

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

**October 21, 2021**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections, Inc.  
Chris Coyle, Republic Services, Inc.  
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Andrew Kim, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carlos Slythe, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Vu Truong, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Betsey Landis called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Carlos Ruiz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PRELIMINARY DRAFT REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Mr. Joe Bartolata, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Los Angeles County Preliminary Draft Revised Countywide Siting Element (Draft Revised Siting Element) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR).

Prior to the September 16, 2021 Subcommittee meeting, staff provided a report that compiled all comments received from Task Force members, as of September 15, 2021. At the same meeting, Public Works (PW) agreed to extend the review and comment period for the Draft Revised Siting Element and Draft EIR documents for an additional 45 days. The new deadline is Monday, November 15, 2021. To date, PW staff has not received any additional comments from the Subcommittee nor Task Force. The City of Los Angeles indicated that they would submit comments separately.

PW recommends that the Subcommittee adopt a motion recommending that the Task Force direct staff to transmit Task Force comments to PW prior to the end of the public comment period on November 15, 2021. The Subcommittee was also reminded they may submit comments to staff or on the following [link](#), as well as e-mailing [sitingelement@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:sitingelement@pw.lacounty.gov). Upon expiration of the public review period, PW will review all comments received, consider them accordingly, and provide written responses no later than 105 days after the close of review period.

Ms. Landis asked who was providing comments on the comments. Mr. Bartolata responded PW staff. Ms. Landis recommended that each Subcommittee member review the documents and provide any comments so a recommendation from the Subcommittee may be made to the Task Force. Mr. Ruiz commented that PW's intent is to work with the Subcommittee and Task Force before preparing a final draft of the Draft Revised Siting Element. Therefore, he recommends that the Subcommittee submit comments that have already been received and that PW will commit to working with Ms. Landis in receiving any additional comments she has, keeping in mind PW will be working with the Subcommittee in preparing any revisions to the document. Ms. Landis shared her concern that Subcommittee members should have a basic understanding of what the Draft Revised Siting

Element is and to review it to see what is going on and if they see something that is wrong, to note it down. Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Ruiz what the Public Resources Code (PRC) requires as to the role of the Task Force in reference to the Countywide Siting Element. Mr. Ruiz responded that under the PRC, the Task Force has a guiding role in terms of development of the goals and policies of the CSE. Mr. Ruiz added that state regulation provides more detail not only in the development of the goals and policies, but also in terms of review of the Preliminary Draft Revised Countywide Siting Element or the final draft and submitting comments. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mohajer requested to see any comments received from CalRecycle and the City of Los Angeles on the Draft Revised Siting Element. Mr. Ruiz noted that the California Code of Regulations provides 2 official opportunities for the Task Force to provide comments; one is for the preliminary draft and the other is for the final draft. In preparation of the final draft, staff will provide an overview of the comments that were received from every agency and stakeholder so the Task Force may review for further feedback. PW and the County have always worked under the auspices of the Task Force in preparing the documents. Because of the need of sufficient time for review, Ms. Landis suggested that either at the November or December Subcommittee meetings, an entire hour would be needed to review the documents.

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

##### Subsurface Landfill Gas Migration

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Landfill Gas Migration at Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL). As requested by the Subcommittee at the September 16, 2021 meeting, staff prepared a [presentation](#) on landfill's gas migration monitoring system.

At previous FPRS meeting, the Subcommittee had questions regarding information about CCL's perimeter gas monitoring system being outdated. Staff contacted the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and included up to date information from the most recent Solid Waste Facility Permit. Currently, the LEA is conducting a 5-year permit review for the Joint Technical Document (JTD) and will be requesting amendments to be submitted by the landfill operator. The following were highlighted in the update:

- 2017 JTD table showing all the gas monitoring well information.
- Gas monitoring well locations.
- Existing and future gas monitoring wells.
- CCL site map.

Ms. Landis requested hard copies of presentation materials in advance for subsequent meetings. Mr. Mohajer stated at last month's Subcommittee meeting he had asked for specific items pertaining to CCL and wanted them in a staff report ahead of time to provide comments. Mr. Mohajer also stated that the Task Force is a permitting entity that should be considered. Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the Finding of Conformance (FOC) contains a condition that permits the Task Force to review the FOC simultaneously with the Solid Waste Facility Permit 5-year review.

Mr. Mohajer also asked what kind of map was used for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) that CCL provided to staff. Mr. Aiyetiwa responded that the CUP Exhibit A map defines the boundary of the landfill. Mr. Mohajer requested an updated, certified, and signed map showing the location of the perimeter monitoring well locations from Waste Connections. Mr. Steve Cassulo of Waste Connections responded that the wells and well locations had not changed since 2009. Mr. Mohajer reiterated his request adding that CCL's engineers should then state that in the maps, which would be acceptable.

#### Status of Lawsuit, NOVs, and Odor Complaints

Mr. Andrew Kim, staff to the Task Force, provided the following information:

##### *Updates on Odor Complaints and NOVs related to odor complaints*

- South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) agreed to provide odor complaint data on a quarterly basis. The quarterly odor complaint update was provided by AQMD in October 2021.
- CCL received 56 odor complaints in July, 79 odor complaints in August, and 83 odor complaints in September 2021. The Landfill received 1 NOV in July, NOVs in August, and 2 NOVs in September 2021, all of which were air quality-related. The landfill received an additional NOV in August, not related to air quality.
- CCL received one NOV dated September 16, 2021, from the AQMD.
- The next quarterly odor complaint update will be presented in January 2022.

##### *Lawsuit Update*

CCL filed 2 separate lawsuits against the County:

- The first lawsuit was filed on October 20, 2017, challenging operational conditions and fee conditions of the CUP. In July 2020, the trial court issued a decision finding in the County's favor on some conditions and in CCL's favor on other conditions. The parties are currently engaged in settlement discussions.
- The second lawsuit was filed on April 13, 2018, challenging a decision by the hearing officer that upheld an NOV issued by Regional Planning on December 11, 2017, for failure to pay Bridge and Thoroughfare Fee, accepting

prohibited auto shredder waste, and failure to pay out-of-area fees. The trial is scheduled for January 18, 2022.

#### NOV issued by Regional Planning Department on June 11, 2020

- On April 19, 2021, the Task Force sent a letter to CCL regarding NOV issued by Regional Planning Department.
- In response, CCL submitted their sixth monthly update on September 29, 2021, that was disseminated to the Task Force on October 12, 2021. The update addressed the following April 19, 2021 letter requirements:
  - CCL Chiquita is currently in negotiations with the County for Conditions 68, 77, and 79. CCL tried to resolve the non-compliance with Condition 113 by submitting information requested by the County on July 10, 2020.
  - FOC Condition 22 requires the landfill to provide any NOVs received by a permitting agency to the Task Force. The landfill provided a copy of NOV dated September 16, 2021 by AQMD. A copy of the NOV was disseminated to the Task Force on September 22, 2021.
- Staff will continue to follow up with CCL monthly for their NOV status update.

Mr. Mohajer requested that staff include a brief summary for each CUP condition on all future updates.

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

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from the AQMD](#) for the month of September 2021.

- During the month of September 2021, 55 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 23 were classified as Trash and the rest were classified as No Field Response and None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to August 2021, the number of complaints received in September 2021 decreased from 71 to 55 complaints.
- Compared to September 2020, the number of complaints for September 2021 decreased from 105 to 55 complaints.
- As of October 5, 2021, AQMD issued 1 NOV related to odor for the month of September 2021.
- According to the AQMD report, the total number of complaints received during 2021 is 230.

Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens commented that he still has issues with the odor complaint update. Mr. Hunter also brought up a news release from PW and the County regarding Dominguez Channel and that the County was working on solutions and programs to assist residents. Mr. Hunter inquired if a similar program would be available to communities near landfills. Ms. Landis responded that Dominguez Channel had erupted with a tremendous amount of odor in just one event. At landfills, there are odor problems being worked on that have been going on for years and are intermittent. Ms. Landis responded to Mr. Hunter's concern stating that there is nothing the Subcommittee can do now, but that his comments are noted on the minutes.

**V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS**

Staff will receive FOC reports at the end of the month and will provide updates at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public Comment.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 11 a.m.