

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

June 15, 2023

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Karen Gork, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Rachelle Huber, Republic Services
Josephine Lee, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Nicolas Sanchez, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Josephine Chen, 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
David Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gladys Rietze, 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 MAY 18, 2023 MEETING

Ms. Genevieve Osmena made a motion to approve the May 18, 2023 minutes and Mr. Sam Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Karlo Manalo, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

Odor Complaints and Notice of Violations (NOV)

The next quarterly update from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) will be provided in July 2023.

Task Force Request for Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) to Submit a Report regarding NOVs Received

- CCL submitted their [Twenty-Sixth Monthly Update](#) to the Task Force on June 1, 2023. 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.
- CCL received two NOVs from the AQMD on May 18 and 19, 2023, for discharging such quantities of air contaminants to cause odor nuisance to a considerable number of people.
- To date, CCL received 4 NOVs this year, which includes the NOV received in April for failing to provide lab analysis and readings for landfill gas and another NOV that was issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board in March, that was rescinded after proof of compliance was provided by the Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the FPRS must comply with the Brown Act so when something is submitted to the FPRS that is part of an agenda item, it must also be made available to the public. Also, as items are provided to the FPRS during the meeting that were not yet readily available, they should be provided at the next Subcommittee meeting.

IV. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints and Notice of Violations

Ms. Gladys Rietze, staff to the Task Force, provided an [update on the odor complaints from the AQMD](#) for the month of May 2023 at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL):

- During the month of May 2023, 32 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 6 were classified as Trash, 13 were listed as No Field Response, 13 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to April 2023, the number of complaints received in May 2023, decreased from 185 to 32 complaints.
- Compared to May 2022, the number of complaints for May 2023 increased from 17 to 32 complaints.
- AQMD issued 1 NOV related to odor for the month of May 2023.
- There is a total of 30 NOVs received for 2023, compared to 12 NOVs in 2022.
- As of May 2023, the total number of odor complaints received during 2023 is 780.

Results from Biologist on the Removal of Vegetation

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided the following for SCL:

- The 2nd Quarter Vegetation Report will be available at the end of July 2023. Staff will provide a report at a subsequent Subcommittee meeting.
- The County Biologist (Biologist) agreed with the Vegetation Consultant's recommendations for erosion control at the County Sage Mitigation Deck to be implemented. The Biologist also agreed with the recommendation of removing non-native invasive plants as identified, except for the *Encelia Farinosa* which is a California native plant, but is not native to the project region, and has several benefits as soil protection. Removing flowerbeds is recommended to prevent further seeding. The Biologist's comments were transmitted to the Landfill Operator for conclusion in the next Vegetation Report.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Biologist comments were sent to the Subcommittee. Mr. Harmon responded that the Biologist comments were not included in the latest report. Ms. Osmena reiterated that the findings from the Biologist will be included in the next vegetation report. Mr. Mohajer requested that the Biologist comments be provided to the Subcommittee.

Odor Control Measures

Mr. Harmon provided a [staff report](#) for Odor Control Measures at SCL.

Mr. Mohajer noted that in AQMD's response letter dated June 1, 2023, the agreement between Republic Services (Republic) and AQMD did not address all recommendations staff had in the April 13, 2023, letter to AQMD. He requested staff to provide a comparison of current AQMD mitigation measures versus the Subcommittee's recommendations at next month's Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Mohajer reiterated that the recommendation to delay the Landfill's disposal hours from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m., was not one of the requirements imposed by AQMD.

Mr. Mohajer further indicated that schools in the community were not mentioned in the agreement and asked that staff contact the schools and the community to see what their position is on the mitigation measures implemented.

V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS

Mr. Karlo Manalo, staff to the Task Force provided an [update](#) on the Finding of Conformance (FOC) Semi-Annual Waste Characterization studies for various landfills.

Mr. Mohajer asked how many requests staff had received from Landfill Operators regarding modifying the frequency and/or quantity required for the waste characterization studies. Mr. Manalo responded that staff had not received any requests from Landfill Operators. Mr. Dave Nguyen further elaborated that staff received input from the Landfill Operators who responded to the survey that staff sent regarding quantity and sample size. However, the Landfill Operators had not requested to modify the sample size.

Mr. Mohajer discussed the importance of the modification to the FOC and proposed that staff e-mail Landfill Operators detailing staff's recommendation and requesting responses to begin the FOC modification process. Alternatively, the proposal may be to instead sample a percentage, and request the Landfill Operator's recommendation on what they believe is reasonable and attainable for compliance.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nicolas Sanchez, Assistant Chief Deputy Counsel with AQMD gave an update on the agreement between AQMD and Republic regarding odor mitigation at SCL:

- Republic will hire a consultant to evaluate and improve the wet weather conditions and address future wet weather events to mitigate odors at the Landfill.
- Republic is increasing their odor patrols starting at 5 a.m., which includes an individual in the community and in the Landfill to detect and respond to odors and will pause waste deliveries to the Landfill if there is a spike in odor complaints.

AQMD received the letter from the Task Force regarding identifying odor mitigation measures and to seek an Order for Abatement. Mr. Sanchez noted that with their recent odor mitigation implementation at SCL, they are going on six weeks without a public nuisance NOV being issued. AQMD will continue to track and implement additional conditions if necessary.

Mr. Sanchez also noted that Republic provides a weekly update on addressing the odor conditions that is sent to Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath with Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 15, 2023, at 11 a.m.