

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

**Minutes of August 18, 2016, Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
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  
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  
Patrick Kwong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jalaine Madrid, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association  
Saeid Shirzadegan, 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 11:09 a.m.

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

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

- Replace the words “responsibility party” with “Responsible Agency” on line 3 of the first paragraph on page 4 of the Minutes.
- Replace the word “cities” with “parties” on the last line of the second paragraph from the bottom of page 6 of the Minutes.
- Replace the acronym “CUP” with “FOC” at the start of the third bulleted paragraph on page 8 of the Minutes.

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

### Odor Complaints

Ms. Anna Gov provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [odor complaints](#) at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) for the month of July 2016.

During the month of July 2016, 52 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with the prior month, June 2016, the number of complaints received in July 2016, decreased by 30 percent (from 74 to 52 complaints). Compared to July of last year, the number of complaints received this July increased by 126 percent (from 23 to 52 complaints). Ms. Gov reported that out of the 52 complaints received in July, none of the complaints were called in from nearby schools or from complainants whom identified themselves as parents of students attending one of the nearby schools.

The total number of Notices of Violation (NOV) issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 182. The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 9,224 and the total number of complaints received this year is 810. As of August 18, 2016, AQMD has issued one NOV to the Landfill in the month of July 2016.

Ms. Betsey Landis commented that there should be a note that the school is currently closed. Mr. Salomon commented that based on the odor complaint graphs, the Landfill appears to be doing better in 2016 than the past 2 years. He asked if there was some project that Republic Services, Inc. (Republic Services) had completed that was influencing the graphs. Mr. Gerry Villalobos commented that dewatering the wells has potentially improved the efficiency of the gas collection system. Mr. Salomon asked when Republic Services began to dewatering the wells; Mr. Villalobos stated that Republic Services may have started dewatering in limited numbers in 2014.

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa commented that the improvements in the last 3 years have come from Republic Services developing additional infrastructure that has improved their gas collection system. He added that the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) will continue working with Republic Services to further improve their gas collection system. He further noted that having an impacted well is not extraordinary for a landfill and it is not unusual that the landfill take the necessary steps to mitigate the impacted wells. Mr. Bahman Hajialiakbar added that Public Works has shared with Republic Services the experiences from other landfills on how they mitigated their impacted wells.

Mr. Villalobos stated that in addition to mitigating impacted wells, Republic Services has also added side slope collectors, added horizontal trenching for their horizontal gas collectors, and continues to tune their overall system. Mr. Villalobos commented that while there are still odor complaints, there is an improvement as depicted in the graphs.

Mr. Aiyetiwa informed that based on the gas collection records from Republic Services, the Landfill's gas collection system had an overall efficiency of 50 percent when the odor problems started around 2010. He stated that over the years, Republic Services has continued to improve their gas collection system and their efficiency today is almost 85 percent. Mr. Aiyetiwa also added that Republic Services still needs further improvement to eliminate the odor nuisance problem at the Landfill.

Mr. Salomon inquired about the methane content of the gas collected at the Landfill. Mr. Aiyetiwa shared that Public Works just received some documents from Republic Services last week and methane content is one of the things Public Works is looking into.

Mr. Hunter commented that he didn't see the improvements in the graphs, as June and July looked about the same as every other year, and the graphs have been trending like previous years. He further stated that he had a different efficiency number than the 50 percent and that AQMD at one point estimated that Republic Services was collecting about 65 percent of the gas. Mr. Hunter noted that there are no complaints from the school because the school is not in session and the statement noting the number of complaints from the school should not be stated if it is not applicable.

Ms. Landis commented that the combination of the extremely hot temperatures with the dry conditions factored into a lower decomposition rate. Mr. Hunter commented that a lot of the complaints initially were about methane gas but the complaints now are more regarding the fresh trash odors in the morning. Mr. Salomon stated his prior comments were not to suggest that the odor problem was solved as the landfill still receives too many odor complaints. However, there appears to be indicators that the situation is trending in the right direction.

Ms. Landis commented that as methane gas itself has no odor, people are complaining about the other gases that come along with the methane, like CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, and sulfur oxides. Mr. Aiyetiwa indicated that the methane content detected is an indication of the activities taking place at the landfill and the potential for odor. Mr. Salomon added that methane content is also an indication of how well the cover is functioning.

#### Update on the Use of ADC

Ms. Gov 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 Services on August 15, 2016. Republic Services reported that site operations personnel are ensuring additional ballast material is placed along the edges of ADC as noted on the daily inspection reports. The amount of geosynthetic panel product used for July 2016, was 20.55 rolls. It is estimated that there continues to be a 40 percent reduction in the soil used for daily cover in the month of July 2016, from using the geosynthetic panel product instead of soil. There were no maintenance issues and no reported observations of fire, vector, scavenging, or blowing litter at the working face related to the use of the ADC material for the month of July 2016.

Mr. Mohajer asked if Mr. Villalobos had received anything from County Counsel regarding the request from last month's Subcommittee meeting on the Sunshine

County Landfill – Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA)'s authority to approve the use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC). Mr. Villalobos stated that they tried to contact its County Counsel but County Counsel was busy so he will continue to follow up.

Mr. Mohajer also asked staff about the status of the report requested at last month's Subcommittee meeting that clarifies the history, authority, and agency responsibilities, which allow for the use of ADC at the Landfill. Mr. Aiyetiwa indicated that staff is still working on the report.

Mr. Villalobos asked that Public Works could also provide the Subcommittee with a response on the Local Enforcement Agency's (LEA) authority for use of ADC at the Landfill, since Public Works is also a responsible agency involved in granting the use of the ADC. Mr. Mohajer stated that he was in favor of this request. Ms. Landis asked if Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) should also be contacted for a response. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that County Counsel has addressed the issue with the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Technical Advisory Committee's (SCL-TAC) approval authority in a letter. He informed the Subcommittee that the letter stated that the SCL-TAC only has the authority to direct the approving agencies but the SCL-TAC does not have authority to issue the approval. Mr. Mohajer requested that staff provide a copy of the letter.

#### Status of New Access Road and Tree Planting

Mr. Nam Doan provided the Subcommittee with an update on the new access road and tree-planting project. As staff reported at the last Subcommittee meeting, the hydroseeding necessary for completion of Phase 1 of the access road project cannot take place until the construction of the Liner CC-3B Part 1 berm is completed. Staff was informed by Republic Services that the completion of the berm will likely occur at the end of September 2016, and hydroseeding will occur sometime in late September or early October 2016.

#### Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Mr. Doan provided an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) project at the Landfill. The SCL-LEA has stated that there has been no change on the status of the ICE project since the last Subcommittee meeting. As staff reported at the last Subcommittee meeting, the SCL-LEA amended its approval of this project and required that Republic Services secure approval from the regulatory agencies. On August 11, 2016, Public Works received a copy of the proposal of the ICE project for its review. Staff is currently reviewing the proposal.

### First Quarter 2016 Independent Monitoring Report

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided the Subcommittee with an update and [staff report](#) regarding the Landfill's [First Quarter 2016 Independent Monitoring Quarterly Site Monitoring Status Report](#) (Status Report) prepared by UltraSystems.

Mr. Esparza highlighted the following updates from the Status Report:

#### Drainage

- During the first quarter of 2016, UltraSystems observed that temporary drainage control systems were installed downstream of Cell CC-3B with their discharge to the terminal basin. These systems had major erosion during the El Niño rain events. They were repaired and modified by Republic Services in between rainstorms.
- In February 2016, the west drainage channel connecting Basins A and D, which was reported several times to have been uplifting and cracking, was repaired. The side wall that allowed water to enter the bottom perimeter of the drainage channel was also repaired.
- Basins A, B, and D performed well during this quarter.

#### Odor/Air Quality

- UltraSystems did not detect any landfill odors in the Granada Hills neighborhood in the morning times during the first quarter of 2016.
- Localized odors were detected inside the Landfill. An instance was reported during a monitoring visit in late March 2016, in the area along the haul road for Cell CC-3A, a localized gas odor was detected coming from the slopes. In another area, a localized liquid odor was detected. UltraSystems noted that odors were not detected beyond 50 feet from the area. It appeared to UltraSystems that an air system and air pumps removing landfill liquids was temporarily not operating during detection. Odors were no longer detected in the same area a few hours later.
- Misterters on the litter fencing and dust bosses at the working face were being utilized during the first quarter of 2016.

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

- Previously hydroseeded areas in 2014 had also greened due to the rain events.
- About 50 percent of the Big Cone Fir trees in the mitigation area had water wells and irrigation piping was repaired and maintained. Some dead fir trees were also observed.

#### Erosion and Dust Control/Visual

- Rain events that occurred in the first quarter of 2016 have caused soil erosion at the Landfill more evidently in the cell construction area for Cell CC-3B. The soil washed away from Cell CC-3B ended in the terminal basin.
- The main slope erosion control measure used at the Landfill was straw wattles, which performed well in most areas except during extremely heavy rains. The use of K-rails to create stilling areas for controlling sediments at the Terminal Basin was still being implemented.
- The County Sage Mitigation Area had deep rutted erosion in the native hillside, which deposited soil in the west drainage channel. UltraSystems suggests that erosion control be considered if sage mitigation is not implemented before the next rainy season.
- In late March, the slope above the frontage retaining wall southeast of the entrance had lost more soil and the oak trees at the top of the slope had more exposed roots and appear to be less stable. Republic Services indicated to UltraSystems that their arborist will examine this area and provide recommendations, if necessary.

#### Grading

- Pads and access roads for the construction of the SCE power pole relocation were being constructed on the County-side of the Landfill. Grading was in progress for the power pole relocation project during this reporting period.
- During the first quarter 2016, the only landfill development grading activities were grading for Cells CC-3B and CC-4.

### Landfill Gas Collection

- For the first quarter of 2016, the gas-to-energy facility was operating at full capacity except for a 2-day period where the air supply equipment was being repaired.
- Flare 1 was used during the first quarter, while Flares 9 and 10 operated on an as-needed basis.
- UltraSystems advised Republic Services to consider planning for a new gas-to-energy facility or expanding the existing facility, once the quantity and quality of the landfill gas being flared at the site can support a new or expanded facility.

Mr. Esparza stated that UltraSystems concluded in the Status Report that the Landfill is actively working toward being fully compliant with conditions and/or mitigation measures, with no non-compliant conditions observed, as Republic Services was in the engineering, planning, or implementation phases of each.

Mr. Mohajer had the following comments and questions on the Status Report:

- On page 2, UltraSystems stated that five site visits were performed, but on page 3, UltraSystems states four site visits. Mr. Mohajer requested that staff verified the number of site visits.
- On page 4 in the Current Status/Comments, Mr. Mohajer questioned as to what happened with the water from the rainstorm in early January 2016 on Cell CC-3B.
- On page 5 in the section, Gas – 52 (County) in the second paragraph, Mr. Mohajer commented that Public Works has the right to check the gas collection of lateral migration of gases in the old City Landfill. Mr. Mohajer stated that the Task Force has been asking for the landfill gas control system for the old City Landfill and sent a letter to CalRecycle. CalRecycle, in turn asked the Task Force to ask the SCL-LEA. Mr. Mohajer stated that the Task Force then sent a letter to David Thompson, which in turn referred the Task Force to Mr. Villalobos. Mr. Villalobos said he would follow up with the letter. Mr. Mohajer asked if Public Works had the lateral gas migration plans. Mr. Aiyetiwa replied that Public Works currently does not have the



lateral gas migration plans. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that the Joint Technical Document (JTD) does have conceptual monitoring well designs and identify locations but the LEA does not issue stamped plans and approvals. Mr. Aiyetiwa said Public Works has talked to Republic Services and will following up on obtaining the plans from Republic Services.

Mr. Hajialiakbar asked Mr. Villalobos for confirmation that the LEA does not have anything beyond conceptual plans and that Republic Services has not submitted any other plans that provide the exact location of the probes. Mr. Villalobos stated exact locations should be in the JTD because in 2009 when CalRecycle implemented the perimeter gas monitoring system that all landfill operators had to comply with in regards to depth, distance, and location.

- Mr. Mohajer questioned about the status of the two abandoned oil wells and when are the wells going to be re-abandoned.
- Mr. Mohajer asked about the green waste processing facilities on Blucher Avenue. Mr. Aiyetiwa commented that he had visited the two green waste sites and that they are City of Los Angeles maintenance yards. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that the two facilities are far away from the Landfill and indicated that there isn't any correlation to the Landfill. Mr. Villalobos added that he believes the two facilities are City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation facilities that process green waste and are inspected quarterly.
- Mr. Mohajer commented on the drainage, slopes, erosion problems and that Public Works may want to follow up with Republic Services.
- Mr. Mohajer commented on the local landfill odors that may be problems with maintenance. He added that Republic Services should be more proactive rather than reactive. Mr. Villalobos commented that any landfill operator would only respond to a system failure after it fails and if it hasn't failed, why the operator would respond to it. Mr. Mohajer responded that Republic Services should be proactive with recommendations from UltraSystems.

- Mr. Mohajer and Ms. Landis discussed the issues with erosion and that the oak trees at the top of the slope that have exposed roots. The oak trees appear to be less stable and maybe a hazard to San Fernando Road.
- Mr. Mohajer commented that this is the second time that UltraSystems has requested documents, which are listed on page 17 and 18 of the Status Report. Mr. Hajjaliakbar stated that staff would follow up with Republic Services on the documents.

Mr. Hunter asked if it would be the Task Force or Public Works who would be following up with Republic Services about the Status Report. Mr. Mohajer answered that the Status Report was a Regional Planning report and they are the lead. Mr. Mohajer commented that it is Regional Planning responsibility to review the report and take care of the deficiencies.

#### Second Quarter 2016 Vegetation Report

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [Second Quarter 2016 Vegetation Report](#), as well as topics that were discussed at the August 10, 2016, quarterly group meeting with Republic Services, Architerra Design Group, the Los Angeles City Department of City Planning, the Independent Monitor, Regional Planning, and Public Works regarding vegetation efforts at the Landfill. Hydroseeding activities are not planned until the fourth quarter of 2016. Conditions remain unchanged in the County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area.

#### City Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area (Pilot Project Area) - Deck C

- Weeding occurred along with the removal of invasive plant species.

#### City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Decks A and B

- No vegetation activities were conducted in the second quarter of 2016.
- Soil samples were collected and are being tested for the slope area between Decks A and B by Waypoint Analytical as part of the future phased revegetation expansion. Results will be shared when available.

#### Interim Area Seed Mix

David Thompson of the SCL-LEA attended the meeting and mentioned that the SCL-LEA is interested in promoting growth on the interim areas of the Landfill where no activities have taken place for 180 days or longer and asked if the hydroseed mix could be changed to include faster growing species. Discussion ensued among group members, and it was discussed that there are fast growing native grasses as well as non-native species that could root quickly in the soil. Accordingly, several of our group members were tasked to review the hydroseed mix to determine if a better mix can be developed. Public Works, County Regional Planning, and City Planning will evaluate the mix.

Ms. Landis commented that Republic Services is hydroseeding, but it is not watering them. She inquired why Republic Services is not watering the intermediate slopes and noted that maintenance is needed for a successful seeding and germination. Mr. Aiyetiwa said a meeting has been scheduled and stated that staff will follow up with Republic Services.

Ms. Landis commented that she does not support using non-native species and that the Landfill's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) prohibits the use of non-native plant. A list of annual native species often used in restoration was provided by Ms. Landis to Mr. Bukoff who will share it with the other vegetation group members. After further discussion, Mr. Mohajer also echoed the point that the Landfill's CUP might not allow non-native species to be used at the site.

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

Ms. Gov provided an update on the Calabasas Landfill's Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) revision. As staff previously reported, the LEA issued a revised SWFP for the Calabasas Landfill on April 4, 2016, and as the result, a Finding of Conformance (FOC) is required for the Calabasas Landfill. Staff received a FOC package from the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) on April 28, 2016. Staff reviewed the proposal and provided comments to the Sanitation Districts on May 16, 2016.

On August 16, 2016, the Sanitation Districts submitted the revised Countywide Siting Element Facility Siting Criteria Evaluation checklist form. In their transmittal, the Sanitation Districts wanted staff to note that the permit revision occurred at the request of Los Angeles County to correct information presented in other landfill-related document. The Sanitation Districts also stated that there

were no projects or physical changes to the Calabasas Landfill that are proposed with this action.

Staff has also just received the revised Exhibit A from the District and will be reviewing and working with the Sanitation Districts for any additional information, if necessary, to complete the FOC package for the Task Force to make its finding of conformance.

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

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan informed the Subcommittee that there were no updates to present on Lancaster Landfill. Staff will continue to monitor and provide status updates when they become available.

Mr. Shirzadegan informed the Subcommittee that Chiquita Canyon Landfill (Chiquita) reached its fill capacity in June 2016, at which time its CUP expired. Department of Regional Planning has issued a Clean Hands Waiver to Chiquita's operator, Waste Connections, Inc., on March 17, 2016, which allowed Chiquita to continue its operation while processing the new CUP application. The waiver will terminate either on July 31, 2017, when a new CUP takes effect, or at the discretion of the Regional Planning Director.

Recently, there have been some protests by the community, as well as couple of newspaper articles about the Chiquita's expansion project.

Chiquita's operator is in the process of finalizing their Environmental Impact Report in coordination with Regional Planning. As of August 18, 2016, staff has not seen any new Draft Environmental Impact Report circulated by the operator for public review. Staff will continue to monitor and provide status updates when they become available.

Mr. Mohajer requested that staff forward a copy of the waiver to the Subcommittee members. Mr. Hunter questioned why Chiquita's permit was not being honored. Mr. Mohajer commented that the Director of Regional Planning has the authority to grant the waiver. Mr. Villalobos suggested that Mr. Hunter's question should be directed to the Regional Planning as none of the Subcommittee members could speak on their behalf.

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

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed until the next Subcommittee meeting.

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

There was no discussion or comments made from the public.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.