

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

Minutes of April 20, 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
Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Sam Shammass, 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
Nam Doan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Elena Goodhall, Republic Services, Inc.
Kumari Gossai, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory
Committee
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.
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 11:07 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 16, 2017, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the March 16, 2017, meeting, as corrected, was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz, and unanimously approved.

III. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL ODOR MITIGATION ACTION PLAN (ACTION PLAN) UPDATE

Mr. Rob Sherman introduced Ms. Elena Goodhall, who gave a presentation to the Subcommittee on Republic Services, Inc.'s (Republic Services) [Action Plan](#) for improving the landfill gas collection system at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill). Ms. Goodhall stated that odors from fugitive gas emissions resulted from requirements to deviate from industry standard operating procedures (9-inch soil cover requirement), resulting in watered-in gas wells which creates challenges to efficient gas collection at the landfill. In order to understand the source of gas emissions at the site, Republic Services conducted surface scans to detect where uncollected gas is coming from and identified 36 areas where the gas problem is the greatest.

Ms. Goodhall discussed that the Landfill already has over 600 gas wells and Republic Services primary solution to improve gas collection is to add or replace more than 150 gas wells and adding pumps to over 250 gas wells throughout the Landfill, not just the 36 areas identified above. The pumps will extract water out at the rate of 1 gallon per minute, but at this rate the landfill gas problem will take a few months to abate.

Mr. Mohajer commented that there are several types of dewatering pumps available for water extraction that pump at varying rates. Therefore, he asked why Republic Services has not chosen to utilize a pump that extracts more water. Ms. Goodhall responded by saying that a faster pump will take in more silt than one at a lower rate of speed, thereby affecting the efficiency of the gas collection system.

The secondary solution is designed to enhance the intermediate cover on over 115 acres at the Landfill by utilizing closure-turf, intermediate spray-on cover, and vegetative cover. Closure turf consists of an impermeable layer over the cover soil with artificial turf installed above with sand ballast to keep it in place. This option has been used at 3 different landfills in California, such as Portola Landfill and Crazy Horse Landfill. Closure turf does not perform well in areas where soil is prone to settling as ponding may occur when the water is not allowed to properly drain off. Approximately 21 acres of closure turf will be installed at the Landfill by August 2017.

Republic Services will also be testing various spray-on covers, such as “posi-shell” to reduce odors. Ms. Goodhall indicated that it worked well but added that it must not be applied in wet conditions as the material will not cure properly. Republic Services will apply approximately 37 acres of spray-on cover at the Landfill by August 2017.

Ms. Goodhall also stated that a vegetative cover is beneficial in reducing gas emissions, and they will be using the recently approved interim cover seed mix on a 5-acre test plot to be planted this Spring. The seed mix contains 14 different species, including grasses. Ms. Betsey Landis emphasized that the seed mix contains annuals, perennials, and grasses which was developed for the specific conditions at the Landfill. She did not want Republic Services to only seed grasses. A total of 57 acres of soil will be seeded in the Fall.

Mr. Sherman continued the presentation and provided information on Republic Service’s outreach to the community. He discussed that weekly e-blasts are sent out to provide specific schedule updates and other information. They have expanded the Landfill’s website with information updated weekly, sending quarterly newsletters, and conducting outreach to community organizations.

Mr. Ruiz commented that he was pleased to see Republic Services’ aggressive efforts to mitigate odors at the Landfill; however, he needed to make some clarifications to the presentation. He noted that in the presentation, Ms. Goodhall stated that “odors from fugitive gas emissions resulted from requirement to deviate from industry standard operating procedures.” Mr. Ruiz indicated that this was an inaccurate statement. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Public Works) utilized enforcement measures stipulated in the Landfill’s Conditional Use Permit only when Republic Services failed to address the odor issue. Mr. Ruiz stated that Public Works had met with Republic Services to ask

what they were planning to do to address the odor issues. At first, Republic Services denied that there was an issue at all. Only when pressed did Republic Services representatives admit there was an odor problem at the Landfill, but they said they did not know what the source of the problem was.

Discussion ensued and Ms. Landis requested that Republic Services provide data on the progress of the various intermediate cover materials to the quarterly vegetation meeting group. Mr. Sherman agreed to do this.

Lastly, Mr. Mohajer asked if horizontal trenches are included as a design feature of the landfill gas collection system, and Ms. Goodhall commented that a combination of vertical and horizontal trenches will be utilized in an interconnecting system.

IV. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [odor complaints](#) at the Landfill for the month of March 2017.

During the month of March 2017, 274 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with February 2017, the number of complaints received in March 2017 increased by 8 percent (from 254 to 274 complaints). Compared to March of last year, the number of complaints received this March increased by 48 percent (from 185 to 274 complaints). The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 10,701, and the total number of complaints received this year is 728.

As of April 20, 2017, AQMD has issued 6 Notices of Violation (NOV) to the Landfill in the month of March 2017. The total number of NOV's issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 213.

Update on the Use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)

Mr. Nam Doan reported that the most recent ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic Services was received on April 13, 2017, which includes the month of March 2017. Republic Services reported that site operations personnel are

ensuring ballast material is placed along the edges of ADC as noted on the daily inspection reports.

The amount of geosynthetic panel product used for March 2017 was 24.75 rolls (2,314,125 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 March 2017 from using the geosynthetic panel product instead of soil. 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 March 2017.

Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project

Mr. Nam Doan provided the Subcommittee with an update on the ICE Project at the Landfill. In early April 2017, Public Works staff requested Republic Services to provide a status update of the 6-month ICE Demonstration Project. Republic Services informed staff that the final application of "Posi-Shell" material was completed on March 2, 2017.

On April 18, 2017 Republic Services submitted monthly progress reports for the months of February and March 2017, providing methane surface emissions monitoring data and results of daily visual inspections of the cover material enhancements.

For the month of March 2017, the instantaneous data reported showed 7 of the 8 tested grid locations with levels of methane concentration above 500 ppm. The integrated data reported showed 2 grid locations above 25 ppm. Also, staff identified 1 grid location discrepancy between the March report and Republic Services' original ICE Project proposal.

Staff will continue to monitor the status and progress, and will provide updates at future meetings.

Status of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's (Public Health's) Notice of Abatement

Mr. Maurice Pantoja provided a status update on Public Health's Notice of Abatement issued to the Landfill. Mr. Pantoja indicated that one of the measures for determining Republic Service's compliance with the Notice of Abatement is the decrease in odor complaints made to AQMD from residents living in proximity to

the Landfill. He discussed that the complaints have not dropped to comfortable levels as compared to other landfills. Public Health will be notifying Republic Services of its non-compliance and will be looking at the next steps for enforcement.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the Task Force sent the Director of Environmental Health, Ms. Terri S. Williams, a letter in February 2017 commenting on the corrective action plan submitted to Public Health by Republic Services. Since a response has not been submitted by Public Health to the Task Force, Mr. Mohajer requested Mr. Pantoja contact his management to request a response to the Task Force. Mr. Pantoja said he would do that.

V. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion Project. At last month's subcommittee meeting, staff presented the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the project, and the Task Force approved a motion to send a comment letter to the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP). The letter was sent to DRP on April 4, 2017, and according to DRP, the comment letter has been included in the supplemental hearing package which was provided to the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission (Commission) for the public hearing on April 19, 2017. Mr. Mohajer inquired if the Commission responded to the Task Force letter. As the Commission has not sent a response, Ms. Landis requested staff to request the Commission to respond to the comments.

Mr. Shirzadegan continued by discussing that the Commission conducted its first public hearing on the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion Project on March, 1, 2017, at Rancho Pico Jr. High School in Stevenson Ranch. At this meeting, the Commission decided to hold another public hearing on April 19, 2017. The hearing was held in the DRP headquarters building in Los Angeles, with a remote testimony location at the Stevenson Ranch Library. At the April 19 hearing, the Commission certified the FEIR and approved the new Conditional Use Permit (CUP), with modifications, for the landfill. It was announced that the deadline for appeals is May 3, 2017.

Since the landfill is obtaining a new permit, once the CUP is approved, staff will be working with the Operator for their submittal of the Finding of Conformance (FOC). Staff will monitor the status of the project and provide status updates accordingly.

Discussion ensued and Ms. Landis noted that the disposal reports for the landfill show that the landfill is accepting a lot of soil. She requested staff to find out if any of the soil is contaminated, the nature of the contamination, where the soil is coming from, and what they are doing with it. Mr. Ruiz stated that staff will provide a report on this to the Subcommittee at the next Subcommittee meeting.

In response to a question from Mr. Mohajer regarding a traffic study for the landfill, Mr. Ruiz stated that the traffic study analyzed the acceptance of 12,000 tpd of solid waste.

Ms. Landis also requested staff to prepare a table highlighting the changes between the conditions in the previous CUP to the new one.

VI. UPDATE ON CALABASAS LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE (FOC)

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided an update on the Calabasas Landfill FOC. Mr. Esparza stated that staff previously reported that the Local Enforcement Agency issued a revised Solid Waste Facilities Permit for the Calabasas Landfill on April 4, 2016, and as a result, it was determined that an FOC is required for the landfill. Staff has completed review of the Calabasas Landfill FOC and the Sanitation Districts' of Los Angeles County application for compliance with the requirements for granting of an FOC as established in the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element. He stated that staff expects to place this item on the next Task Force Meeting agenda for consideration.

Mr. Mohajer expressed his concerns that this item was not placed on this month's agenda, until he asked for it, as he has previously requested staff to place this item on the agenda until the FOC has been issued. Mr. Ruiz stated that this will not happen again. Although staff indicated at the last Subcommittee meeting they would place the item on this month's agenda for consideration, it was not possible to complete the staff report. Staff will place this item on the May 2017 agenda for consideration.

VII. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS

Mr. Nam Doan reported that Chiquita Canyon Landfill received 777,478 tons of solid waste in the first quarter of 2017, and this amount was approximately 2 percent more than the fourth quarter of 2016, during which the total tonnage

received was 762,505 tons. The total tonnage of Materials Recovery Facility fines diverted from disposal during the first quarter of 2017 was 52,270 tons, which was about 2 percent less compared to the fourth quarter of 2016, during which 53,270 tons of MRF fines were diverted.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments made from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.