

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

**Minutes of May 19, 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  
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.  
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 21, 2016, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the April 21, 2016, meeting was made by Mr. Carlos Ruiz, seconded by Mr. Christopher Salomon, and it was unanimously approved, subject to the following revisions:

- Revise the phrase, “therefore, the seedlings have not occurred” on line 6 of the second paragraph on page 3 of the Minutes to read: “therefore, the seedings have not occurred.”
- Replace the word “barley” with “barely” on line 2 of the first bullet on page 4 of the Minutes.
- Replace the word “evidence” with “evidenced” on line 7 of the fourth paragraph on page 5 of the Minutes.
- Omit the word “they” on line 3 of the fifth paragraph on page 5 of the Minutes.
- Replace the word “face” with “faces” on line 3 of the sixth paragraph on page 6 of the Minutes.
- Omit the word “to” located right after the word “Force” on line 2 of the first paragraph on page 7 of the Minutes.

## **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 April 2016.

During the month of April 2016, 181 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with March 2016, the number of complaints received in April 2016 decreased by 2 percent (from 185 to 181 complaints). Compared to April of last year, the number of complaints received this April increased by 202 percent (from 60 to 181 complaints). Mr. Doan reported that out of the 181 complaints received in April, 47 complaints were called in from nearby schools, or from complainants whom identified themselves as parents of students attending one of the nearby schools. As of May 19, 2016, AQMD issued 5 [Notices of Violation](#) to the Landfill in the month of April.

At the April Subcommittee meeting, there was a recommendation for staff to contact AQMD about the inaccurate information that was posted on its website regarding the closure date for the Landfill. Staff contacted the AQMD, and the District stated that the closure date is an “estimated” date, and the Landfill will provide disposal capacity until approximately the year 2037. This statement was based on Sunshine Canyon Landfill’s website that life expectancy varies depending on the volume of waste received for disposal. Additional discussion ensued, and the Subcommittee requested staff to contact AQMD and Sunshine Canyon Landfill requesting the district to include statements on their websites that the closure date is based on the requirements of site’s Conditional Use Permit and Waste Discharge Permits issued to the Landfill.

#### 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 April 2016. According to Republic Services, Inc. (Republic Services), the berm was not completed due to wet weather conditions. Therefore, the seedings did not occur. Republic indicated that the final seeding is dependent on when the berm is completed.

Staff was informed by the operator that the remaining hydroseeding in the Phase 1 By-Pass Road project area will be done once all the earthwork of Liner CC-3B Part 1 berm is completed so as not to disturb the slope areas that will be hydro-seeded. At the present, the schedule for completion of this work is sometime in July. Nonetheless, the hydro-seeding will likely not occur until late September or early October.

### Update on the Use of ADC

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project at the Landfill.

Staff received the ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic on May 18, 2016, and Republic reported one incident on April 15, 2016, where 2 ADC panels, approximately 20 feet in length, pulled away from the ballast material in the Cell CC-3A working face due to high winds from the night before. To mitigate this problem, site operations personnel placed additional ballast material along the edges and at the toe of the ADC material on a nightly basis. No other occurrences involving the use of the ADC material were reported for the month of April. Also, there were no observations of fire, vectors, scavenging, or blowing litter at the working faces.

According to inspection reports by the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) for the month of April, the ADC material as well as the dirt covers were effective in covering the working faces.

### New Intermediate Landfill Cover

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided the Subcommittee with an overview of the Intermediate Cover Study at the Landfill, and its consistency with the Landfill's land use permits and mitigation monitoring and reporting program.

As directed by Condition 5 of the Stipulated Agreement signed by Republic Services, and the SCL-LEA Board of Directors on September 17, 2015, Republic Services submitted a proposal to the SCL-LEA on April 15, 2016, to conduct a six-month demonstration project using a selected material to enhance the intermediate cover performance at the Landfill.

Seven surface emission monitoring grids, consistent with AQMD's Rule 1150.1 regarding monitoring grids, were chosen as study areas for this project. These grids had been reported to have exceeded 25 parts per million (methane) through integrated surface emission sampling in 2015.

In addition to using the current ADC material for slopes 5:1 or less on the chosen grids, this project will be using a noncombustible, thin coating, spray-on slurry called Posi-Shell, as an enhancement to the intermediate cover material. The Posi-Shell mix consists of water, Posi-Shell Base Mix, and a Portland cement additive used to thicken the base mix.

Once applied, the Posi-shell will be acting as a barrier to inhibit surface gas emission from the intermediate slopes, with a minimum thickness of one-eighth of an inch. Once the landfill resumes operation at the intermediate slopes, the Posi-Shell will become crushed and be part of the waste mass after earth moving equipment rolls over it.

For comparison purposes, Mr. Villalobos further explained that some of the study grids will have the following applications:

- Single application of Posi-Shell over the existing intermediate cover material
- Double application of Posi-Shell over the existing intermediate cover material
- Additional placement of 6 inches of low-permeability soil over the existing intermediate cover material

Ms. Betsey Landis asked what the composition of the Posi-Shell Base Mix is, and Mr. Gerardo Villalobos said he would contact the manufacturer to obtain the specification information for the mix.

Ms. Landis also expressed her concern that the Posi-shell may not allow vegetation (which is applied through hydroseeding) to root and take hold, which is what is required in the Landfill's land use permits. Mr. Villalobos further explained that this is only a demonstration project whose primary objective is to reduce landfill gas emissions. Nonetheless, the SCL-LEA will look into providing additional direction to require hydroseeding over this material as a future experiment at the conclusion of the project.

After further discussion, Ms. Landis made a motion to request that the Task Force send a letter to Republic Services requesting them to comply with the Landfill's land use permit requirements for intermediate cover areas; coordinate implementation efforts with all involved regulatory agencies; and communicate with and seek input from the public regarding the implementation of the six-month demonstration project at the site. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mohajer and passed with abstentions from Mr. Villalobos and Mr. Salomon.

#### Update on the Fourth Quarter 2015 Independent Monitor Report

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided an update on the Fourth Quarter 2015 Independent Monitor Report. He stated that during the last Task Force Meeting held on April 21, 2016, the Task Force passed a motion to send a letter to Republic Services regarding deficiencies identified by UltraSystems in the Sunshine

Canyon Landfill Fourth Quarter 2015 Independent Monitor Status Report. A letter, dated May 17, 2016, was sent to Republic Services requesting status updates and scheduled milestones on the issues identified in the Fourth Quarter Independent Monitor Report.

#### First Quarter 2016 Vegetation Report

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided the Subcommittee with a presentation on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill's First Quarter 2016 Vegetation Report. No hydroseeding activities were conducted in the first quarter of 2016 or are planned for the second quarter of 2016. Conditions remain unchanged in the County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project (Pilot Project) Area.

No vegetation activities, other than weeding or pruning, were conducted in the Pilot Project Area during the first quarter of 2016. Soil samples were collected in the Pilot Project on January 12, 2016, by Architerra Design Group (ADG), Republic's consultant on vegetation, from areas where there is little to no growth. Results of the analyses were compared to those of the pre-plant sampling that was done in May 2013. Although the results indicate that there is an elevated level of salinity in all soils sampled, and that there is an elevated level of boron in the middle deck sample, ADG concludes that the salinity and boron levels remain well below the levels found in May 2013. Soil remediation actions provide a short-term benefit; however, the chemistry of the parent soils will continue to dominate the species success and hierarchy of growth across the site.

In addition, the Task Force sent a letter on March 14, 2016, to Mr. Richard J. Bruckner, Director of the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, and Mr. Vince Bertoni, Director of the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning. The purpose of the letter was to comment that revegetation efforts in the City Sage Mitigation Area have proved successful and lessons learned from the project should be utilized in implementing revegetation efforts in the remaining City Sage Mitigation Areas, and in the County Sage Mitigation Area. The Task Force further recommended in the letter that Regional Planning and City Planning require Republic to start implementing revegetation practices on Deck A of the City side Sage Mitigation Area, as this is the best area where revegetation may prove successful. At this time, no response has been received from either agency; however, staff was informed that this will be a topic of discussion at the June 1, 2016, Sunshine Canyon Landfill Technical Advisory Committee Meeting.

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

Ms. Anna Gov provided an update on the Calabasas Landfill's FOC Application. At last month's Subcommittee meeting, staff reported that Calabasas Landfill applied for a revision to their Solid Waste Facility Permit which was issued by the Local Enforcement Agency on April 4, 2016.

Because of the permit revision, it triggered an Finding of Conformance (FOC) requirement, and staff had been working with the Sanitation Districts, the Landfill operator, on this process. On April 28, 2016, staff received the FOC proposal. Based on the submittal, staff transmitted the following comments to the Operator:

- The FOC proposal needs to include supporting documentation.
- The FOC proposal needs to elaborate and provide an explanation for each response provided on the Countywide Siting Element Facility Siting Criteria Evaluation Form.
- The FOC proposal needs to include a site map showing the landfill areas with the waste history and current waste acceptance areas clearly delineated.

Ms. Gov further stated that staff will be working with the applicant and provide a status update at the next Subcommittee meeting.

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

Ms. Anna Gov indicated that there is nothing new to present on either the Chiquita Canyon Landfill, or the Lancaster Landfill and Recycling Center.

#### **VI. DISCUSSION ON FOC REPORTS**

Ms. Gov presented the Subcommittee with the First Quarter 2016 FOC Monitoring Report for the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility which provided the number of loads and tonnages of refuse received for combustion, the amount of energy produced, and the amount of treated ash produced.

Based on the report, the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility received approximately 35,100 tons of refuse during the first quarter of 2016, which was approximately 12 percent more compared to the first quarter of 2015. The facility

also produced a total of approximately 23,000 megawatt-hours of energy, which was about 2 percent more compared to the first quarter of 2015. Additionally, the facility produced about 6,200 tons of ash in the first quarter of 2016, which was about 7 percent less compared to the first quarter of 2015.

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

There was no discussion or comments made from the public.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.