

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

August 15, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Basil Cantu, City of Long Beach Public Works
Karen Gork, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Jordan Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Michael Stewart, Republic Services
Rachelle Huber, Republic Services
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Maintenance District
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Fitchmun, Los Angeles County Public Works
Cameron Jones, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dennis Lee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Omar Carrillo Maldonado, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gladys Rietze, 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 11:01 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 18, 2024, MEETING

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the July 18, 2024, minutes, and Mr. Basil Cantu seconded. Motion passed with three abstentions.

III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Karlo Manalo, 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 July 2024, all of which were air quality-related from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).
- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Fortieth Monthly Update](#), dated August 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.
- CCL reported that the source of any odors from CCL is from a large and unexpected increase in production of landfill gas and liquids due to a chemical reaction within an older portion of the landfill's waste mass.
- As a result of the NOVs, CCL entered into a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) with AQMD that was last modified on April 24, 2024, to address and abate the odors at CCL.
- The next SOA Hearing was scheduled for August 17, 2024.
- The Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), with recommendations from CalRecycle, required CCL in 2023 to implement mitigation measures to address the reaction and ongoing odors.
- On June 6, 2024, the LEA issued CCL a [Compliance Order](#) that alleges violations of site maintenance and gas monitoring and control, memorializes prior mitigation measures recommended by CalRecycle and LEA, and imposes additional related reporting requirements.
- CCL continues to implement the measures required by AQMD and the LEA, and is providing periodic reports to various regulatory agencies that are accessible through CCL's [odor mitigation website](#).
- Los Angeles County Regional Planning (Regional Planning) issued an NOV to CCL on [July 1, 2024](#), for alleged violations in 2023 related to average daily tonnage capacity and the facility annual maximum capacity for municipal solid waste.

- On July 31, 2024, CCL submitted a compliance plan to Regional Planning to address the alleged violations, as required by the NOV.
- On [August 14, 2024](#), Regional Planning revised their July 1, 2024, NOV to CCL to correct the penalties related to the tonnage exceedances.

Mr. Shammass asked if a copy of the compliance plan CCL submitted to Regional Planning was available. Mr. Manalo responded that it was linked to the [Staff Report](#) that was disseminated to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Hunter asked Mr. Larry Israel of AQMD, if AQMD could create a spreadsheet of odor complaints received similar to that of Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL). Mr. Israel responded that he would take the request to his management for consideration.

Mr. Israel rectified that CCL received 18 NOVs in July. He also informed that the AQMD Hearing Board was conducting a full SOA hearing at the College of the Canyons Performance Arts Center in Santa Clarita on Saturday, August 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., and would likely be continued on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at AQMD's headquarters in Diamond Bar.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

Ms. Gladys Rietze, staff to the Task Force, reported that AQMD had not yet posted their odor complaints report for the month of July 2024 on their website. Once the report becomes available, a copy would be provided at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Hunter asked Mr. Israel if he knew the status of odor complaints for the month of July. Mr. Israel responded that there were at least 30 odor complaints received by AQMD for the month of July and no NOVs were issued.

V. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Joe Bartalota, staff to the Task Force, provided a high level [overview](#) of the Finding of Conformance (FOC) involving statute and regulation with specific FOC requirements and process, the role of the Task Force with the FOC, and how the FOC provides a mechanism to include new solid waste disposal facilities or expansion of existing solid waste disposal facilities in the Countywide Siting Element (CSE).

Mr. Sisson asked how often the Subcommittee found nonconformance and what the ramifications were. Ms. Thompson responded that there have been several FOC reviews but did not recall any nonconformance just that there may have been areas that lacked specificity, so the landfill operators were asked for more information.

Mr. Sisson stated that substantial conformance is a common term and asked if there is anything that stands out since substantial conformance and significant change terms seem a little vague. Mr. Bartolata responded that significant change in the CSE refers to changes in the design or operation of a disposal facility, such as 1) an increase in the maximum amount of permitted tonnages of all waste received on a daily basis during another time period; 2) an increase on a facility's permitted acreage; 3) an increase in the permitted hours of operation; and 4) at landfills, an increase in the permitted volume or airspace or quantity, disposal footprint permitted, or final grade or maximum overhaul elevations. Typically, such changes may require compliance with California Environmental Quality Act.

Mr. Hunter asked for a copy of the definition of significant change. Mr. Bartolata responded it was noted in Chapter 10 of the CSE and that staff could provide a copy of the definition to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Hunter asked what the trigger was for a new application for conformance. He inquired if the Subcommittee assesses the landfill for operational changes or if the Subcommittee is informed by the landfill operator regarding an operational change. Mr. Bartolata responded either one may be done.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter, as a member of the public, indicated the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens (NVCCC) sent an e-mail on August 8, 2024, to Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works), raising concern that Republic Services had not met the conditions that were stated for approval from Public Works for the expanded use of Alternative Daily Cover at SCL. Specifically, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council has not had an opportunity to meet. Mr. Hunter noted the NVCCC received a response from Public Works on August 15, 2024; however, the matter was not addressed to NVCCC's satisfaction.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 19, 2024, at 11 a.m.