

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

**Minutes of November 18, 2010 Meeting**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Conference Room C  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, California

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles  
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Rafael Garcia, Republic Services, Inc.  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Carol Ly, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2010**

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2010, meeting was unanimously approved.

**III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL  
STATUS OF 3RD QUARTER 2010 REVEGETATION REPORT**

Ms. Linda Lee gave a PowerPoint presentation ([Attachment No. 1](#)) on the revegetation efforts at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) during the third quarter of 2010. As required by Condition 18 of the Finding of Conformance for the Landfill, Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted a detailed Report on July 30, describing these efforts. The Report discusses Republic's interim cover, final cover, and sage mitigation areas.

According to the Report and as shown in the PowerPoint presentation, several interim cover areas were seeded, amended, and mulched in the third quarter. For the sage mitigation area on the County side, testing of salt-tolerant plants in containers continues. For the sage mitigation areas on the closed City portion of the Landfill, Republic is awaiting approval from the Water Board and the City of Los Angeles Local Enforcement Agency to import soil onto compacted areas in order to achieve better growth. Weeding work is planned for the next quarter.

As reported last month, Republic is preparing a draft final cover vegetative plan for the northwestern corner of the Landfill. Several options for final cap and vegetative cover will be proposed to the regulatory agencies to ensure the vegetative cover does not interfere with the cap and cause gas migration. The plan is expected to be finalized by end of 2010.

After some discussion, Ms. Betsey Landis asked to see a soil analysis of the soil to be imported to the Landfill to verify that the soil is free from toxins and will not cause additional problems to the vegetation that is already having difficulty growing in the existing soil. She commented that the soil at the Landfill is high in sulfates and salt, and that potassium soil amendments are recommended to mitigate the soil problem. She also indicated that she would like to speak to the

biologist, Wesley Colvin, hired by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning), to discuss this issue as well as the sequence of soil amendment, seeding, and mulching. Ms. Lee stated that she would set up a teleconference call for these issues to be discussed.

Ms. Landis pointed out that the Report erroneously identified *Telegraph Weed* (*Heterotheca grandiflora*) as a non-native species. The correct classification, however, should be “native plant species”.

Mr. Mike Mohajer suggested that Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works) may wish to contact the Water Board and CalRecycle regarding the types of vegetation that should be used in the final cover since their main concern pertains to the integrity of the cap system, water intrusion, and gas migration, while the local jurisdiction also has concerns regarding vegetation growth and aesthetic features.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL ODOR NUISANCE MITIGATION**

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa gave a PowerPoint presentation ([Attachment No. 2](#)) on odor nuisance mitigation at the Landfill. As part of its monitoring efforts, Public Works analyzed the type and number of odor complaints at the Landfill over time, comparing data from 1995 to 2010. Although inconclusive, the data seems to indicate that odor complaints significantly went up at the Landfill when Republic began using tarps instead of soil as a daily cover, with the highest number of complaints on Monday mornings.

Mr. Aiyetiwa informed the Subcommittee that Republic has begun using soil as daily cover instead of tarps, as required by Public Works in a letter, dated September 27, 2010. Republic also submitted an Odor Mitigation Plan in its response letter of October 27, 2010, to Public Works.

Republic’s Odor Mitigation Plan describes their management of odorous loads through proper training of scalehouse personnel, immediately burying odorous, conducting odor patrols between 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., Monday through Friday, and immediately verifying odor complaints when received.

Since complaints were also received on Sundays, when soil has been placed on the working face, Republic will also be monitoring the Landfill’s gas collection and

control system, checking vertical gas wells, header and lateral piping, horizontal collectors, and flare stations, and monitoring probes on a monthly basis. Republic has replaced damaged wells with new ones, added additional soil cover around well casings, and tuned gas wells.

The next step for Public Works will be to work with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) as the lead air quality agency, Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency, City of Los Angeles, and Regional Planning to continue to monitor odor nuisance complaints, set benchmarks for measuring acceptable levels of odor complaints, and review and approve the Odor Mitigation Plan.

After discussing the Odor Mitigation Plan, a public representative, Mr. Wayne Hunter, asked what would constitute an acceptable level of odor complaints. Ms. Landis inquired on whether the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council has been asked to assist in the determination of acceptable odor complaints. The Subcommittee remarked that the involvement of the community is paramount in solving the odor problem. Therefore, when the community no longer complains about the situation, Republic will know the benchmark has been reached. However, coming to an agreement will be reached over time.

Ms. Landis asked whether Figure 3 in Republic's October 27, 2010 letter (Odor Mitigation Plan) to Public Works is the correct map. She could not find certain wells discussed in the Odor Mitigation Plan. Ms. Lee stated that Republic will be replacing this map with a revised one that shows all of the wells and monitoring probes.

Mr. Rafael Garcia, of Republic, stated that the odor patrol originally discussed as taking place from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. is actually taking place from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m.

The Subcommittee voted to make a recommendation to the Task Force to send the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) a letter discussing and outlining the odor issues so that the TAC would be fully informed and aware of the odor problems, as well as a request to keep the Task Force apprised of the TAC's actions in mitigating odor at the Landfill.

**V. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL LANDSLIDE INCIDENT**

Mr. Aiyetiwa gave an update on the landslide area first reported at the October meeting of the Facility & Plan Review Subcommittee. Republic has cleaned the subject landslide area, moved soil, and repaired the damaged road.

It is the intention of Republic to completely remove the hill in the landslide area. On top of the landslide area is the Leachate Collection and Treatment Facility, which will remain at its current location until relocated. However, the Subcommittee is concerned about the stability of the soil. Therefore, the Subcommittee recommended that Public Works continue to monitor the situation, and determine if soil buttressing is necessary to stabilize the soil while relocation of the Leachate Collection and Treatment Facility is underway.

**VI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

To be announced at a later date.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:39 p.m.