

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

Minutes of November 16, 2017, Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Shammas, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gladys Gallardo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
Joshua Mills, Republic Services
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Michael Beaudoin, Republic Services
Nancy Hernandez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rob Sherman, Republic Services
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2017, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the September 21, 2017, was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Bahman Hajialiakbar and it was approved unanimously.

No comments were made.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Ms. Gladys Gallardo provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [odor complaints](#) at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) for the month of October 2017.

During the month of October 2017, 27 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with September 2017 the number of complaints received in October 2017 decreased by 39 percent (from 44 to 27 complaints). Compared to October of last year, the number of complaints received this October decreased by 86 percent (from 193 to 27 complaints). The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 10,961 and the total number of complaints received this year is 988.

As of November 7, 2017, AQMD issued no Notices of Violation (NOVs) to the Landfill in the month of October. The total number of NOVs issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 214.

Mr. Mohajer commented that he's noticed a reduction of AQMD inspectors, which may impact the validity of the number of complaints reported. Mr. Rob Sherman stated that the odor complaint charts show total odor complaints, whether they have been verified by AQMD inspectors or not.

Ms. Landis understood that the complaints made to AQMD listed in report provided by Ms. Gallardo are legitimate whether verified or not. Mr. Mohajer stated that he would like updates to include the number of verified complaints.

Update on the Use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)

Ms. Gallardo reported that Staff received the ADC Evaluation report from Republic Services on October 26, 2017, which covered the period from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017. According to Republic's Evaluation Report:

- The total amount of geosynthetic panel product used for this period was approximately 250 rolls
- During this period, there were no observations of fires, vectors, scavenging, or blowing litter related to the use of the ADC material.
 - Eight (8) occurrences were reported when an edge of the ADC pulled away from the ballast material; and
 - One (1) puncture and small tear in the ADC was observed.
- Republic provided a year-by-year comparison, from 2012 to 2017, of SCAQMD's verified odor complaints reported as Trash or Trash/Landfill Gas between the hours of 6PM to 6AM. Under those specific parameters, Republic's report shows the number of verified complaints decreased in 2016 and in 2017.
- Additionally, the report discusses observations noted regarding vertical gas wells drilled in a Cell (CC-3B) where the ADC material had been used in 2016 and 2017. According to Republic's consultant, less occurrences of waste intervals were noted as "wet" or "saturated", and lower temperatures were encountered during drilling. The report explained that the ADC may contribute to better drainage of liquid through the waste to the Leachate Collection and Removal System. Discussion is also included regarding the mechanical destruction of the ADC material.
- In general, Republic's Report concludes that the ADC meets the requirements specified in Title 27 and meets and/or exceeds the performance of the 9 inches of soil as daily cover. Republic Services recommends the ADC to be used for daily cover material on a permanent basis and the cessation of the pilot project.

Ms. Gallardo stated the ADC Evaluation Report is under review by Staff.

Additionally, Staff received a letter dated November 1, 2017 from Republic Services informing Public Works that they will not be submitting monthly ADC reports for the pilot project as the duration of the pilot project has concluded effective October 15, 2017.

Mr. Hunter stated that the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens (NVCCC) commented on Republic's Report and provided staff a copy. Mr. Aiyetiwa acknowledged receipt of the NVCCC comment letter and stated that he forwarded the letter to Republic for their information.

Ms. Landis requested that the letter be forwarded to each member of subcommittee and Mr. Aiyetiwa agreed to send it.

Mr. Mohajer suggested that the Task Force be informed of any communication between the community and Staff. Ms. Landis added that the subcommittee is especially interested in the ADC project, any comments on it from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Community Advisory Committee and the NVCCC, are greatly appreciated.

Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Mr. Harmon provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project at the Landfill. He reported that for the ICE Demonstration Pilot Project was approved by Public Works in a letter dated December 20, 2016, which provided for a six (6) month demonstration period beginning March 2nd. He stated that Republic Services informed staff that the ICE Demonstration Project was completed as of August 2017, therefore monthly progress reports for the months beyond that time were not submitted.

Mr. Harmon reported that Republic is required to submit a Final Evaluation Report to Public Works, including the findings and recommendations for use of the Posi-shell material on a more permanent basis upon completion of the demonstration project period.

He stated that as of November 16, 2017, Public Works has not received the ICE Project Evaluation Report, and will be working with Republic Services to obtain a copy. Staff will provide an update at the subsequent FPRS meeting, once updated information is made available.

Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Sherman if he knew why the final ICE Project Evaluation Report had not yet been submitted to Public Works. Mr. Sherman explained that Republic is currently preparing multiple submittals to address various requirements. Discussion ensued and Mr. Sherman assured the committee that Republic was close to finalization of the Report, and will provide to staff as soon as it is available.

Update on DPH NOV recommendation based on Order to Abate dated November 9, 2016

Mr. Maurice Pantoja reported that the Department of Public Health requested Regional Planning issue an NOV to Republic Services for non-compliance back in March 2017. He stated that Public Health has not received a status update from Regional Planning and will try to schedule a meeting with them toward the end of November.

Vegetation Update

Vegetation Update was provided by Republic Services' personnel, Mr. Michael Beaudoin, during the Sunshine Canyon 2017 Action Plan Update. Please see Section VI – Sunshine Canyon 2017 Action Plan Update.

IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided an update and reported that Chiquita Canyon Landfill submitted the FOC application on October 26, 2017. Staff reviewed the package and found the application to be incomplete for the following main reasons:

- The report did not provide operational permits and Regulatory permit such as: Waste Discharge Requirement Permit, Land Use Permit, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, and Solid Waste Facility Permit (the LEA informed Staff that they have not received any Solid Waste Facility Permit Application as of today)
- The report did not provide all necessary plans, maps and details such as:
 - To-scale, 2x3 maps, and signed by a licensed engineer
 - Base (initial) grades
 - Site Plan

- Based on the FOC, Table 10-1 submittal requirement, the following was not explicitly required, but were required by the Task Force in the past:
 - Drainage Plan
 - Landfill Gas Collection and Leachate Collection System
 - Cross Sections
 - Environmental Monitoring and Control Systems (including perimeter gas control and monitoring systems)

Mr. Shirzadegan stated Staff will be working with the operator to obtain these documents.

Mr. Mohajer stated that a formal, detailed letter needs to be sent out, requesting all the missing information mentioned in his update. He wants to see the letter before it's mailed and would like a copy for the Subcommittee.

Mr. Hunter asked if staff is aware of their record with AQMD over the past five years, excluding 2017, regarding odor issue complaints and asked what has been done to make sure the landfill is fully compliant and operational as it has received 782 complaints in the last five years, averaging about 250 per year, and this information was obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Aiyetiwa said Public Works does not have that information and Mr. Hunter agreed to provide it. Mr. Shirzadegan said AQMD did provide a record indicated that the Landfill has received about 200 complaints.

Ms. Landis asked if Public Health had received any complaints regarding the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Mr. Pantoja responded there were none.

V. ALISO CANYON HEALTH STUDY

Mr. Harmon reported that following the Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Blowout incident, an independent health study was performed by Dr. Jeffery Nordella, a physician practicing in the Porter Ranch community of Los Angeles. He stated the report data was provided in two phases, symptomatic and specimen-based from patients under Dr. Nordella's care observed from January 2016 until August 2017.

Phase 1: Symptomatic data, showed a persistence of the following common symptoms: headache, fatigue, and symptoms of nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, and nose bleeds.

Phase 2: The toxicology study was performed on hair and urine specimens. The data was compared against samples from the state of California as well as the United States and provided following results:

- 31% tested had a higher than average presence of phenylglyoxylic acid, a metabolite of styrene and ethylbenzene, produced by the liver
- 93.5% tested positive for uranium levels significantly above average and 60% tested positive for lithium levels significantly above average.

Additionally, to examine the possible sources of elevated metal presence such as Uranium and Lithium, tap water samples were taken from 25 residences.

Mr. Harmon stated in the health study, Dr. Nordella also provided a description of previous studies and test results taken in the affected area.

- UCLA conducted air testing from January to February 2016 and measured 25 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from 20 locations. Particulate matter was detected, but the results were negative for VOCs and H₂SO₄. Additionally, dust samples were taken in 7 unoccupied homes and preliminary results detected benzene and hexane in the dust of 2 homes tested.
- In May 2016 Leighton Consulting prepared a report on environmental sampling in the Porter Ranch Community for Public Health. Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs) and Metals were tested in the air and using wipes. VOCs were tested exclusively in the air.
 - Benzene was detected in approximately 6% of homes within 6-mile radius and in 9% of homes beyond 6-mile radius.

Mr. Harmon stated Dr. Nordella's conclusion summarizes the Aliso Canyon Gas Well Blowout exposed the community to toxins, positive toxicology suggests long term exposure of specific toxins, and an independent long-term compromise health study is recommended.

Ms. Landis asked if the soil was also tested, and Mr. Harmon responded that information was not documented in the study. Discussion ensued and the Subcommittee requested Mr. Pantoja coordinate a response from Public Health regarding their analysis of Dr. Nordella's study and any actions taken, and report back his findings at the next subcommittee meeting. Mr. Pantoja agreed.

Mr. Mohajer also discussed the Task Force's request to Public Health in a letter dated August 2, 2016, regarding health risk assessment on the communities surrounding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Mr. Esparza asked the subcommittee for clarification if they would like Staff to follow up with Public Health regarding the August 2, 2016 Task Force letter. After discussion, the Subcommittee determined no follow up by Staff is needed at this time, and would first like to hear Public Health's report back regarding analysis of Dr. Nordella's Aliso Canyon health study.

VI. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL 2017 ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Sherman introduced Mr. Michael Beaudoin, Corporate Director Remedial Projects for Republic Services, to provide a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on the 2017 Sunshine Canyon Landfill Action Plan, and discuss the progress and improvements made at the Landfill. Some of the highlights of the presentation included the following:

- Installation or replacement of 153 gas wells
- Installation of 253 pumps in gas wells
- Enhancement of Intermediate Cover areas
 - Applied 38.5 acres of spray on cover (posi-shell)
 - Installed 21 acres of closure turf
 - Installing topsoil for 57 acres of vegetative cover
- Increasing of organics diversion
- Applying odor neutralizer both at the Landfill and Republic transfer stations
- Utilizing Alternative Daily Cover – EnviroCover Material
- Installation of Gabion Cube Structures in development of Cell CC-4
- Requirement for all employees on site to report odors detected to their operations team
- 18,000 cubic feet per minute of gas extraction, a 64 percent increase in gas extraction from 2016
- Adding flare capacity to handle up to 28,000 cubic feet per minute

Republic Services' future commitments include: On-site odor diligence, odor reduction measures, improved operations and maintenance resources, additional flare capacity, gas system optimization and expansion, and an experienced and augmented team.

VII. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS

Mr. Doan provided the Subcommittee with information regarding FOC reports submitted by landfill operators, which include monitoring progress reports for various landfills.

Third Quarter 2017 Monitoring Report for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill

Based on the report, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill received 626,675 tons in the third quarter of 2017. This amount was about 37% less than the second quarter of 2017. The beneficial reuse material total for the third quarter of 2017 was 244,428 tons. This amount was about 60% less than the second quarter of 2017.

Third Quarter 2017 Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Based on the report, Sunshine Canyon Landfill received a total of 526,500 tons of landfilled materials in the third quarter of 2017. This amount was about 1% more than the second quarter of 2017. During the third quarter of 2017, 31,248 tons of beneficial reuse materials were accepted at the landfill. This amount was about 52% less than the second quarter of 2017.

Third Quarter 2017 FOC Monitoring Report for the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility

Commerce Refuse-to-Energy facility received approximately 29,375 tons during the 3rd Quarter of 2017, which was about 20% less compared to the 3rd Quarter of 2016. During the 3rd Quarter of 2017, the facility produced a total of approximately 22,812 Megawatt-hrs of energy which was about 4% less compared to the 3rd Quarter of 2016. Additionally, the facility produced about 4,956 tons of ash in the 3rd Quarter of 2017 which was about 25% less compared to the 3rd Quarter of 2016.

2017 Semi-Annual Fall Waste Characterization for the Lancaster Landfill

In comparison to the previous spring waste characterization report, about 16% less paper-waste and 22% less plastic-waste were received at the Lancaster Landfill for this reporting period.

2017 Semi-Annual Fall Waste Characterization for the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility

In comparison to the previous spring waste characterization report, about 50% less paper-waste and 10% less plastic-waste were received at the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility for this reporting period.

2017 Semi-Annual Fall Waste Characterization for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill

In comparison to the previous spring waste characterization report, about 57% less paper-waste and 31% less plastic-waste were received at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill for this reporting period.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no additional comments made from the public.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.