

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

Minutes of March 16, 2017, Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Jacqueline Taylor representing Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Sam Shammas, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bernadette Halverson, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Vu Truong, 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 11:08 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 16, 2017, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the February 16, 2017, meeting was made by Ms. Betsey Landis, seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer, and unanimously approved.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [odor complaints](#) at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) for the month of February 2017.

During the month of February 2017, 254 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with January 2017 the number of complaints received in February 2017 increased by 27 percent (from 200 to 254 complaints). Compared to February of last year, the number of complaints received this February increased by 35 percent (from 188 to 254 complaints). The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 10,427, and the total number of complaints received this year is 454.

As of March 16, 2017, AQMD has issued 5 Notices of Violation (NOV) to the Landfill in the month of February 2017. The total number of NOV's issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 205. Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that the number of NOV's is actually 6.

In response to a question, Mr. Hunter posed on which agencies have the authority to close down a landfill in adverse weather conditions, Ms. Jacqueline Taylor responded by saying that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement agency (SCL-LEA) has the authority to suspend waste receiving operations at the Landfill under Condition 17(A12) of the Landfill's Solid Waste Facilities Permit (SWFP) for safety, emergency, and nuisance reasons. Ms. Taylor commented that during the last couple of months, there was one day that the SCL-LEA determined the Landfill should close due to adverse weather conditions, and the

Landfill acted on their own to suspend operations for a partial afternoon. She further commented that the SCL-LEA cannot suspend operations for odors.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that he understood that CalRecycle has made the determination that the SCL-LEA can enforce the mitigation measures identified in the environmental document prepared for the SWFP, which odor is one. Ms. Taylor said, she has been in contact with CalRecycle over this during the past year and this doesn't seem to be the current opinion of CalRecycle. She did add that, Public Health as the County Health Officer can also issue an order of abatement for odor violations.

Status on the New Access Road and Tree Planting

Mr. Vu Truong reported that staff was informed by Republic Services, Inc., (Republic Services) that there is no new information to report at this time. Staff will be following up with Republic Services and provide any updates at future meetings.

Update on the use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Project

Mr. Michael Harmon provided the Subcommittee with an update on the ADC Pilot Project at the Landfill. Staff received the most recent ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic Services on March 15, 2017, which included the month of February. 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 February 2017 was 27.25 rolls (2,547,875 square feet). It is estimated there continues to be a 40 percent reduction in the use of soil used for daily cover in the month of February from using the geosynthetic panel product instead of soil. Mr. Carlos Ruiz asked that these numbers be verified. Mr. Harmon also stated that no observations of fire, vector, scavenging, or blowing litter at the working face related to the use of the ADC material were reported for the month of February 2017.

Mr. Harmon also reported that March 27, 2017, marks the end of the approved 6-month extension to the 1-year ADC Pilot Project approved by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works) on October 18, 2016. Republic Services is required to submit a request to Public Works for another extension or the approval for the permanent utilization of the material beyond the approved extension date.

Mr. Hunter added that the community surrounding the Landfill still suffers from fresh trash odors.

Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project

Mr. Harmon reported that, as of February 23, 2017, Republic Services has stated that, due to the January and February rain events, progress of the ICE was delayed. As of March 9, 2017, Republic Services anticipates completion of product application by March 20, 2017. Staff will continue to monitor the status and provide updates at future meetings.

January and February Storm Status

Mr. Harmon also provided a status update on the January and February rain storms. He discussed that weather station reports provided by the Landfill indicated that, the two largest storms occurred on January 20, and February 19, 2017. The duration of the January storm was 13 hours and the February storm lasted 20 hours.

Public Works staff inspected the Landfill on February 23, and March 9, 2017, and observed the condition of the retaining wall on San Fernando Road, the sediment basin, the terminal basin, the west drainage channel, and an area where “posi-shell” was applied. Based on staff’s observation, mud and debris were causing the fence to bulged toward San Fernando Road due to the amount of material placed against it. Debris in the sediment basin has risen up to the level of the spillway, and there was evidence that debris spilled over the top and into the terminal basin. However, there wasn’t much evidences that storm related debris material existed the Landfill through the drainage facilities. The Subcommittee inquired that there should be more material in the terminal basin and questioned if there were any other areas that the sediment could go. Mr. Carlos Ruiz requested that Staff further investigate this issue. Mr. Harmon also indicated Republic Services will continue to use the “posi-shell” material until March 30, 2017.

AQMD Notice of Abatement Status

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided the Subcommittee with an update regarding AQMDs’ Final Order for Abatement for the Landfill. According to information provided by the AQMD, a status hearing was held on March 1, 2017, at which time the Hearing

Board requested, and the Landfill stipulated to commence the delay of the acceptance of route collections trucks at the Landfill each operating day until 9am beginning on March 20, 2017. A subsequent status hearing is scheduled for March 29, 2017.

Status of Regional Planning Department's NOV and Hearing

Mr. Esparza reported that an NOV was issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) to Republic Services on October 25, 2016, based on a referral made by the Public Works as a result of Republic Services' lack of response to odor mitigation requirements imposed by Public Works. Mr. Esparza stated Republic Services' request for appeal of the NOV was considered before a Hearing Officer on March 7, 2017. At that hearing, Republic Services requested for a continuance which was granted for May 2, 2017.

Status of Department of Public Health's Notice of Abatement

Regarding Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's (Public Health) Order to Abate issued to Republic Services on November 9, 2016, Mr. Esparza reported that Republic Services had provided Public Health with their Corrective Action Plan dated January 13, 2017. The Task Force provided a comment letter on the subject matter to Public Health on February 15, 2017. On February 24, 2017, Republic Services met with Public Health to discuss their corrective action plan and progress.

Revegetation Update

Mr. Russell Bukoff reported to the Subcommittee that he has nothing new to report on vegetation efforts at the Landfill. He indicated that the next time he anticipates having information to report on will be in May 2017 when the next quarterly vegetation report is due from Republic Services. Mr. Bukoff requested that he wait to make the next vegetation report until May. The Subcommittee concurred.

In an unrelated matter, Mr. Mohajer asked staff to follow up on the Task Force letter sent to Republic Services on March 15, 2017, regarding the frontage retaining wall and walkway along San Fernando Road.

IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) which was published on February 16, 2017. During his presentation, Mr. Saeid focused his

report only on the Task Force' comments that were provided on the 2014 Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) and the 2017 Recirculated DEIR, but were not addressed in the FEIR.

After further discussion ensued, the Subcommittee requested staff to prepare a detailed comment letter to be sent to the landfill operator asking why the comments have not been addressed.

V. UPDATES ON SCHOLL CANYON AND LANCASTER LANDFILLS

Mr. Shirzadegan informed the Subcommittee that, as mentioned at the January Facility Plan Review Subcommittee (FPRS) meeting, the Scholl Canyon Landfill's Operator had submitted a 5-year Permit Review Application to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). Based on the LEA's determination, there is no need for a SWFP revision. From their review, the LEA determined that the applicant proposed the same average daily tonnage as the current SWFP and did not change the site capacity or the disposal footprint. Based on the LEA's input, staff determined that a Finding of Conformance (FOC) is not needed since there was no permit revision and there is no significant change in landfill operation.

Mr. Shirzadegan also informed the Subcommittee that, as mentioned at the January FPRS Subcommittee meeting, Lancaster Landfill's Waste Management is no longer pursuing with the large-scale anaerobic digestion and composting operation, referred to as the Lancaster Advanced Recycling for Greenwaste and Organics project. Alternately, Waste Management is in the preliminary stages in pursuing a smaller scale composting project without anaerobic digestion at the site. Currently, there is no written proposal from Waste Management on the composting project. As such, staff recommends this item be removed from future Subcommittee agendas. Staff will provide updates on the composting project when they are available. The Subcommittee concurred.

VI. CALABASAS LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Harmon provided an update on the Calabasas Landfill FOC. Staff previously reported that the Local Enforcement Agency issued a revised SWFP for the landfill on April 4, 2016, and as a result, it was determined that an FOC is required for the landfill. Staff has received the FOC application and supporting documentation and has completed its review of the FOC. Staff expects to place the Calabasas Landfill FOC on the next Task Force Meeting Agenda for consideration.

VII. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS

The Subcommittee postponed discussion of this item.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments made from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.