



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

November 5, 2019

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **PJ-2**
10145-1-1

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mark Pestrella
Director of Public Works

BOARD MOTION OF OCTOBER 29, 2019, AGENDA ITEM 62-C ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR COMMUNITY NEAR COGEN LANDFILL WEEKLY REPORT

On October 29, 2019, the Board directed Public Works in coordination with the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel to expedite the Cogen Landfill Gas (LFG) Extraction System project and address concerns of the surrounding community. More specifically, the Board directed the following measures be taken:

- Expedite implementation of any mitigation required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD);
- Explore implementation of other mitigation above requirements by SCAQMD;
- Schedule a series of community meetings with relevant State and local agencies that are conducted in a culturally competent and linguistically sensitive manner to provide regular updates to the community members living, working, or attending school in the area surrounding the Cogen Landfill; and
- Report back weekly on the above directives until implementation is complete.

In response to the Board's direction, Public Works is coordinating with SCAQMD on the remaining jurisdictional review requirements to permit the LFG Extraction System at the County-owned portion of the former Cogen Landfill site.

On January 19, 2019, plans for the new LFG Extraction System were submitted to SCAQMD. Recent discussions with SCAQMD included the remaining tasks needed to complete its review and approval process. SCAQMD has scheduled a public meeting on November 14, 2019, to receive community input, and Public Works will be present to support the SCAQMD public information effort. A permit to install the LFG Extraction System is anticipated to be issued to Public Works no later than December 10, 2019, pending the outcome of SCAQMD's upcoming meeting and completion of permitting process.

On October 29, 2019, First Supervisorial District organized a community meeting at the City Terrace Elementary School and presented history and updates regarding the upcoming project. As a result of the meeting, additional discussions with SCAQMD, the Department of Public Health, and the project consultant team are being scheduled.

In response to the community's concerns surrounding the project and the site conditions, Public Works is proposing the following outreach methods:

- Dedicated project information phone number at (626) 300-2605;
- Dedicated project information e-mail addresses at cogenlandfill@pw.lacounty.gov and easternhilllandfill@pw.lacounty.gov; and
- Dedicated project website that will contain project information, including any material from community meetings (slide presentations; October 29, 2019, Board Motion; frequently asked questions; relevant project reports; future project announcements; etc.) at pw.lacounty.gov/pmd1/easternhilllandfill.

The public will be able to submit questions on the project or other concerns regarding the former Cogen Landfill, and the website will provide information that includes responses to the public's questions and overall progress of the project.

Public Works will post materials in English, Spanish, and Mandarin through the use of existing contracts that provide translation services. Future project community meetings will also have translators at the events.

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Public Works, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office, Public Health, and First Supervisorial District, is finalizing a public outreach plan and will present the proposed plan in the second weekly report to the Board. At a minimum, that plan will include:

- November 14, 2019 – SCAQMD Community Meeting.
- November 23, 2019 – First Supervisorial District Community Progress Meeting.
- Proposed community meetings to be scheduled at least one week prior to the following project milestone:
 - Project-related Board action to advertise for the contractor;
 - Selection of a successful bidder for the construction of the project; and
 - After the complete installation of the LFG Extraction System.
- Additional community meetings to be scheduled at least quarterly during the construction phase.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Rossana D'Antonio at (626) 458-4004 or rdanton@pw.lacounty.gov.

FG:JA

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cc: Chief Executive Office (Sachi A. Hamai, Amir Alam, Matthew Diaz, David Howard)
Executive Office
Department of Public Health (Barbara Ferrer, Liza Frias, Cyrus Rangan)

bc: Shari Afshari
Rossana D'Antonio
Massood Eftekhari
Environmental Programs (Skye)
Project Management I (Moey, Perez, Ramos)

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 29, 2019

Environmental Justice for the Community Near Cogen Landfill

Landfills have plagued the First District of Los Angeles County (County) for decades. These environmental hazards raise legitimate concerns about the health and safety of residents—and require complete and immediate mitigation and remediation. Remediation should accompany revitalization of the former landfill if safe and appropriate, such as the recreational opportunities and open space being created through the La Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project.

Cogen Landfill, owned in part by the County, is in unincorporated City Terrace of the First District. Although Cogen Landfill has been out of commission since the late 1950s, the County must take immediate and appropriate action to protect the community near Cogen Landfill, where there are residents, grade school students, and a workforce essential to the County’s safety net programs.

Robust community engagement is the linchpin to this work. The County must apprise residents and other individuals to ensure they are aware and help inform the County’s remediation plan, which must be complete, transparent, and swift.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

The public health and well-being of our residents is of utmost importance – and that priority extends to addressing environmental justice issues regardless of cost or convenience.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel, to:

1. Expedite implementation of any mitigation required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District;
2. Explore implementation of other mitigation above what is required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District;
3. Schedule a series of community meetings with relevant state and local agencies, that are conducted in a culturally-competent and linguistically-sensitive manner, to provide regular updates to the community members living, working, or attending school in the area surrounding Cogen Landfill; and
4. Report back weekly on the above directives until implementation is complete.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, Chief Executive Office, and County Counsel, to:

1. Review data to determine potential human health risks to residents living in the community surrounding Cogen Landfill;
2. Conduct outreach and provide any necessary services through Public Health Nurses and promotores;
3. Identify internal or external sources of funding for this work;

4. Report back in 90 days regarding the above directives.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to evaluate legal and administrative options against the other current owners of the Cogen Landfill, and the former owners and operators of the Cogen Landfill.

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HLS:ew