded by Mr. Sam Shammass. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Landis wished everyone a happy holiday season.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled remotely for Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 11 a.m.