

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

**Minutes of April 21, 2016, Meeting**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Conference Room B, Headquarters Building  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 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  
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Anna Gov, 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  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services Inc.  
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joseph Venzon, 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 11:12 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2016, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the March 17, 2016, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Christopher Salomon, and it was unanimously approved.

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

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Nam Doan provided the Subcommittee with an update on [odor complaints](#) at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Landfill) for the month of March 2016.

During the month of March 2016, 185 [complaints](#) were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with February 2016, the number of complaints received in March 2016 decreased by 2 percent (from 188 to 185 complaints). Compared to March 2015, the number of complaints in March 2016 decreased by 38 percent (from 297 to 185 complaints).

Mr. Doan reported that out of the 185 complaints received in March 2016, 22 complaints were called in from nearby schools or from complainants who identified themselves as parents of students attending one of the nearby schools. As of April 21, 2016, AQMD has issued six [Notices of Violation](#) (NOV) to the Landfill for the month of March 2016.

Mr. Wayne Hunter informed that AQMD's website has started to post information regarding the Landfill's odor problem, which had not been readily available before. The website displays information, such as the current list of complaints from the neighborhood near the Landfill, as well as yearly charts of odor complaints. Mr. Mohajer stated that in reference to the website, AQMD has indicated that the Landfill will operate until 2037 but that information is incorrect. He stated that the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) specifically requires a study to be conducted by 2030 and the Board of Supervisors will decide if they will allow operations at the Landfill to continue or not. He recommended staff to communicate to AQMD of their error to correct the information on the website.

### Status of New Access Road and Tree Planting

Mr. Doan provided the Subcommittee with a brief update on the status of the Landfill's access road and tree planting project for the month of March 2016.

During the previous Subcommittee meeting in March, Republic Services Inc. (Republic) informed staff that the construction of Liner CC-3B Part I berm would not be complete until late March due to the amount of rainfall. Last week, staff followed up with Republic in regards to the status of Phase I of the Access Road Project, and was informed that due to wet weather conditions, the berm could not be finished; therefore, the seedings have not occurred. Republic has stated the final seeding is dependent on when the berm is complete. Republic is anticipating it to be finalized by the end of April, after which, Republic will plan the hydroseeding accordingly.

Ms. Betsey Landis asked what is in the hydroseeding mix. Mr. Rob Sherman replied that it is the previously approved mix. Ms. Landis requested for staff to include that information when describing the hydroseeding in future reports.

### Fourth Quarter 2015 Independent Monitor Report

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided the Subcommittee with an update and [staff report](#) regarding the Landfill's 2015 [4th Quarter Independent Monitoring Quarterly Site Monitoring Status Report \(Status Report\)](#) prepared by UltraSystems.

### Drainage

Regarding drainage, UltraSystems reported that the native drainage channel to Basin D was blocked with soil causing an outlet blockage to Basin D and the conditions of the drainage channel connecting Basins A and D located at the northwestern part of the Landfill was getting worse, which had been reported to the operator.

Basin D outlet channel needed to be cleared of tumbleweed and the membrane flap at entry to the channel needed to be affixed to the shotcrete to avoid water from flowing under the membrane. The Terminal Basin had horizontal cracks with vegetation growing out of the cracks. Temporary drainage controls were installed downstream of the Cell CC-3B with their discharge into the Terminal Basin. It was noted that Basins A, B, and D, and the Terminal Basin were ready for winter storms.

#### Odor/Air Quality

UltraSystems noted several sources of odors from their monthly inspections in the Fourth Quarter Report. Working face odors were detected in the surrounding communities in October, November, and December of 2015, which had been reported to the operator.

- In late October, the working face odor was strong on the haul road (south of the waste fill slope) and barely detected to the north of the top deck.
- In December, the monitors detected condensate odors at the sewer connection deep well pump.

#### Revegetation/Oak Tree Mitigation/Sage Mitigation

- UltraSystems noted that Germination of previously hydroseeded interim and inactive areas had greened due to the rain events.
- Vegetation on the Deck C Sage Mitigation area is doing well. Oak mitigation trees located in Deck C are also doing well. Planting of the understory trees has not been done.

#### Erosion and Dust Control/Visual

- On Erosion and Dust Control, alternatives to hydroseeding on interim and inactive slopes, such as plastic and jute netting, were observed at the Landfill. These alternatives were used on the south-facing slopes of Cell CC-3A for slope stability and erosion control.
- In November, UltraSystems observed blowing dust on City and County top decks and slopes that are inactive. UltraSystems recommended that soil sealant be investigated for these areas.

#### Grading

- In early October, UltraSystems observed activities involving the liner installation for Cell CC-3B. Liner on slopes was observed to meet the design approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Grading was also observed south of Basin A (possibly power pole grading). In late October, Cell CC-3B was nearing completion.
- In mid-December, final liner cover for Cell CC-3B was being placed.

Mr. Esparza stated that the Status Report concluded that the Landfill is actively working toward being fully compliant with conditions and/or mitigation measures, with no non-compliant conditions observed.

Ms. Landis referred to Page 7 of the Status Report, specifically M-4.2.12 (28) (City) in which AQMD approved the use of a soil stabilization or sealant product to retard soil erosion and enhance revegetation. She stated that based on her experience, she does not believe revegetation will occur if the sealant is used. Ms. Landis also commented that the vegetation committee has been unable to receive any mapping information or notification as to which slopes have been inactive for 180 days or more from Republic. She stated that up-to-date mapping is needed and it is an area in which Republic needs to improve upon.

Ms. Landis also inquired about the Status Report where it states that spot checks of the Landfill's surface shall be made to determine the amount of methane produced to ensure it does not exceed AQMD's standard of 500 ppm and asked if methane was the only organic compound being measured, as there are other organic compounds that may be present on the Landfill's surface. Mr. Villalobos confirmed that methane is the only organic compound quantified by AQMD. Mr. Sherman stated that under the direction of the City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles, a third party vendor has been contracted to conduct a yearlong volatile organic compounds study near the Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School. He stated that the Los Angeles Unified School District has also informed Republic that they will conduct a 60 day study of the air near the school.

Mr. Sherman stated that UltraSystems had concluded in its Status Report that they did not observe any non-compliant conditions at the Landfill. However, this fact was not reflected in the staff report. In response, Mr. Mohajer stated that the County code defines odor as nuisance and the Land Use Permit specifically requires for the operator of the Landfill to not cause nuisance. In this sense, he stated that according to the strict definition of the regulations, Republic is not in compliance as evidenced by the odor problem at the Landfill. Ms. Landis agreed with Mr. Mohajer and pointed out other problems areas of the Landfill, which were detailed in the report.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Mohajer made a motion for staff to review the Status Report and send a letter to the operator requesting a timeline and

measures that will be implemented to address the issues identified in the Status Report. Ms. Landis seconded the motion and it passed with Mr. Villalobos abstaining.

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

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided the Subcommittee with an update on the status of the Landfill's Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project.

Staff received the ADC Pilot Project March Monthly Report (Monthly Report) from Republic dated April 15, 2016. The ADC Monthly Report indicated that on the morning of March 8 and March 23, an approximate 20-foot length of ADC panel was pulled away from the ballast overnight. According to the ADC Monthly Report, this likely occurred due to high winds overnight. Additionally, on the morning of March 29, there was a small amount of surface litter at the base of cover. The ADC Monthly Report indicated that site operations personnel are ensuring additional ballast material is placed along the edges of the ADC and that additional ballast material is also being placed at the toe of the ADC on a nightly basis. No other occurrences were reported for the month of March.

Mr. Esparza stated that according to the ADC Monthly Report, the amount of ADC material used for daily cover increased by 12 percent, from approximately 2 million square feet in February 2016 to 2.24 million square feet in March 2016. There was no change in the estimated reduction in the application of soil used for daily cover for the month of March. It was reported there were no observations of fire, vectors, scavenging, or blowing litter at the working face. Also, according to inspection reports by the Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency for the month of March, the ADC material was effective in covering the working face.

Mr. Ruiz asked what operational changes were made by Republic to prevent waste from being exposed to wind. Mr. Esparza replied that the ADC Monthly Report indicated that additional ballast was put at the toe of the ADC to prevent the waste from being exposed.

Mr. Hunter stated that according to the report, it seemed like there were two working faces instead of one. Mr. Sherman confirmed that Republic is currently operating on two working faces. However, one will be phased out as the next one is being prepared for waste disposal. The transitional period is expected to take up to nine months.

Public Health Presenting on Potential Health Impacts Associated with Odors  
Generated by Landfill Gas

Mr. Villalobos stated that Dr. Cyrus Rangan was unable to attend the meeting today. He suggested the Task Force write a letter to Dr. Rangan requesting him to attend the Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Task Force to write a letter to Dr. Rangan. It was seconded by Ms. Landis and it passed unanimously.

**IV. COMPOSTING FACILITY INSPECTIONS AND REGULATORY OVERSIGHT  
STATEWIDE**

Mr. Joseph Venzon presented the Subcommittee with additional research findings on inspection regulations for composting facilities in the State of California, by the following specific agencies: the State Water Board (SWB), AQMD, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) serving in its role as a respective Local Enforcement Agency (LEA).

With respect to the SWB, Section 13267 of the California Water Code references the State's Monitoring and Reporting Program, which outlines the requirements for water pollution control monitoring, reporting, and record keeping for composting operations. This program states that the Board is responsible for the inspection of Compost Facilities on a quarterly basis or once every 3 months.

Regarding the AQMD, Rule 201 of the AQMD's Rule Book requires that all composting facilities obtain a "Permit to Construct" or a "Permit to Operate", prior to the commencement of composting operations. The terms and conditions associated with the permit outline inspections are to be conducted on an annual basis or once every year, by AQMD personnel.

As it relates to the CDFA, various composting facilities within the regulatory jurisdiction of the CDFA are required to register as Organic Input Material Manufacturers. Per Section 14601 of the California Food and Agriculture Code, the CDFA is responsible for inspecting these manufacturers on an annual basis, or once every year.

In serving its role as Los Angeles County's LEA, the DPH conducts its composting inspections in accordance with the CA Code of Regulations Sections

17854 to 17862.1, which requires inspections quarterly, or once every 3 months. Ms. Landis asked how many inspectors are currently working for the County of Los Angeles and expressed her concern with amount of personnel required to ensure inspections are performed on a timely basis. She stated that California currently handles approximately 3 million tons of green waste annually, and that is a large amount of material that is expected to be composted by anaerobic digestion. She stated that the material must be composted in a way that actually takes care of the material in a manner that won't affect public health, safety, and natural resources. It was requested that additional research be done in the next two to three months to determine the number of inspectors each agency staffs to conduct inspections throughout Los Angeles County.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that there is a CalRecycle tier chart which shows composting facilities below a certain minimum CY threshold are not required to obtain a Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP). He would like this tier chart distributed at the next Subcommittee meeting during which this item will be discussed. He also mentioned that the Task Force has previously sent a letter to the CDFA's Agricultural Commissioner regarding the transport of materials to and from composting facilities within quarantine areas. He stated that he is currently in communication with them, and they will be sending a response letter to the Task Force in the near future.

#### **V. UPDATE ON CALABASAS LANDFILL REVISED SWFP REVISION**

Ms. Anna Gov presented the Subcommittee with an update on the Calabasas Landfill.

Staff previously reported that on June 1, 2015, Calabasas submitted an application for a SWFP revision to the LEA.

CalRecycle issued a staff report on March 29, 2016, recommending concurrence with the issuance of the proposed revised SWFP indicating that all of the required submittals and findings required by Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations (27 CCR), Section 21685, have been provided and made. The LEA issued the Sanitation District the revised SWFP on April 4, 2016.

According to Section 10.4 of the Countywide Siting Element (CSE), new solid waste disposal facilities, expansions of existing solid waste disposal facilities or existing solid waste disposal facilities that institute a "significant change" to their operation must obtain a Finding of Conformance (FOC) with the CSE granted by



the Task Force.

Staff has been in contact with the facility operator regarding the FOC submittal requirements. The operator indicated the FOC package was recently sent out earlier this week.

## **VI. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL AND LANCASTER LANDFILL**

Ms. Anna Gov stated that there were no updates on Lancaster Landfill and Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL). However, CCL submitted a FOC Monitoring Report for the first quarter of 2016, which will be discussed in the next item.

## **VII. DISCUSSION ON FOC REPORTS**

Ms. Gov presented the Subcommittee with an update on the FOC reports submitted by landfill operators, which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills.

Staff disseminated the First Quarter 2016 Monitoring Report (Report) for the CCL on April 19, 2016. The report provides detailed information of incoming disposal tonnages broken down by various sources, such as residential and commercial, as well as material types, such as refuse, C&D, and greenwaste during the first quarter of 2016. Based on the report, CCL received approximately 620,000 tons in the first quarter of 2016. This amount was about 21 percent more than the fourth quarter of 2015, during which the total tonnage received was approximately 487,000 tons.

The total tonnage of Material Recovery Facility (MRF) fines diverted from disposal during the first quarter of 2016 was approximately 54,000 tons, which was about 4 percent less compared to the fourth quarter of 2015, during which about 56,000 tons of MRF fines were diverted.

Staff also disseminated the First Quarter 2016 Status Report for the Landfill on April 19, 2016. The report provides information on the incoming disposal and beneficial reuse tonnages during the first quarter of 2016. In comparison with the fourth quarter 2015, the amount of waste landfilled in the first quarter of 2016 decreased by approximately 2 percent, from 587,000 tons to 578,000 tons. Compared to the first quarter of 2015, the amount of waste landfilled in the first quarter of 2016 decreased by approximately 3 percent, from 598,000 to 578,000 tons. Please note that during the first quarter of this year,

approximately 5700 tons of non-buried, recycled and beneficial reuse materials were accepted at the landfill. The amount of non-buried, recycled and beneficial reuse materials in the fourth quarter of 2015 was approximately 8,300 tons.

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

There were no discussions or public comments.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.