

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

**Minutes of February 15, 2018, 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  
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Daniel de la Cruz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Sam Shammas, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chris Coyle, Republic Services  
David Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dale Sargent, City of Santa Clarita  
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gladys Gallardo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Nam Doan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Nancy Hernandez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Vu Truong, 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 11:15 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 18, 2018, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes for the January 18, 2018, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, second by Mr. Sam Shammas, all were in favor and one abstention by Mr. Carlos Ruiz due to his absence in the previous meeting. It was approved.

No changes were required for the approved minutes.

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

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong provided the subcommittee with an update on the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill [odor complaints](#) for the month of January 2018.

During the month of January, a total of 32 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 15 of them were None Field Response(s). In comparison with December 2017, the number of complaints received in January increased by 78 percent (from 18 to 32 complaints).

Compared to January of last year, the number of complaints this January decreased by 84 percent (from 200 to 32 complaints).

The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009 is 11,033 and the total number of complaints received this year is 32.

The total number of “Notices of Violation” (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009 is 214. As of February 15, 2018, AQMD has issued **0** NOVs to Sunshine Canyon Landfill for the month of January 2018.

Ms. Landis mentioned that if “No Field Responses” of about 50 percent are being noted, this should be taken into consideration when odor complaints are reported.

Mr. Hunter stated that he believes AQMD issued an NOV on January 30, 2018, and asked Mr. Chris Coyle for clarification. Mr. Coyle clarified that an NOV was issued by AQMD to the Landfill. However, it was not related to odor complaints, it was regarding sulfur content in one of their flares. Furthermore, according to the Notice, the violation occurred on May 2017.

Mr. Mohajer requested staff to include an [AQMD NOV](#) issued on January 30, 2018, as part of the minutes. He requested staff check with AQMD regarding the NOV issued for the May 4, 2017 violation (s), if the NOV pertains to all the items together or if there are separate NOVs issued for all the three items checked-off on the form. He also wants clarification on the reason AQMD did not issue the NOV until January 2018. Ms. Landis agreed.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the LEA reported before the South Coast AQMD that they also conduct odor monitoring. For this reason, Mr. Mohajer requested Staff to include the number of odors the LEA has reported along with the odor complaints. Mr. Mohajer also informed that he has written to Mr. David Thompson of the LEA but has not received a response, so he would like a written confirmation from the LEA if the LEA performs odor monitoring or that they do not perform the odor monitoring.

#### Update on the use of ADC

Ms. Gallardo provided the members of the Subcommittee an update on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project Evaluation Report for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL).

As reported at the previous subcommittee meetings, Public Works staff received the ADC Evaluation Report on October 26, 2017 from Republic Services, which covered the period from September 1, 2016, to August 31, 2017.

After reviewing the report and consideration of associated letters and correspondences provided by the community and private citizens, Public Works has determined to extend the ADC Pilot Project for another year, based on, but not limited to, the following reasons:

1. Republic Services failed to demonstrate a significant decrease in odor complaints for a minimum of a 12-month period.

2. Republic has not fully demonstrated the ability to control fresh trash odors between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Public Works is currently finalizing its conditional approval letter to Republic Services extending the pilot project for one more year. Staff will provide current information to the Subcommittee once it becomes available.

Mr. Mohajer requested Staff to distribute a copy of the letter regarding the ADC once it is finalized. Mr. Hunter requested that the SCL-CAC receives a copy as well.

Mr. Mohajer commented on the LEA's Inspection Report for SCL dated January 13, 2018. Since the Report stated that weather conditions were rainy with strong gusts of winds, he asked if ADC was used during this period. Mr. Mohajer also asked for clarification on specific weather conditions/parameters that would need to be observed in order to stop the use of ADC and requires the operator to revert back to the soil as daily cover. Also, in regard to the reported well-head that popped off, Mr. Mohajer asked if the leachate was discharged into the terminal basin and if so, what were the remedial actions taken to address the issue.

Although Mr. Daniel de la Cruz attended the FPRS meeting, he was unable to address the Subcommittee's concerns. Consequently, Mr. Mohajer requested Staff follow up, in writing, to the LEA requesting for clarification on the FPRS Subcommittee's inquiries regarding the January LEA's Inspection Report. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ruiz stated since the LEA is a member of this Subcommittee, staff will send an email requesting the LEA provide a response. Mr. Mohajer clarified that he wants a written response from the LEA.

#### Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Mr. Michael Harmon provided an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. On December 8, 2017, Staff received Republic Services' Final Evaluation Report for the ICE Demonstration Project. The Final Evaluation Report is currently under review by Public Works.

Staff will provide an update to the subcommittee at the subsequent FPRS meeting.

#### Fourth Quarter 2017 Vegetation Report

Mr. Harmon also provided an update on the 4th Quarter 2017 Sunshine Canyon Landfill Vegetation Report and the February 13, 2018, Sunshine Canyon Landfill Vegetation Group quarterly meeting. Mr. Harmon provided the Subcommittee with the [Staff report](#).

Ms. Landis clarified that the topsoil on the Middle Deck of Deck B was imported.

Mr. Hunter commented on the maintenance of Deck A on the City's side of the landfill, he asked for clarification on what general lack of maintenance meant if it has an impact on the vegetation. Ms. Landis clarified that Deck A has a lot of native plants already and there are soil problems on Deck B and C. Therefore, SCL decided on mending the soil and are cleaning up Deck C and B first. She further explained that the quarterly vegetation site meetings have helped and improvements have been made. Mr. Hunter commended the County for its efforts.

Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of UltraSystems' quarterly independent monitoring report and a summary from Staff, he mentioned that his questions from the previous quarterly report have not been addressed. Mr. Ruiz acknowledged Mr. Mohajer's request and stated that Staff will follow up.

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

Since Mr. Maurice Pantoja did not attend the meeting, Mr. De la Cruz was present in his behalf. However, Mr. De la Cruz did not have any updates to report.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON DPH'S ANALYSIS OF DR. NORDELLA'S ALISO CANYON/PORTER RANCH HEALTH STUDY PRESENTED ON OCTOBER 13, 2017**

Mr. De la Cruz reported that he did not have any information to share at this time.

#### **V. SONOMA TECHNOLOGIES AIR MONITORING CONTRACT AT SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL AND RELATED CORRESPONDENCE**

Ms. Gladys Gallardo presented information requested by the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee at the January meeting. She gave a brief overview of the Air Quality Monitoring performed by Sonoma Technologies, Inc. at the Sunshine

Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School as well as associated correspondences as a result of, and recent items regarding Sunshine Canyon Landfill's Ninth Annual Report of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring at Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School: A Nine-Year Summary from November 22, 2007, to November 21, 2016, prepared by Sonoma Technology, Inc., for the City of Los Angeles Planning Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning on April 2017.

On December 8, 1999, the City of Los Angeles adopted Ordinance No. 172,933. Condition No. [Q] C. 10.a of the ordinance requires the establishment of an Independent Air Quality Consultant. In addition, on February 6, 2007, the County certified an Addendum to the previously certified Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (FSEIR) and the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and approved the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 00-194. Condition 81 of the CUP 00-194 requires the hiring of an Independent Air Quality Consultant to conduct testing of landfill dust and diesel particulates for the surrounding perimeter of the Facility and to conduct testing of landfill gas, dust, and diesel particulates at Van Gogh Elementary School.

The Contract, awarded to Sonoma Technology, Inc., requires analysis and reporting for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (or PM<sub>10</sub>), Black Carbon (or BC), and the contract also includes an option for a one-year Volatile Organic Compound (or VOC) and Carbonyl monitoring. In addition, the Contract contains provisions for modifications, amendments, and termination.

Two comment letters were recently issued by the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-[Community Advisory Committee on November 19, 2017](#), and by the County of Los Angeles Department of [Public Health on January 11, 2018](#), regarding Sonoma Technology's 9th Annual Report of Ambient Air Monitoring.

As requested by the FPRS Subcommittee, Staff's finding was that the SCL-CAC letter requested a review of the air monitoring contract, which was not addressed in Public Health's January 11 letter. The three provisions of the contract that the SCL-CAC commented to on their letter were the quarterly and annual reports "to determine the potential impact" landfill emissions versus other nearby sources, the Comparison of PM<sub>10</sub> concentration with Federal and State standards, and the in-depth annual report, which "characterize the impact" of landfill operations on ambient air quality on a neighborhood scale.

Staff recommended that the Subcommittee consider requesting City Planning and County Regional Planning to review the Air Monitoring Contract in concert with the Ninth Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Report to address any concerns that the SCL-CAC may have. In addition, if they have not done so already, review the recommendations provided by Public Health in their letter dated January 11, 2018, and/or other subsequent correspondence from Public Health regarding their review of the Ninth Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Report.

Mr. Hunter shared that the Public Health letter may be revised.

Although no motion was made during the FPRS meeting, the Subcommittee decided to propose the motion at the Task Force meeting for consideration.

#### **VI. ANTELOPE VALLEY LANDFILL PERMIT REVISION APPLICATION**

Mr. Isaac Reyes Gomez provided the Subcommittee with information regarding Antelope Valley Landfill Permit Revision Application.

At the January 18, 2018, Task Force meeting, the Task Force passed a motion to send a letter to the Antelope Valley Landfill's Operator requesting for a Finding of Conformance Application for the Task Force's Consideration. The letter was sent on February 5, 2018. Staff work with the Operator to assist them with any questions related to this request. Staff will also monitor the status and provide updates to the Subcommittee as necessary.

#### **VII. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL FINDING OF COMFORMANCE**

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with information regarding the Finding of Conformance (FOC) at Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

On January 31, 2018, Chiquita Canyon Landfill submitted the revised FOC application for Public Works' review. However, the accompanied sets of plans were received on February 5, 2018.

Upon reviewing the submitted materials, Staff determined that the package needs more modifications and had missing information. Once Staff receives the missing information Staff will complete the review of the application.

Staff will provide updates on this matter in the subsequent FPRS meeting.

## **VIII. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Mr. Nam Doan provided the Subcommittee with information regarding the Finding of Conformance (FOC) reports submitted by landfill operators, which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills and facilities.

### Fourth Quarter 2017 Monitoring Report for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill

Based on the report, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill received about 514,000 tons in the fourth quarter of 2017. This amount was about 18% less than the third quarter of 2017. The beneficial reuse material was about 249,000 tons. This amount was about 2% more than the third quarter of 2017.

### Fourth Quarter 2017 Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Based on the report, Sunshine Canyon Landfill received about 513,000 tons of landfilled materials in the fourth quarter of 2017. This amount was about 3% less than the third quarter of 2017. During the fourth quarter of 2017, about 39,000 tons of beneficial reuse materials were accepted at the landfill. This amount was about 26% more than the third quarter of 2017.

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

The Commerce Refuse-to-Energy facility received approximately 34,000 tons of refuse during the fourth quarter of 2017, which was about 16% more compared to the third quarter of 2017. Additionally, the facility produced about 6,000 tons of ash in the fourth quarter of 2017, which was about 23% more compared to the third quarter of 2017. Also during the fourth quarter of 2017, the facility produced approximately 24,000 Megawatt-hrs. of energy, which was about 5% more compared to the third quarter of 2017.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Commerce facility mentioned their closing date coming up in June. Mr. Doan replied that Staff did receive information prior to the meeting. Mr. Mohajer requested documentation of this item because he plans to include it on a newsletter article.



## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hunter shared a comment regarding the Monthly Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) reports submitted to the LEA by the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. He stated that the alternative fuel condition under condition 77.A of the Conditional Use Permit for Sunshine Canyon Landfill requires the Landfill to use E-85 fuel in their vehicles so the Landfill produces less emissions. According to SCL, the fueling station has stopped providing fuel since August 2016. He wanted to raise this item for attention in case it has not been addressed. Mr. Mohajer asked Staff if the LEA has communicated anything to Public Works. Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa replied that Staff has not received communication from the LEA regarding this subject.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.