

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

**Minutes of January 21, 2016, Meeting**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Conference Room B, Headquarters Building  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, California 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public 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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Nam Doan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Anna Gov, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community  
Advisory Committee  
Jonathan Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jalaine Madrid, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Trishena Robinson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.  
Carlos Slythe, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works  
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works  
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

## **II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2015, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the November 19, 2015, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Christopher Salomon, and it was unanimously approved, subject to the following revisions:

- Delete the word “counties” and replace with the word “each county” on line 4 of the third paragraph on page 10 of the Minutes.
- Insert the words “to provide” after the word “report” on line 4 of the third paragraph on page 10 of the Minutes.
- Correct the spelling of the word “Wast” to “Waste” on line 7 of the fourth paragraph on page 13 of the Minutes.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz was not present at the time of the vote.

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

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided the Subcommittee with an update on odor complaints at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Landfill) for the months of November and December of 2015.

During the month of November 2015, 85 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with October 2015, the number of complaints received in November 2015 decreased by 77 percent (from 370 to 85 complaints). Compared to November 2014, the number of complaints in November 2015 increased by 6 percent (from 80 to 85 complaints).

Mr. Manalo reported that out of the 85 complaints received in November 2015, 16 complaints were called in from nearby schools or from parents of students

attending one of the nearby schools. There were two [Notices of Violation](#) issued to the Landfill by the AQMD in the month of November 2015.

During the month of December 2015, a total of 65 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. In comparison with November 2015, the number of complaints received in December 2015 decreased by 24 percent (from 85 to 65 complaints). Compared to December 2014, the number of complaints in December 2015 decreased by 77 percent (from 277 to 65 complaints).

Mr. Manalo reported that out of the 65 complaints received in December 2015, 11 complaints were called in from nearby schools or from parents of students attending one of the nearby schools. There were no Notices of Violation issued to the Landfill by the AQMD in the month of December 2015.

Since AQMD's odor complaint charts were not provided at this meeting, the Subcommittee requested staff to provide them at future Subcommittee meetings. Mr. Manalo stated he will contact AQMD to request these reports and provide them at future Subcommittee meetings.

#### Update on the Use of Alternative Daily Cover

Mr. Nam Doan presented the Subcommittee with an update on the status of the Landfill's Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) pilot project.

On October 12, 2015, the Landfill began a 1-year ADC pilot project at the working face of the landfill. The pilot project consists of the ADC material being placed at the end of each operating day, with the exception of Saturdays, in which a minimum 6-inch layer of soil will be used as daily cover. The ADC pilot project uses the Extended Enviro™ product supplied by Environmental Products Inc. as ADC. This product is a non-removal and degradable geosynthetic cover, which will be used in lieu of the 9-inches of soil currently being used on-site for daily cover.

To monitor the progress of the pilot project, the Landfill operator was asked to provide a monthly activity report listing operational activities and occurrences that have taken place at the Landfill. The monthly reports, submitted to Public Works and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA), summarized all monitoring observations and maintenance issues of the project, which include, but are not limited to, any tears, punctures, or unusual observations related to the application of the ADC material.

Based on the monthly reports, there were only a few correctable operational issues, such as minor exposures of trash due to the lack of soil to hold the cover down or pipes tearing through the cover. Some other instances involved mechanical problems during the ADC material deployment. In these cases, the remaining portion of the working face was covered with 9 inches of soil.

During the last field inspection conducted by Public Works staff on January 7, 2016, the ADC was observed to be intact and covered the working face during the recent rainfall in early January. Generally speaking, the pilot project has been progressing well.

Mr. Mohajer inquired about the specifics of the inspection conducted at the Landfill on January 7, 2016. Mr. Doan stated that the working face, drainage, basin, and storm channels were inspected. Mr. Mohajer further asked about how odor was monitored, as conditioned by Public Works in its approval of the pilot project in the letter dated October 27, 2015.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz replied that staff is reviewing all the program elements, such as odor complaints and NOV's reports to determine if, the pilot project is working. However, Public Works' primary objective is to make sure the pilot project does not exacerbate the odor problem, and we do not expect significant changes in the number of odor complaints in the short term, since the landfill gas collection system has been the primary issue. Mr. Ruiz stated that Public Works is working with the operator of the Landfill to make improvements as necessary to minimize the odor problems and is focused on the gas collection system as a key component to address the problem.

Ms. Betsey Landis expressed her concern in regards to the stability of the plastic covering the face of the cell in the event of a storm or inclement weather. She was concerned that solid waste may slip off the plastic sheeting during a heavy rain. Mr. Ruiz stated there are measures in place to prevent the use of the plastic film during heavy rains. Mr. Gerardo Villalobos added that the SCL-LEA's staff is present during the early and late operating hours at the Landfill to monitor the integrity of the ADC and to monitor the placement of the ADC at the end of each working day. Based on staff observations during recent rain events, it was determined that the ADC material is functioning properly by channeling runoff into the terminal basin and not on to San Fernando Road.

Ms. Landis added that the Subcommittee would like to receive monthly reports on the progress of the ADC, along with the reports on odor complaints. Mr. Hunter

referenced a letter addressed to Republic Services Inc. (Republic) from Public Works, dated January 20, 2016, titled [Sunshine Canyon Landfill Clarification of the October 27, 2015, Proposed ADC Pilot Project Approval Letter](#), which Public Works released Republic from complying with Condition No. 6, regarding minimum sulfate content in onsite soil used for daily and intermediate cover, and ballast material during ADC application at the site. The letter described that sulfate content in the soil is not uncommon, and that the landfill gas collection system should be able to control gas emissions from the Landfill. He expressed concern that Public Works has previously stated that the landfill gas collection system is inadequate and sees an inconsistency between that statement and what was written in the January 20, 2016, letter. Mr. Ruiz responded by saying that Mr. Hunter assumes Public Works is not working with the operator of the Landfill to make improvements as necessary to minimize the odor problem. He indicated that Public Works, as previously stated in this discussion on ADC, is working with the Landfill operator to make improvements to minimize the odor problems and is focused on the gas collection system as a key component to address the odor problem.

#### Status of Storm Drain System and Storm Basins

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided a status update on the Landfill's storm drain system and stormwater basins. The update was based on monthly reports submitted by Republic to the SCL-LEA and recent inspections performed by Public Works staff at the Landfill.

Staff reviewed the latest monthly reports submitted by Republic to the SCL-LEA and did not find any unusual or special occurrences concerning the Landfill's storm drain systems and stormwater basins.

On January 7, 2016, during Public Works' inspection of the Landfill, staff observed that the perimeter drainage channels, including the East Drainage Channel and the interior drainage channels, were cleared of any tumbleweeds and large debris that could cause blockage.

Public Works staff also observed Sedimentation Basins A, B, and D, located on the County-side of the Landfill, the stormwater basin located in Cell CC-3A area, and the Terminal Basin located near the site entrance at San Fernando Road. All basins appeared to be functioning properly. However, the Terminal Basin retained a lot of sediment that were deposited from the adjacent areas. Nonetheless, storm water retained at this Basin was able to discharge despite the sediment buildup. Staff

noticed that Republic has placed K-rails at the Terminal Basin to keep sediment from accumulating around the outlet risers of the Basin. Additionally, Republic indicated that the sediment would be cleaned up at a later time when it is safe for trucks to haul the sediments out.

During the previous inspection with UltraSystems, Public Works notified Republic of the apparent damage on the drainage channel connecting Basins A and D. Public Works staff noticed that a portion of the channel's base has uplifted and the sidewalls were cracked. Republic informed Public Works and UltraSystems that they will look into this issue and will plan for any necessary repairs. Based on Public Works' inspection on January 7, 2016, the channel appeared to remain intact.

Ms. Landis expressed her concern about the cracks on the bottom of sediment basins A and D, and the buildup of sediment. Mr. Rob Sherman clarified that the cracked sidewalls only exist in the drainage channel connecting Basins A and D, and not the basins themselves. Furthermore, he assured the Subcommittee that the cracks in the channels will be repaired and sediment in the Terminal Basin is already being cleaned out.

Mr. Villalobos from the SCL-LEA informed that based on inspection, his agency is satisfied with the overall performance of the Landfill's drainage system.

Update on the Los Angeles County Health Officer Activities on the Odor Impact on Public/Residents and Children Health and Safety

Mr. Villalobos indicated that Dr. Cyrus Rangan and his staff at the Toxic Epidemiology Program (TEP) could not attend this month's Subcommittee meeting to provide an update on the Los Angeles County Health Officer Activities on the odor impacts on the community around the Landfill. He was hopeful that Dr. Rangan could speak to the Subcommittee at next month's meeting. Mr. Villalobos went on to provide a summary of TEP's study and what is planned to address the odor issue at the Landfill.

TEP is aware of the numerous odor complaints and the range of nonspecific health symptoms that are attributed to the odor exposure from the Landfill. Persistent or recurrent odors may impact physical health, quality of life, and well-being, even when the concentrations of odor-causing chemicals are below screening thresholds. Odor assessment of the neighborhoods adjacent to the Landfill consisted of two phases:

### Phase One

- A neighborhood closest to the northern area of the Landfill was observed on October 8, 2015, from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. Odor was consistent for approximately 40 minutes on Mission Tierra Way.
- Van Gogh Elementary School and its surrounding neighborhood were observed on November 20, 2015, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. No odors were detected.

### Phase Two

- The assessment will expand to include the Cascade Townhomes near the Landfill in February 2016.

Mr. Villalobos also informed the Subcommittee that a collaborative meeting with Republic, the SCL-LEA, AQMD, and Public Health (TEP) was held to discuss steps being taken to minimize the odor at the Landfill, as well as additional steps that could be taken. TEP is planning to host another collaborative meeting with all agencies.

TEP is also planning to host individual meetings with Republic, SCL-LEA, Public Works, and AQMD to obtain individual perspectives regarding the Landfill and its impact on the community. Lastly, Mr. Villalobos stated that TEP is working with of Van Gogh Elementary School's Principal to host a community meeting in February for residents near the Landfill to discuss the odor complaints.

## **IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**

Mr. Joe Bartolata provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Preliminary Draft Countywide Siting Element (CSE). In summary, staff provided the Subcommittee with an overview of the proposed changes to the CSE for review in November 2015, which staff requested comments from the Subcommittee by December 31, 2015. However, the due date was extended to January 14, 2016. As of January 21, 2016, staff received the Subcommittee's comments and incorporated some of the changes into the CSE, which consisted of formatting changes, clarifications, and minor corrections. Staff requested that the Subcommittee consider the revisions to the CSE and recommend to the Task Force to review and comment on the CSE. Staff will make a presentation at this afternoon's Task Force

meeting and provide copies of the CSE to all members of the Task Force for review.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Subcommittee to approve the CSE and recommend to the Task Force to review and make any necessary comments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ruiz and passed unanimously.

#### **V. CALABASAS LANDFILL NEW SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT (SWFP) AND SITE CHANGES**

Ms. Anna Gov provided an update on the Calabasas Landfill Solid Waste Facility Permits (SWFP) revision. Based on discussion with the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), and the SWFP is being revised due to the following reasons:

- Reduce the permitted facility boundary from 505 to 491 acres to reflect pending land conveyance to the City of Calabasas for the Lost Hills Road Interchange Project;
- Correct the acreage of the refuse disposal footprint from 416 to 305 acres;
- Change ancillary operation hours from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Saturday, to 5:30 AM to 7 PM, Monday through Saturday;
- Update the capacity information in the permit from estimated remaining capacity to the permitted capacity (69,300,000 cubic yards); and
- Update the estimated closure year from 2028 to 2042.

On June 1, 2015, Calabasas Landfill submitted an application for revision to their SWFP to the LEA. Staff followed up with the operator last week for a status update and was informed that the application is still currently under review. Mr. Villalobos added that the application and permit package are being considered for concurrence by CalRecycle at their meeting on January 26, 2016.

Mr. Ruiz asked Mr. Salomon to describe the project. Mr. Salomon stated the project is primarily to reduce the size of the overall Landfill area as a result of the Lost Hills Road interchange project, which required the County of Los Angeles to sell some properties to the City of Calabasas. Mr. Salomon added that the footprint of the fill is being revised, as it is not the same as the parcel acreage that was originally stated in the initial SWFP. This is more of an administrative change than a functional



change. Mr. Ruiz asked if there will be any changes or adjustments made to the capacity of the Landfill. Mr. Salomon stated that the total capacity of the site will not change, nor will the total permitted capacity. The only thing what will change, as a result of the projection of waste received based on regulatory requirements, will be the estimated date of closure.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the property boundary will change, and Mr. Salomon responded by saying yes. Mr. Ruiz stated that a change in the SWFP and a change in property boundaries may trigger the need for a Finding of Conformance (FOC), per the CSE. As a result of the discussion, Mr. Mohajer requested staff to discuss with County Counsel if a FOC is needed in regards to the property boundary changes at the Landfill and present the findings at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

## **VI. DISCUSSION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS**

Ms. Gov provided the Subcommittee with a status update on the FOC reports for Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL). Staff disseminated the [4th Quarter 2015 FOC Quarterly Report](#) for CCL on January 20, 2016. This report provided detailed information of incoming disposal tonnages broken down by various sources, such as residential and commercial, as well as the different types of material received.

During the 4th Quarter of 2015, CCL received approximately 487,000 tons of solid waste. In comparison to the 3rd Quarter of 2015, the amount of solid waste received in the 4th Quarter of 2015 increased by 1 percent (from 480,000 to 487,000 tons).

During the 4th Quarter of 2015, the total amount of solid waste diverted for recycling at CCL was approximately 92,000 tons. In comparison to 3rd Quarter of 2015, the total amount of solid waste diverted in the 4th Quarter 2015 decreased 24 percent (from 121,000 to 92,000 tons).

Mr. Mohajer inquired about the status of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the expansion project. Mr. Ruiz stated that the EIR is still under review and efforts are being made to address all the comments made and thus, not available to the public yet. Mr. Mohajer requested staff to provide the EIR once completed.

Mr. Mohajer also requested staff to provide a status update for Commerce Refuse-to-Energy and Southeast Resource Recovery Facility at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

## **VII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 p.m.