

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

January 19, 2023

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
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Kate Downey, Republic Services (Republic)
Tim Fargo, City of Los Angeles
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dennis Lee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Omid Mazdidasni, Los Angeles County Public Works
Robel Mesfin, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gladys Rietze, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mike Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 17, 2022 MEETING

Approval of minutes is postponed until next month's Subcommittee meeting.

III. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Omid Mazdidasni, 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 3 odor complaints in October, 6 odor complaints in November, and no odor complaints in December 2022. CCL received no Notice of Violations (NOVs) during the 4th quarter of 2022.

Lawsuit Update

- On November 10, 2022, CCL submitted a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) modification request to the Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) for consideration.
- Staff will monitor the progress of the CUP modification and will keep the Subcommittee updated.

Task Force Request for CCL to Submit a Report regarding NOVs Received

- CCL submitted both their Twentieth Monthly Update and Twenty-First Monthly Update to the Task Force dated November 30, 2022, and December 30, 2022, respectively. The updates 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 NOVs were received for the months of November and December 2022.

Mr. Mohajer referenced Item II on the previous minutes requesting the Subcommittee receive a copy of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) package approving the CCL settlement and stated he had not received it.

Mr. Dave Nguyen responded it was disseminated to the Subcommittee after the November meeting, but staff will send it to him again.

Reissue of Finding of Conformance (FOC)

Mr. Nguyen commented that after the Board settled on the lawsuit with CCL, the next step was for the Landfill Operator to file a CUP modification with Regional Planning reflecting the settlement agreement. He informed that Regional Planning staff is currently waiting for an addendum before they can consider the document. At this time, there is no hearing date been scheduled.

Mr. Nguyen reported that in the current CUP modification that was submitted to Regional Planning, there are several conditions that may be of interest to the Subcommittee, which are the shortening of the Landfill's lifespan from 30 to 25 years and an increase in the annual tonnage limits while the overall tonnage capacity remains the same. Mr. Mohajer asked for staff to provide a staff report on the CUP modification.

Mr. Nguyen suggested that, since the CUP modification request is still being considered by Regional Planning, staff recommended that the member wait until Regional Planning's review is completed and the said request is released for public review. Mr. Mohajer agreed and asked for a staff report on the settlement agreement, instead.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens asked if the community around CCL was properly notified about the application for a modification of the CUP, as well as future public hearings so they have an opportunity to raise any concerns. Mr. Nguyen responded yes, and that the issue was brought up at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee (CCL-CAC). Regional Planning was in attendance at this meeting and indicated that the community will have a chance to provide comment on CUP modification hearing.

IV. 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 December 2022 at SCL.

- During the month of December 2022, 32 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 5 were classified as Trash, 11 were listed as No Field

- Response, and 16 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to November 2022, the number of complaints received in December 2022, increased from 25 to 32 complaints.
 - Compared to December 2021, the number of complaints for December 2022 decreased from 83 to 32 complaints.
 - AQMD issued zero NOVs related to odor for the month of December 2022 and a total of twelve NOVs for the 2022 year.
 - AQMD's report indicates that the total number of complaints received during 2022 is 653.

Mr. Hunter provided comments on SCL's Fourth Quarter Dust and Odor Report dated January 14, 2023, and offered his comments on the report.

Mr. Mohajer asked if staff had reviewed the report. Mr. Nguyen confirmed that PW staff received the report from the Landfill Operator and are in the process of reviewing the report and will consider Mr. Hunter's suggestion.

Mr. Mohajer requested staff to review and prepare a Staff Report on the [Health Risk Assessment Report, dated September 2022](#), and placing it on the next agenda for discussion.

Odor Control Measures

Ms. Gladys Rietze, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update on SCL's odor control measures:

At the November 17, 2022, Subcommittee meeting, staff presented potential mitigation measures to reduce odors at the SCL between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. Staff recommended the Task Force to continue to monitor the situation as the volume of odor complaints appear to have decreased from November to December 2022 compared to last year.

Mr. Mohajer suggested that Staff compare the Health Risk Assessment Report to the potential odor mitigation measures Staff Report and make any additional recommendations to the Task Force based on this review.

Mr. Mohajer also mentioned soil importation due to the construction of the Toe Berm project at SCL. He stated his concern with the [Geology and Soils Report Approval Letter from City of Los Angeles to Republic and Republic's Memo to the City of Los Angeles, dated August 7, 2020](#), indicating that the Toe Berm Project

was consistent with the 1997 EIR. Mr. Mohajer's concern was that the CUP, issued in 2007, specifically defines the elevation and horizontal boundaries of the Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer asked for an update on the status of the Toe Berm Project. Mr. Tim Fargo from the City of Los Angeles clarified SCL submitted a permit application to City of Los Angeles Planning Department, which has not yet been approved; however, the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety has issued an approval for grading.

Mr. Mohajer requested for on-going updates, if any, at future Subcommittee meetings regarding the Toe Berm Project including tonnage exceedances.

Mr. Hunter shared his concerns with the increased tonnage accepted at SCL. Mr. Mohajer asked if PW had advised Regional Planning that SCL is exceeding their daily limit of tonnage. Mr. Sheppard responded that PW is working closely with both Regional Planning and the Landfill Operator to evaluate the information, but PW had not officially notified Regional Planning. On November 15, 2022, PW sent a letter to the Landfill Operator regarding the tonnage exceedances and Regional Planning was copied.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) specified daily tonnage limits. Mr. Nguyen confirmed there is a provision for daily tonnage. Mr. Mohajer asked if the SCL Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) issued any violation of daily tonnage under the SWFP. Ms. Hanson-Lugo responded on behalf of the LEA, stating that although the solid waste permit has a daily tonnage limit, the LEA does not consider the soil for construction activities under this provision. Mr. Mohajer took exception in Ms. Hanson-Lugo's response and requested a written reference to the regulations LEA has regarding enforcement of this topic.

Ms. Kate Downey clarified that Republic's Counsel prepared a response to the tonnage exceedance notice letter. She also indicated that it was a matter of permit language interpretation by the Landfill Operator, the LEA, PW and Regional Planning. Mr. Mohajer thanked Ms. Downey and requested that Republic keep the Task Force informed.

After discussion, Mr. Mohajer commented that the minutes should have live links on any attachment or figures being discussed. He also referred to a correction to last month's Finding of Conformance Report and he did not know if the corrections were made as the live link for the FOC Report was missing. Mr. Mohajer requested the minutes be updated as noted for the Subcommittees consideration on approving the minutes.

Mr. Sheppard made a motion to edit the minutes to be voted on at next month's meeting, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Mohajer will contact staff to note edits to be made.

V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS

As requested by the Subcommittee, the Revised Staff Report with changes will be incorporated in the November 17, 2022, meeting minutes (see [link](#) to the meeting minutes).

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter commented that he had been in contact with both PW and City Planning, and nobody raised the issue of receiving a response from Republic's attorneys. Mr. Hunter, as Chair to the SCL-CAC, requested a copy of the document so he may share with the community.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 16, 2023, at 11 a.m.