

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

September 19, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Basil Cantu, City of Long Beach Public Works
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Jordan Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brenda Eells, Waste Connections
Kate Downey, Republic Services
Michael Stewart, Republic Services
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, 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

Mr. Christopher Sheppard called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 15, 2024, MEETING

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the August 15, 2024, minutes, and Mr. Basil Cantu seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Karlo Manalo, staff to the Task Force, reported on Chiquita Canyon Landfill's (CCL) Notices of Violations (NOVs):

- The Landfill Operator submitted their Forty-First Monthly Update, dated August 30, 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 received 20 NOVs in August 2024, related to air quality from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD). The number of NOVs issued to CCL in July 2024 was 18, and the number of NOVs issued to CCL in August 2023, was 28.
- As a result of the NOVs, CCL entered into a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) with AQMD that was last modified on August 27, 2024, to address and abate the odors at CCL caused by the reaction. A copy of the newly modified SOA will be provided once it becomes available to CCL.
- 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 to CCL.
- 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 a revised NOV to CCL on [August 14, 2024](#), for alleged violations related to average daily tonnage capacity and the facility annual maximum capacity for municipal solid waste in 2023 in accordance with CCL's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with Regional Planning.

- On July 31, 2024, CCL submitted a compliance plan to Regional Planning to address the alleged violation. CCL met the compliance deadline of August 30, 2024, as required by the revised NOV.
- On August 21 and August 23, 2024, AQMD issued CCL two NOVs, [NOV P80876](#) and [NOV P80877](#), alleging that CCL allowed track-out to extend more than 25 feet from the active operation. CCL is in discussions with AQMD regarding the alleged NOVs, which they believe were incorrectly issued as they indicate removing all track-out from active operations at the conclusion of each workday, in compliance with AQMD.
- AQMD issued CCL additional NOVs on August 23, 2023:
 - [NOV P80873](#), alleging that CCL failed to operate and maintain the landfill to prevent standing leachate and pooling or ponding of leachate, to mitigate odors and dispersion and exposure of leachate, and to remove leachate--saturated soil. There was a leachate spill on August 15, 2024, in Tank Farm 7, which remained within the secondary containment of the Tank Farm. CCL fully contained the spill by August 15, and fully cleaned the impacted area by August 18, 2024.
 - [NOV P80879](#), alleging that CCL failed to install pressure gauges on leachate storage tanks by June 15, 2024, and to report all recordings from pressure gauges. CCL notified AQMD of manufacturing delays from delivery of pressure gauges to the site and requested AQMD extend the date completion of pressure gauges. To date, CCL has resolved issues and will submit pressure gauge data for the month of August in the next monthly report to AQMD.
 - [NOV P80874](#), alleging that CCL failed to conduct odor surveillance at least twice daily between 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., from September 2023 to February 2024, and once daily from 8 p.m. to midnight, from October 2023 to April 2024, to immediately notify CCL operating staff upon detection of odors. CCL is investigating the alleged violations and will continue to comply with AQMD's odor surveillance requirements.

As discussed at last month's Subcommittee meeting, Mr. Hunter requested that an odor complaint summary spreadsheet be provided by AQMD for CCL. Mr. Manalo informed that Public Works (PW) e-mailed Mr. Larry Israel of AQMD to relay the Subcommittee's request but did not receive any response. Staff will continue to follow up with Mr. Israel.

Mr. Jordan Sisson shared his concerns for potential significant impacts to the community and the waste haulers currently taking trash to CCL if CCL is forced to reduce its tonnage to comply with the Regional Planning's NOV by the end of the year. He also questioned if there had been any consideration of potential impacts due to tonnage reduction.

Mr. Sisson reminded the Subcommittee about the two-day closure event at CCL in early 2024 due to rains during which all the County transfer stations backed up and there was nowhere for the waste to go. It took over 30 days after the landfill's reopening for the system to return to normal.

Mr. Sisson further elaborated that if CCL is trying to dispose of approximately 3,500 tons per day of waste to meet the reduction deadline by the end of the year, instead of spreading it out over time, it may not be viable and may potentially hurt customers within the County and City of Los Angeles.

Mr. Sisson acknowledged that he was sensitive to what the County could control, but respectfully requested that the County explore other options to alleviate the issue such as changing tonnage amount in the CUP. He believed that this is an emergency circumstance that the Task Force should act upon by requesting Regional Planning to extend the deadline for CCL by June 2025.

Mr. Sheppard noted that the NOV for exceedances was issued in July 2024, so the Landfill Operators were aware of the reduction. Mr. Sheppard informed that PW has been devising some planning around available disposal capacity in the surrounding vicinity to determine where to make up that shortfall of tonnage. Staff may be able to share more information at the next Subcommittee meeting in terms of a listing of facilities that have available capacity and the amount of capacity they have available.

Mr. Sheppard further informed that PW has also spoken with the Los Angeles County Sanitation District about the timeline for the waste-by-rail option. He agreed that this is a serious issue. In addition, because of concerns with transfer station capacity, Mr. Sheppard suggested the item be placed in next month's Subcommittee meeting agenda.

Mr. Hunter suggested a motion could be made for the Task Force to recommend Regional Planning to extend the deadline to comply with the tonnage reduction. In response, Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo also agreed for a motion to be made due to the major environmental impact regarding where to take the waste and mentioned how transfer stations were greatly impacted for those two days early this year when CCL could not receive waste.

After extensive discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Ms. Hanson-Lugo for the Task Force to reach out to Regional Planning requesting additional time by extending the reduction deadline, which is on December 31, 2024, by an additional six months to allow Landfill Operators time to comply with

reductions. Also, to request Landfill Operators to submit quarterly progress updates. The Motion was passed unanimously.

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 August 2024](#) at SCL:

- During the month of August 2024, 65 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 3 were classified as Trash, 42 were listed as No Field Response, 0 were listed as Landfill Gas Odors, and 20 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to July 2024, the number of complaints received for August 2024, increased from 47 to 65 complaints.
- Compared to August 2023, the number of complaints for August 2024 decreased from 264 to 65 complaints.
- AQMD issued 0 NOVs related to odor for the month of August 2024.
- The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 41.

Mr. Hunter commented that at the SCL-Community Advisory Committee meeting on September 12, 2024, there was conversation about residents' concerns about the increasing odors and the lack of progress to mitigate the problem. He noted the 1,377 complaints for the month of August on AQMD's report, showing odors reaching pre-2016 and 2018 levels, which may result in one of the worst odorous years yet.

Mr. Hunter then inquired about the Subsurface Oxidation occurrence that SCL had on July 12, 2024, at 5:30 a.m. His understanding was that Republic Services (Republic) had addressed the situation with shutting down the gas system in the affected area.

Mr. Michael Stewart of Republic responded that the landfill acted and shut down the affected gas system portion in a matter of hours that same day.

Vegetation Update

Mr. Harmon provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill Vegetation Report and noted that Republic provided their Second Quarter 2024 Vegetation Project Status Report on July 31, 2024.

For the City Side South Sage Pilot Area – Deck C/Lower Deck

- Substantial regrown of native species has occurred and showing signs of continuous growth.
- Exotic annual plant species germination has increased slightly due to increased water availability and cooler temperatures of recent seasons.
- Non-native and native seed germination has increased and will encounter dormant period in the upcoming season.

For the City Side South Area – Deck B/Middle Deck

- Revegetation efforts have been successful in establishing the Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub. Native species included Brittlebush, Coastal Goldenbush, California Sagebrush, and Deerweed.
- Non-native weed cover is moderate in these areas and are expected to decline.

For the City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A/Upper Deck

- Mitigation plans to the deck are expected to start in late fall 2024 and will include filling low spots of the deck with revegetation once the seasonal rainfall is properly leached in the area.

Mr. Hunter asked what was being done about the irrigation system on Deck B that was impacted during the 2019 Saddle Ridge Fire. Ms. Kate Downey responded that within the last couple of years there had been more than three times the rainfall and water in that area and irrigation had never been a problem, but she would follow up on the irrigation system issue.

A motion was made by Mr. Hunter and seconded by Mr. Cantu to request that Republic provide update the status of irrigation system repairs on the City Side of SCL. Motion passed unanimously.

V. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Manalo informed the Subcommittee that staff did not receive any Finding of Conformance Reports. A staff report would be provided at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 17, 2024, at 11 a.m.