

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

July 21, 2022

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
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Tim Fargo, City of Los Angeles
David Thompson, City of Los Angeles
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dustin Dvorak, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works
Tran Kiem, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dennis Lee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Omid Mazdiasni, Los Angeles County Public Works
Robel Mesfin, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gladys Rietze, Los Angeles County Public Works
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, 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 11:00 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 16, 2022 MEETING

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the Minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Sam Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. SENATE BILL (SB) 1383 PRELIMINARY CAPACITY REPORT FROM JURISDICTIONS

Ms. Trishena Robinson, staff to the Task Force, provided the following summary:

- In 2021, the County disposed of approximately 10.6 million tons of solid waste of this amount, an estimated 4.9 million tons was organic waste, as specified by Article 11 of Senate Bill (SB) 1383, which includes food, green waste, landscape and printing waste, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, digestate and biosolids.
- As required by the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) under SB 1383 Regulations, counties are responsible for collecting the organic waste recycling and edible food recovery capacity data information from each jurisdiction and submitting to CalRecycle by August 1, 2022, identifying jurisdictions that do not have enough organic waste recycling capacity and informing jurisdictions that they must submit an implementation schedule to CalRecycle that includes timelines and milestones for planning efforts to access capacity.
- As of July 18, 2022, 86 jurisdictions have submitted both their organic waste and edible food capacity data to the County. The total organic waste disposal tonnage that was reported was approximately 4.5 million tons, approximately 4 million tons of verifiably organic available capacity and approximately 1.3 million tons of potentially available organic capacity has been identified by those jurisdictions. The two remaining jurisdictions to submit their data are Avalon and Montebello.
- Public Works (PW) staff continues to coordinate with jurisdictions that have not yet provided the required data. Staff is also consolidating data from jurisdictions who have provided their data to be submitted to CalRecycle by August 1, 2022.
- PW staff will provide an update at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Mohajer asked what the total disposal tonnages for Los Angeles County (County) were and he also requested for a copy of the presentation.

Ms. Robinson responded that in 2021 the County disposed of approximately 10.6 million tons of solid waste and of that amount, an estimated 4.9 million tons was organic waste. She also indicated that a copy of staff presentation will be sent to the members of the FPRS.

Ms. Landis asked how capacity was determined at a landfill. Ms. Robinson responded that capacity in her presentation refers to organic waste recycling capacity and would not be at a landfill, but rather at a facility identified by CalRecycle as an organic waste recycling facility such as composting facility or wastewater treatment plant that does co-digestion and anaerobic digestion, or a chipping and grinding facility.

Mr. Mohajer requested that the report due to CalRecycle on August 1, 2022, also be sent to all Task Force members simultaneously since it is a public document. Mr. Mohajer also expressed his appreciation of Ms. Robinson's presentation to the Subcommittee, as well as her excellent presentation at the Southern California Waste Management Forum.

IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Omid Mazdiyasni, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

Odor Complaints and Notice of Violations (NOV)

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) reported that Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) received three odor complaints in April, two odor complaints in May, and four odor complaints in June 2022. No NOVs were reported in the second quarter of 2022.

Update on Lawsuits

The parties are currently engaged in settlement discussions to resolve lawsuits against the County: The first lawsuit CCL filed was on October 20, 2017, challenging operational conditions and fee conditions of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The second lawsuit CCL filed was on April 13, 2018, challenging a decision by the hearing officer that upheld a 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. In June 2022, the court granted CCL's writ petition in part and denied it in part. The trial for remaining constitutional claims is set for December 2022.

Task Force Request for CCL to Submit a Report regarding NOV's Received

- CCL submitted their Fifteenth Monthly Update to the Task Force dated June 30, 2022. The update addressed the April 19, 2021, letter's requirements and updates on implementation of Conditions 68 (status of air quality monitoring for surrounding communities), 77 (relocation of the site entrance from Henry Mayo Drive to Wolcott Drive), and 79 (schedule of the Street Improvement project), as well as the Stipulated Order for Abatement from AQMD.
- No NOV's were issued to CCL for the month of June 2022.

AQMD Stipulated Order for Abatement/Orchard Fans

- The use of orchard fans was stipulated in the Order for Abatement to dilute and neutralize odors. CCL received approval for six additional orchard fan engines onsite. Currently, CCL has eight operating orchard fans and one available as backup.
- An air movement study by a consultant in 2021 revealed that orchard fans in their recommended configurations are effective.
- The next Stipulated Order for Abatement Hearing is set for September 20, 2022.

Ms. Landis commented that she is dissatisfied with the use of orchard fans and suggested CCL should consider planting trees.

Mr. Mohajer recommended that any documentation or report sent to the Task Force or any documentation or report that the Landfill Operator is required to provide pursuant to the Finding of Conformance (FOC) be placed on the FPRS agenda with a link to that material, which will make accessibility to agenda items much easier than sifting through various e-mails sent to the Subcommittee. Ms. Landis concurred. Staff will include links on agenda, as requested.

Mr. Mohajer discussed the e-mail from Ms. Hanson-Lugo to Mr. Ramon Herman in response to Mr. Mohajer's inquiries on the May 19, 2022, Subcommittee meeting. The response stated that the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) was not the lead and that HAZMAT was the lead. He disagreed with this response and questioned the purpose and responsibilities of the LEA when hazardous wastes are detected at the Landfill.

Mr. Steve Cassulo of CCL responded to Mr. Mohajer stating that the hazardous waste was not disposed of and that the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) conducted an inspection of CCL and noted that used oil was not stored in

a secondary containment as required for hazardous waste. This required CCL to correct the situation.

Mr. Mohajer continued his inquiry to the LEA and provided his assessment of the LEA's responsibilities, including the enforcement of hazardous waste regulations.

Mr. Mohajer further requested a written response from the LEA on Public Health letterhead indicating their procedure in response to hazardous waste being disposed of or stored at the landfill with references to the Public Resources Code. Ms. Hanson-Lugo explained that it is common for facilities to have a hazardous waste area where they store hazardous wastes generated from vehicle maintenance or from items picked up from incidental tipping. She also informed that it is not under the purview of the LEA to go inside these hazardous waste storage locations and conduct inspection. The LEA only ensures that landfills and transfer facilities that store hazardous wastes have their hazardous waste locations secured, locked, and contained.

Ms. Hanson-Lugo agreed to respond in writing, on behalf of the LEA, to the Subcommittee in response to Mr. Mohajer's inquiries. She also reiterated that the question asked was about the NOV issued by the HAZMAT team to CCL on which she indicated that the HAZMAT team has jurisdiction over and not the LEA. The LEA ensures that the load checking program is in place and that the landfill or any other solid waste facility are not illegally disposing of or illegally receiving hazardous wastes onsite.

Ms. Landis asked if HAZMAT reports go to the LACFD. Mr. Mohajer responded that the CUPA (Certified Unified Program Agency) is a separate permitting agency, which enforces the County, LACFD and 54 cities within Los Angeles County and is responsible for making sure that, if hazardous waste material is stored onsite, they are contained appropriately.

V. DISCUSSION ON FOC REPORTS

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, continues to receive FOC reports for this period until the end of the month and will provide an update at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Mohajer reiterated placing links to any reports provided by CCL on the agenda that are part of the respective discussion item for future meetings. Ms. Emiko Thomas concurred.

VI. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Robel Mesfin, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from the AQMD](#) for the month of June 2022 at SCL.

- During the month of June 2022, 40 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 17 were classified as Trash and the rest were listed as No Field Response or None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to previous month, May 2022, the number of complaints received in June 2022 increased from 17 to 40 complaints.
- Compared to previous year, June 2021, the number of complaints for June 2022 increased from 31 to 40 complaints.
- As of July 2022, AQMD issued two NOVs related to odor for the month of June 2022.
- Compared to 2021, the number of NOVs issued increased from 6 to 9 NOVs in 2022.
- According to the AQMD report, the total number of complaints received during 2022 is 395.

Mr. Mohajer noted that the number of odor complaints for the month of June significantly increased, including verified odors, as well as the two NOVs issued. Mr. Mohajer asked if the Landfill is under an Order for Abatement by the AQMD. Mr. Dave Nguyen clarified that the Landfill is not currently under an Order for Abatement from AQMD, and that the previous Odor for Abatement had expired. Mr. Mohajer thanked Mr. Nguyen for the clarification.

Mr. Hunter advised that two months ago, the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens had requested the AQMD to schedule a second hearing for Odor of Abatement.

Mr. Mohajer advised that the previous Manager at SCL, Mr. Chris Coyle, is no longer the site manager which was the reason there was no representative at today's Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee meeting nor this Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Mohajer asked staff to find out who would be replacing Mr. Coyle.

NOV issued by Regional Planning

Ms. Gladys Rietze, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the NOV issued to SCL by Regional Planning.

On April 28, 2022, Regional Planning issued a NOV to the Landfill for not meeting Condition 45N of the Landfill's CUP, after PW began conducting inspections in February 2022. Since May 14, 2022, PW staff observed the Landfill using soil cover at the working face on the weekends. PW staff will continue to inspect the Landfill for compliance and provide support to Regional Planning in its enforcement role.

Ms. Landis asked if SCL consistently uses the soil cover on weekends. Ms. Rietze clarified that PW staff has observed the Landfill using soil cover at the working face on the weekends since May 14, 2022, and that the issue is still under the enforcement of Regional Planning.

Mr. Hunter mentioned potential concerns regarding Landfill operations due to recent staff changes. Ms. Landis noted his concerns; discussion ensued.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 18, 2022, at 11 a.m.