

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

**Minutes of April 18, 2013, Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Becky Bendikson, Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Community Advisory Committee  
Jeanne Biehler, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Rogelio Gamino, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
John Nelson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Lukas Przybylo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2013, MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the March 21, 2013, meeting was unanimously approved subject to the following revision. Revise the last paragraph on Page Six to the following:

Compared to January 2013 (82 odor complaints), the number of complaints received in February 2013 (108 odor complaints) increased by 30 percent. The number of complaints received in February 2013 was comparable to those filed in February 2012 (104 odor complaints).

## **III. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Lukas Przybylo reported that 112 odor complaints were made to South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) in March 2013.

- 20 complaints were verified by inspectors to be trash odors
- 22 complaints were verified to be landfill gas odors
- 26 complaints were called in, but inspectors could not verify the origin of the odors upon arrival
- 44 complaints were not responded to by inspectors

The number of complaints in March 2013 (112 odor complaints) was similar to those filed in February 2013 (108 odor complaints). The number of complaints in March 2013 (112 odor complaints) was higher than those filed in March 2012 (66 odor complaints).

### Infrastructure Improvements

The installation of 37 additional vertical gas extraction wells that began on March 13, 2013, is anticipated to be completed this month. Staff will follow-up and provide an update at the next meeting. Installation of Flare 10 is currently on schedule and is anticipated to come online by August 1, 2013.

### AQMD Interagency Efforts

AQMD, along with other regulatory agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency, formed the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Interagency Task Force (Interagency Task Force) to develop additional mitigation measures to supplement the infrastructure improvements that have been, and will continue to be added, to the Landfill. The Interagency Task Force has been meeting regularly this year (February 7, March 5, and April 2) to develop a list of additional measures to mitigate odors at the Landfill

### Proposed Access Road

At the March 21, 2013, Subcommittee meeting, Staff was asked to determine what Landfill temporary access road plans have been proposed, what types of visual protection from the access road are being proposed for the public, and whether there is anything with regard to the access road that may cause a nuisance. Staff spoke to the lead regulatory agency, the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency, and the State Water Resources Control Board and found no plans for the temporary access road had been submitted by Republic Services (Republic), the operator of the Landfill. Staff will continue to check with the lead agency and the operator as to when the plans will become available. Once copies of the plans are received, Staff will review plans for any drainage, visual, or nuisance impacts.

Ms. Betsey Landis asked if there was more information on the sewer connection. Mr. Przybylo responded by saying Staff made attempts to contact the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering regarding the sewer connection, but information could not be obtained in time for the meeting. An update on the sewer connection will be provided to the Subcommittee at its next meeting.

Mr. Wayne Hunter commented that the odor situation is not getting any better, and that Republic is still not successful with its revegetation efforts at the Landfill. Ms. Landis reminded the Subcommittee that there were some factors, such as a dry winter and lack of rain, that have been making revegetation difficult at the Landfill. While recognizing this, Mr. Hunter raised the issue that the County of Los Angeles (County) should be considering reducing the inflow of trash at the Landfill to the previous 6,000-7,000 tons per day (tpd) until odor problems have been resolved. Mr. Christopher Salomon commented that Mr. Hunter's suggestion to reduce

tonnage was appropriate at this point as he believes the Landfill's environmental controls may not be adequate for the volume of trash taken in.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated that there is a sense of urgency within the Interagency Task Force for getting the odor problem under control, and that the group is close to arriving at recommendations for additional implementation of odor control measures. Ms. Landis inquired if the recommendations included cutting back on the amount of garbage the Landfill accepts. Mr. Ruiz indicated that nothing had been ruled out. Mr. Gerardo Villalobos pointed out that such a measure would have to be discussed among Interagency Task Force members before any commitment could be made as to what type of mitigation measures would be required.

As odor remains a problem at the Landfill, Ms. Landis stated that it might be appropriate for the Subcommittee to recommend to the Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) to send a letter to agencies, such as the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, and the Interagency Task Force requesting that they consider reducing the amount of waste accepted at the Landfill until odor issues have been controlled.

Mr. Ruiz expressed that odor complaints occur either through landfill gas or the landfilling of fresh trash. Restricting the daily tonnage will only deal with fresh trash issues and won't necessarily address the gas collection system. There needs to be measures that deal with both sources.

Mr. Ruiz suggested time is needed for the Interagency Task Force to develop new recommendations for mitigation measures, and he expects these measures will have some positive effect on the problem. As such, Mr. Ruiz said that at this point he would not support the option of recommending the Task Force send a letter; however, he would discuss the Subcommittee's concerns with the Interagency Task Force. Mr. Salomon asked when the Interagency Task Force might make a decision on how they plan on proceeding. Mr. Ruiz answered that the next interagency meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2013, and that he would update the Subcommittee on the discussion at the next Subcommittee meeting.

After some additional discussion, the Subcommittee agreed to table recommending the Task Force send a letter until the next meeting.

**IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL IN THE CITY OF WHITTIER**

Mr. Karlo Manalo informed the Subcommittee that the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and the City of Whittier agreed to place the Savage Canyon Landfill's application for a revised Solid Waste Facility Permit on hold to allow for issues related to soil importation to be clarified. As of April 11, 2013, the LEA filed a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk for the existing use practices of soil importation at the Landfill. Once the posting period for the Notice of Exemption has been completed, approximately 30-35 days from the filing date, the LEA will be able to proceed with determining the completeness of the permit application. Staff will continue to monitor the permit revision process and will report findings to the Subcommittee.

**V. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no discussion/public comment.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.