

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

October 17, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Basil Cantu, City of Long Beach Public Works
Ken Habaradas, 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:

Kate Downey, Republic Services
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Fitchmun, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, 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 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 19, 2024, MEETING

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the September 19, 2024, minutes, and Mr. Basil Cantu seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

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-Second Monthly Update](#), dated October 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 various regulatory agencies.
- CCL received 19 NOVs in September 2024 related to air quality from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and received 20 NOVs in August 2024. In September 2023, CCL received 17 NOVs.
- 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 caused by the reaction at CCL through continuous implementation of mitigation measures in the SOA. The next Stipulated Order Hearing is scheduled for November 13, 2024, and is noted on CCL's website.
- 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](#).
- On September 11, 2024, the California Certified Unified Program Agency issued an [NOV](#) alleging that CCL failed to report a release or threatened release of a hazardous material and failed to notify the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) after a truck overturned, releasing approximately 20 gallons of leachate and oil to the ground. This NOV was also indicated as an order to

comply, which CCL completed by notifying Cal OES of the leachate spill and retaining employees on the notification requirement.

Mr. Hunter asked if AQMD had responded to the Subcommittee's previous request for a spreadsheet of odor complaints and NOV data similar to that of Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL). Mr. Hunter explained that a spreadsheet would be much easier to review odor complaints and NOVs issued, as well as the progress being done at CCL. Mr. Larry Israel with AQMD informed that he has forwarded the request to AQMD management for consideration. He will follow up with his management on the request.

Mr. Hunter also asked about the number of odor complaints reported for CCL this year. Mr. Israel responded about 17,800 odor complaints were reported.

Update on Staff Analysis of Waste Management System

Mr. Joe Bartolata, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on staff's analysis of the Los Angeles County's (County) solid waste management system.

At last month's Subcommittee meeting, there was lengthy discussion on CCL's tonnage reduction and its impacts to the County's solid waste management system. There was interest in alternative disposal location and impacts to transfer stations.

Staff is currently identifying specific non-disposal facilities that will be directly impacted by CCL's tonnage reduction and will provide an update at the next Subcommittee meeting.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

Ms. Anna Gov, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from AQMD for September 2024](#) at SCL:

- During the month of September 2024, 179 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 36 were classified as Trash, 108 were listed as No Field Response, 7 were listed as Landfill Gas Odors, and 27 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to August 2024, the number of complaints received for September 2024, increased from 65 to 179 complaints.
- Compared to September 2023, the number of complaints for September 2024 increased from 148 to 179 complaints.

- AQMD issued 5 NOVs related to odor for the month of September 2024.
- The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 46.

Mr. Hunter shared his concern with the increase of odor complaints as the upcoming months with historically higher complaint volumes were approaching. He indicated that complaint volumes may surpass the 2016 complaint volumes.

Mr. Hunter also mentioned that the SCL-Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) has written a [letter](#), which the Los Angeles County Public Works (PW) was copied on, to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, requesting a health study be conducted. Mr. Hunter expected to see the letter included in the FPRS meeting documents. Ms. Thompson responded that the letter from SCL-CAC could be made available.

Mr. Hunter asked if Mr. Israel could comment on the September odor complaints. Mr. Israel commented that September was a warm month and most violations in the morning hours were trash related odors. He further informed that at least four out of the five NOVs were a result of calls from two local schools.

Mr. Israel also shared October's odor statistics and informed that SCL had about 152 odor complaints as of yesterday, October 16, 2024, with three NOVs issued. The most recent NOV was issued on October 11, 2024. He also reported that last Tuesday, October 8, 2024, AQMD received 65 odor complaints, which is the most they have received in a single morning or single day. In addition, at least two occasions last week, AQMD received phone calls from Van Gogh Elementary School faculty regarding odors impacting children. Mr. Israel's understanding was that SCL also reported a power outage. However, he noted that many complaints received by AQMD were called in before the reported power outage.

Mr. Hunter commented that he understood that SCL was to have backup generators and asked Ms. Kate Downey of Republic Services (Republic) for confirmation. Ms. Downey indicated that she does not have any comments at this time, but if the Subcommittee would like to submit a request to SCL, they can respond accordingly.

Mr. Hunter continued to express his concerns of the odors impacting children at nearby schools. He further commented that PW should enforce the Conditional Use Permit. Ms. Thompson responded that she recognized that there are activities outside of the Subcommittee and its discussions regarding enforcing those areas within their respective area of purviews. However, she indicated that staff could look into the backup generators situation.

Update on Irrigation System

Mr. Alexander Castro, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the irrigation system at SCL.

At last month's FPRS meeting, the Subcommittee requested that Republic provide an update on the status of the irrigation system on Deck B of the City Side of SCL. Republic provided a [memo](#) dated October 9, 2024. At the Subcommittee's request, staff may provide a summary of the memo. Mr. Castro provided a summary.

Mr. Hunter asked if PW concurred with Republic's memo response and noted there was no schedule for work that Republic is doing on Deck A. He requested items to be addressed at the next Subcommittee meeting regarding PW's concurrence with the memo and a schedule for the completion of Deck A.

V. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Dennis Lee, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Finding of Conformance Reports and presented a [table](#) on the breakdown of the waste types for the Spring and Fall 2024 Waste Characterization Studies at Antelope Valley and Lancaster Landfills (LL). The information did not reflect the incoming waste stream for the entire year, but rather for a one-week period when studies were conducted at each landfill.

Mr. Lee noted the increase in plastics, from 23 percent to 44 percent, at LL. No other significant changes were observed in waste types from the respective landfills. Staff also expects to receive additional Finding of Conformance Reports in the coming weeks that will be reported at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Jordan Sisson commented that the double increase in plastics at LL was odd, and asked if there was an explanation as to why the significant increase during that one-week period. Mr. Lee responded that staff reached out to the Landfill Operator and is awaiting their response. He also pointed out that the sample of plastics at LL was 43.8 percent of the total waste stream for that one week and that they do not sample all the tonnages in the waste stream, so it may also be the random sample picked. However, staff will provide an update to the Subcommittee once the Landfill Operator responds to the inquiry.

Mr. Sisson thought most waste characterizations do a couple of samples to make certain they are consistent and asked if that update could be provided and deferred the question to Ms. Thompson as FPRS Chair. Ms. Thompson confirmed it could be provided. Mr. Cantu was also interested in the same information.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:49 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 21, 2024, at 11 a.m.