

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

April 18, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kate Downey, Republic Services
Brenda Eells, Waste Management
Ken Habaradas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Cameron Jones, Los Angeles County Public Works
Omar Carrillo Maldonado, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Emiko Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 18, FEBRUARY 15, AND MARCH 21, 2024, MEETINGS

Mr. Sam Shammas made a motion to approve the January 18, February 15, and March 21, 2024, minutes, and Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, reported on Chiquita Canyon Landfill's (CCL) Notices of Violations (NOVs) and status update on environmental mitigation measures:

- CCL received 16 NOVs in March 2024, all of which are air quality-related from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).
- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Thirty-Sixth Monthly Update](#), dated April 1, 2024, in accordance with the [April 19, 2021, Task Force letter](#) requirements and subsequent request for additional updates on NOVs issued and mitigation measures imposed by regulatory agencies.
- The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) modification application, resulting from the [Settlement Agreement](#) between the County and CCL, was submitted to County Regional Planning on November 10, 2022, for consideration.
- CCL continues to work on securing permits required to begin construction of the new entrance along Wolcott Way, as required Conditions 77 and 79 of the CUP.
- CCL reported that the odors from the Landfill is from a large and unexpected increase in production of landfill gas and liquids due to a reaction within a portion of the Landfill's waste mass.

Odor mitigation efforts:

- An initial [Stipulated Order for Abatement](#) as adopted by AQMD on September 6, 2023, to address the odors, was last modified on March 21, 2024, but not yet available to CCL or the public.
- The Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), with recommendations from CalRecycle, provided mitigation measures in letters dated [October 17, 2023](#), and [November 21, 2023](#), for CCL to implement to address odors.

- On February 7, 2024, the LEA cited two violations of Title 27 California Code of Regulations for methane gas exceedances and site maintenance issues related to leachate management, landfill gas collection and unusual settlement.
- CCL is implementing several measures including installing new wells around the reaction area, tuning and improving vacuum reliability of existing wells, installing a larger header to improve liquid management, and daily inspections of the cover.
- On March 20, 2024, AQMD issued a NOV for failing to analyze monthly leachate samples for volatile organic compounds and toxic contaminants and for violating Stipulated Order conditions.
- On March 20, 2024, AQMD issued a separate NOV for installing and operating a leachate treatment system, modifying landfill gas condensate and leachate collection systems without obtaining required permits from AQMD.
- CCL was required to implement significant changes to their liquid collection systems with guidance from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- On March 28, 2024, the California State Water Resources Control Board issued a NOV for discharging effluent from the south detention basin against its Industrial General Permit.
- On March 29, 2024, the DTSC issued a summary of violations for alleged violations of California's hazardous waste control laws and regulations. CCL is implementing compliance requirements.
- A modification hearing on the SOA will be held before the AQMD Hearing Board on April 24 and 25, 2024.
- The LEA continues to review periodic reports submitted by CCL as required by LEA and CalRecycle's mitigation measures.
- Public Works (PW) is working with CCL on expediting necessary permits for a new flare, which is required by AQMD's Stipulated Order.
- Regional Planning continues to expand and update their [webpage](#) to post information and resources for the odor incident.
- CalRecycle continues to assist the LEA with reviewing various reports and data submitted by CCL.
- The EPA issued CCL a Unilateral Administrative Order, pursuant to its authority under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act and required CCL to implement mitigation measures set for the Order.
- The Multi-Agency Coordination Group, led by the EPA, and Los Angeles County Health Hazardous Materials Division, was established to oversee the immediate migration plans related to the leachate at CCL.

Mr. Herman informed the Subcommittee that PW staff updated the well temperature data and map for the month of February at CCL that was provided in staff report.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from AQMD](#) for March 2024 at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL):

- During the month of March 2024, 272 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 88 were classified as Trash, 96 were listed as No Field Response, 13 were listed as Landfill Gas Odors, and 75 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to February 2024, the number of complaints received for March 2024, decreased from 474 to 272 complaints.
- Compared to March 2023, the number of complaints for March 2024 increased from 146 to 272 complaints.
- AQMD issued 9 NOVs related to odor for the month of March 2024.
- The total of NOVs issued this calendar year is 35.

Odor mitigation efforts:

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a Motion on April 9, 2024, with objective to mitigate odors at SCL, which directed the Departments of Regional Planning, Public Health, and PW to:

- Engage an independent technical expert to provide an assessment of the odor issues that occurred at SCL between 2023 and 2024, with recommendations for the near- and long-term operations to ensure odor issues are addressed.
- Coordinate with SCL-LEA and AQMD to seek independent review and expert opinion of CalRecycle on lasting solutions to resolve odors.
- Report back to the Board within 30 days with a strategy to initiate a technical review.
- Report back to the Board within 150 days, before the rainy season, with findings and recommended operational changes at SCL.

Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens asked why PW lifted the soil cover requirement for the weekend. Mr. Dave Nguyen responded that PW approved a one-year pilot program with conditions and that the Landfill Operator will be required to present the project to the community for input.

He informed that the decision to lift the requirement was done in consultation with other regulatory agencies and that it might have some potential benefits in terms of enhancing the landfill gas collection efficiency, which is why PW wants to explore all available options that would assist to mitigate the current odor situation. Mr. Nguyen further informed that the pilot program can be terminated at any time if SCL does not meet the required conditions and that PW will continue to monitor the landfill for compliance with the requirements.

V. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS

Mr. Manalo informed the Subcommittee that staff did not receive any Finding of Conformance Reports prior to mailout. Therefore, a staff report will be provided at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter asked if Public Works was aware of the series of citations received by SCL for their gas system going down that was noted in a report by the LEA in February. Mr. Nguyen indicated that PW is aware of these incidents.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 16, 2024, at 11 a.m.