

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

November 20, 2025

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

Basil Cantu, City of Long Beach Energy and Environmental Services Department
Karen Gork, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Bronson, Republic Services
Paul Kim, Green Science
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
James Roska, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works
Lance Cervantes, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alex Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alex Fitchmun, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dennis Lee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Londy Lin, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Emiko Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 16, 2025, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the October 16, 2025, minutes, and Mr. Sam Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR MESQUITE PROPERTY AND WASTE-BY-RAIL SYSTEM

Mr. Shammass provided a brief update on the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for Mesquite Property and Waste-by-Rail that was released in July 2025. The LACSD had several meetings with various respondents to the RFEI. Based on the meetings and discussions with LACSD Board of Directors, the Request for Proposal is being put on hold due to several issues that were identified that the LACSD must investigate and resolve.

Ms. Thompson asked if there was a timeline. Mr. Shammass responded there is no definite timeline because some of the issues are permit related, which in his estimation could take up to a year.

Mr. Jordan Sisson's understanding is that there may be a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) renewal with Imperial County and asked if that was also scheduled for next year. Mr. Shammass responded that it was not technically a renewal, but rather a review, as it is at its 30-year point and LACSD must make certain the CUP is in compliance. Additionally, there are considerations to resetting the term to 100 years and that the LACSD will meet with Imperial County next year.

Mr. Sisson stated the suggestion that waste was being trucked out of state but did not know the portion of municipal solid waste (MSW) being trucked so asked for clarification. He also asked whether Mesquite could open with receiving less than 20,000 tons per day or was it required to be at full capacity. Mr. Shammass' understanding is that Mesquite could open receiving less than 20,000 tons per day but must be economically feasible to operate the facility. Ms. Thomas was not aware of MSW being trucked out of state but noted that staff could look into.

IV. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

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

- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Fifty-Fourth Monthly Update](#), dated October 31, 2025, which included updates 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 11 NOVs in October 2025 related to air quality from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), compared to the 16 NOVs received in September 2025 and the 19 NOVs received in October 2024.
- CCL entered into a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) with AQMD on September 2, 2023, that was last modified on June 24, 2025, to address and abate the odors resulting from the reaction at CCL through continuous implementation of mitigation measures in the SOA.
- The next status update and modification hearing on the SOA that was scheduled for November 12, 2025, was rescheduled to December 9 and 11, 2025.
- As of October 31, 2025, the August 28, 2025, appeal by CCL to Los Angeles County (County) Public Works (PW) has not yet been set for a hearing, nor has CCL received a response to its appeal.
- On October 20, 2025, Regional Planning continued the appeal hearing originally set for October 21, 2025, to January 20, 2026.
- At the Subcommittee meeting on October 16, 2025, Mr. Sisson inquired whether AQMD granted a Clean Air Act Waiver to CCL for its wellhead temperatures. Staff inquired with AQMD and was informed that AQMD does not have the authority to grant a Clean Air Act Waiver, but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency can, as they develop and adopt federal regulations on wellhead temperature requirements that are incorporated in AQMD's Title V permits.

Mr. Hunter asked if the delay with PW NOVs was due to Regional Planning having to respond to CCL. Mr. Manalo responded that Regional Planning must wait for the decision on the NOV appeal by CCL, and that currently, PW County Counsel is working with Building and Safety Division who issued the NOVs to discuss the appeal that was provided to them by CCL. Staff will keep the Subcommittee informed.

Mr. Lance Cervantes, staff to the Task Force, provided an [update](#) on Disposal Capacity after Closure of CCL which included the disposal waste flow both

in and out of the County due to the closure, as well as information on disposal impacts from the January 2025 wildfires.

Mr. Sisson inquired about the reason El Sobrante Landfill is disposal going down and asked why waste was not going there at this time. Mr. Cervantes responded not having that data available but could get that information for him.

Mr. Sisson's indicated that his understanding is that Simi Valley Landfill and Recycling Center have sought multiple waivers to go over their 12,000 tons per week and asked what the status was of their most recent waiver request because he believed they are well over their annual capacity at their current rate. Mr. Cervantes responded he did not have that information but could look into it.

Ms. Thompson commented that when the County issued emergency waivers to increase the tonnage for SCL and Calabasas Landfill, it was related to fire debris. Her understanding was that the vast majority, if not all, of the fire debris removal is complete so even if the waiver from Ventura County may potentially be affected, she does not know if it would apply anymore.

Mr. Sisson mentioned that this first quarter is well below 50 percent of tonnage being exported and asked if within the last 25 years more than 50 percent of waste has been exported as compared to in-County disposal. Ms. Thompson stated that Lancaster Landfill already had a waiver from previous wildfires prior to the January wildfires, and while they had the authority to utilize the landfill, it was not used due to the location.

Mr. Hunter requested that the Subcommittee receive a copy of the update.

V. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided a brief [update on the odor complaints from AQMD for October 2025](#) at SCL:

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

- During the month of October 2025, 438 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 67 were classified as trash odors, 274 were listed as No Field Response, 26 were listed as landfill gas odors, 2 were listed and telephonic which meant they were resolved over the phone, and 69 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect odors.
- Compared to September 2025, the number of complaints received in October 2025 increased from 228 to 438 complaints.

- Compared to October 2024, the number of complaints for October 2025 increased from 405 to 438 complaints.
- AQMD issued 12 NOVs related to odor for the month of October 2025.
- The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 56.

Mr. Larry Israel with AQMD noted that some of the totals on AQMD's website were inaccurate so he provided the following update:

- The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 66.
- Thus far for November 2025, AQMD issued 5 NOVs related to odor.
- There were approximately 200 odor complaints reported to AQMD related to odor thus far for the month of November 2025.

Mr. Israel stated that the numbers are correct for October 2025 odor complaints and NOVs, but that September 2025 had 7 NOVs, August 2025 had 4 NOVs, and July 2025 had 5 NOVs. AQMD is getting close to 2,400 odor complaints for this year, that far exceeds last year.

Mr. Israel explained that historically during the fall a lot of odor complaints are reported, especially with weather conditions and that SCL is under an Order for Abatement with a lot of mitigation measures that will take time to see results. He also mentioned the downtime in the installation of gas wells on the top deck and additional rain that may have caused recent odors. Discussion ensued.

Alternative Daily Cover Update

Mr. Harmon provided an update on the Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Project at SCL:

The use of Envirocover as an alternative daily cover (ADC) on Saturdays began last year on a one-year pilot basis. On August 29, 2025, PW received an evaluation report from Republic Services (Republic) to review whether the use of ADC on weekends was effective. The report was also reviewed by other regulatory agencies.

PW responded to Republic in a [letter](#) dated November 4, 2025, indicating that PW does not support the permanent use of ADC over the weekend. Therefore, for purposes of collecting additional data, PW has supported extending the ADC Pilot Project through May 30, 2026. The timeline aligns with AQMD's next status-hearing on May 27, 2026. The ADC Pilot Project will continue to be monitored with an evaluation report to be submitted by Republic at the end of the pilot period.

Mr. Harmon provided a summary of PW's response to an illegal dumping incident to the Subcommittee. Following was the timeline of events:

- On October 13, 2025, PW responded to cleaning up a large-scale ID site in Agua Dulce. Materials included wood, plastic, trash, fabric, and construction debris. The typical practice for PW is to deliver ID materials to the nearest landfill.
- Approximately 39 truckloads of ID material were disposed of at SCL and covered with other waste.
- On October 15, 2025, clean up was suspended for purposes of testing the material.
- On October 16, 2025, 66 samples were taken from the remaining material at the ID site for testing, which resulted in three samples being identified as having greater than 1% of asbestos-containing material. Subsequently, PW and AQMD notified Republic, who made notifications to other agencies through October 22, 2025.

In response to Mr. Harmon's report, Mr. Hunter requested a written staff report on the existing and future process and protocols with respective amendments for handling illegal dumping (ID) and cleanup.

Mr. Harmon confirmed that PW takes this matter seriously and is currently working on a mitigation plan with AQMD for the abatement of the material. Additionally, PW is enhancing their protocols for clearing ID sites in the County to prevent similar future events.

Ms. Thompson noted that when PW responds to cleaning up ID, it typically includes household material, MSW, or bulky items such as mattresses and furniture. However, PW is seeing an increase in commercial debris being disposed of illegally. In this instance, there was an estimated 2,000 cubic yards of debris illegally disposed of. Mr. Hunter expressed concern that the ID material should have been tested before being disposed of at SCL. Discussion ensued and Mr. Hunter requested the location of the ID site in question.

Ms. Thompson informed the Subcommittee that protocols are currently being drafted for ID because when it involves cleaning up construction debris, there are multiple layers to the process including testing and depending on materials found, may require a certified asbestos consultant.

Mr. Israel also informed the Subcommittee that for asbestos cleanups and workplans, the workplan is called a Procedure V and must be approved by AQMD. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sisson asked if there was any evidence of a hauler or who may have dumped debris illegally at the site. Mr. Israel responded that the investigation is ongoing. Mr. Sisson believed this to be a rare situation in having such a large volume of construction and demolition debris disposed illegally. Ms. Thompson reiterated that ID is becoming more frequent.

Vegetation Status Update

Mr. Alex Fitchmun, staff to the Task Force, provided an [update](#) on the Third Quarter 2025 Vegetation Report for Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill on October 31, 2025.

Mr. Hunter asked if replacements were for the Oak Trees or Big Cone Douglas Firs, which Mr. Fitchmun responded was for the Big Cone Douglas Firs.

Mr. Hunter then shared his concern that there are only four Oak Trees remaining in the mitigation bank. On this point, Mr. Fitchmun's stated that the Oak Trees are currently germinating and once they are mature, they will be brought to the bank.

VI. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Dennis Lee, as staff to the Task Force, provided the Finding of Conformance update. Waste Characterization Studies were conducted during a six-day period and is not representative of the entire year or season for respective landfills. Observations included the following:

- Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility - decrease in organics from 62 percent to 54 percent, and an increase in other waste, from 29 percent to 35 percent.
- Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Facility - only minimal changes were observed for all waste types.
- Calabasas Landfill - a decrease in organics from 54 percent to 34 percent and an increase in other wastes from 29 percent to 52 percent.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill – a decrease in Organics from 72 percent to 67 percent and an increase in other waste from 6 percent to 13 percent.

Staff received the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Third Quarter 2025 Monitoring Report, dated October 15, 2025, and included the following data:

- Disposal of approximately 657,000 tons in the Third Quarter of 2025, a 24 percent decrease from the Second Quarter of 2025.

- Beneficial reuse material total for the Third Quarter of 2025 was 22,000 tons, a 24 percent decrease from the Second Quarter.

Mr. Sisson noticed that yard waste at SCL had increased significantly compared to last year's September waste characterization and asked if yard waste is under organics, which should be decreasing like other facilities. Mr. Lee responded that staff could inquire with SCL about the increase.

VII. DECEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Sisson made a motion for the Subcommittee to cancel the December 2025 meeting unless something urgent arises and with approval from the Task Force. Mr. Hunter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 15, 2026, at 11 a.m.