

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

Minutes of March 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
Dorcas Hanson-Lugo, 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
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gladys Gallardo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Isaac Reyes Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
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 11:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 15, 2018, MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Carlos Ruiz made a motion to approve the February 15, 2018 Minutes, with corrections from Ms. Betsey Landis and Mr. Mike Mohajer. It was seconded by Mr. Sam Shammass with one opposition from Mr. Mohajer. It was approved.

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 from AQMD for the month of February 2018 ([LINK](#)).

During the month of February, a total of 18 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 12 of them were No Field Response(s).

- In comparison with January 2018, the number of complaints received in February decreased by 44 percent (from 32 to 18 complaints).
- Compared to February of last year, the number of complaints this February decreased by 93 percent (from 254 to 18 complaints).
- The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009 is 11,051 and the total number of complaints received this year is 50.
- The total number of Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009 is 214. As of March 15, 2018, AQMD has issued 0 NOVs related to odor complaints, to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill for the month of February 2018.

A copy of the latest odor complaint charts by the AQMD, were distributed.

When Ms. Landis inquired on AQMD's odor complaint response procedures, Mr. Hunter mentioned that AQMD only investigates complaints when they receive three complaints calls within an hour. He believes this requirement has brought down the number of complaints, which resulted in the inspectors going out less frequently. Mr. Hunter mentioned that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee is writing and suggesting to AQMD to modify their procedure requirement for an inspector to respond to any number of calls. Ms. Landis stated that she would like information on AQMD's procedures on responding to odor complaints and on handling no field responses.

Mr. Truong reported that per the request of the Subcommittee during the February FPRS meeting, Staff reached out to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and requested for information regarding odor monitoring the LEA conducted at/around the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The LEA had provided a table entitled "Summary of Odors Observed Around the Neighborhood of Sunshine Canyon Landfill During Pilot Project 2016 to 2017" ([LINK](#)). Handouts of the LEA's summary table were provided. Mr. Ruiz inquired about the process the LEA follows when they detect odors. Ms. Hanson-Lugo of the LEA responded that the Landfill Operator would be informed so they can take action to mitigate.

Mr. Truong reported that at the February FPRS meeting, the Subcommittee also requested staff to reach out to AQMD regarding the Notice of Violation that was issued on January 30, 2018, for a violation on May 4, 2017. In summary, AQMD informed Staff that the NOV was not issued for odor complaints but was for burning landfill gas effluent limit exceedances. AQMD continued to monitor the situation since May 2017, to allow the operator time to correct the matter. As the problem continued without being resolved, AQMD issued the Notice of Violation in January 2018.

Update on the use of ADC

Ms. Gladys Gallardo provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

As reported at the previous subcommittee meetings, Public Works is finalizing details in its conditional approval letter to Republic Services extending the pilot project for 1-year. Staff will provide updated information to the Subcommittee once it is made available.

Additionally, as requested by the Subcommittee at the February FPRS meeting, Staff reached out to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for clarification on two items included in the January 2018 Monthly LEA Report, which were clarification on the use of ADC during severe weather conditions and leachate discharge from a well head. The LEA responded to Staff via email on March 12, 2018 ([LINK](#)), and a printed copy of their response was handed out during the meeting. Based on the information provided, Staff will continue to discuss these issues with the LEA for further clarification.

Mr. Mohajer inquired about the extension that Public Works approved to allow Republic Services to use the ADC for another year. Mr. Ruiz clarified that Public Works has not formally granted the extension because Staff was still doing additional verification and a meeting with the operator was held to discuss the matter. After a brief discussion on whether or not Republic is implementing the ADC Pilot Project without Public Works' approval, Mr. Ruiz further elaborated that Public Works has expressed the intent to grant an extension, however, the Department plans on making some modifications to the extension requirements.

Mr. Mohajer, for the record, summed up the discussion by saying that Republic may continue to its ADC Pilot Program based on the requirements stated by Public Works when they approved the ADC Pilot Program for the first twelve months of the pilot project period until notified otherwise by Public Works. Everyone agreed. Mr. Mohajer clarified that the issue was raised because there is no mention of these terms in the existing approval letter(s), and only a verbal understanding expressed between Public Works and Republic. Ms. Landis suggested that it may be good for both entities to have their agreement documented in writing such as through email for their record.

Mr. Mohajer then referred to a letter sent out by Mr. David Thompson of the SCL-LEA dated December 20, 2017, stating that Republic is not to use ADC during extreme weather conditions, but use 9-inches of soil instead, and that the email dated March 12, 2018, from the LEA did not answer the meaning of extreme wind events. As the LEA inspection report did not address whether the Landfill continued to use ADC during the windy days in January, Mr. Mohajer asked Ms. Hanson-Lugo of the LEA if she knew. She indicated that she did not know. Mr. Coyle replied that for that particular day, the Landfill used full cover soil due to strong wind conditions. For the other days, the Landfill used ADC material for cover. Mr. Mohajer requested that Mr. Coyle submit information to Staff regarding which days they used soil and ADC and how much was used because this information should have been documented in the LEA inspection report.

Mr. Mohajer continue to express his frustration that the LEA inspection reports did not provide all of the relevant and necessary information. Information such as soil used at the Landfill as daily cover instead of ADC due to extreme wind conditions, should have been something identified in the LEA inspection report for that specific day. Mr. Mohajer commented that the LEA staff have a daily presence at the site during the operating hours. Mr. Mohajer continued by stating, when the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and the City Ordinance were issued, the County and the City have established additional revenue for SCL LEA staffing to do additional tasks that are beyond the scope of what the LEA (as an “arm” of Cal Recycle) does. As such the SCL-LEA’s tasks and responsibilities extend beyond the enforcement of the Solid Waste Facility Permit.

Mr. Mohajer continued to state that, based on the information provided by the LEA, it is still unknown what exactly determines extreme wind events, such as wind speeds. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ruiz explained that when you read the LEA’s March 12, 2018, email response, it gives the impression that the Landfill operator is making all of the decisions and establishing the standards whereas the Landfill’s Mitigation Monitoring Program establishes the standards for high wind conditions, which are 15-minutes average wind speed in excess of 15 mph, or instantaneous wind speeds that exceed 25 mph. Mr. Mohajer recommended that since Public Works is involved with this issue, he suggested Public Works to write to both Republic and the SCL-LEA and provide the referenced information on extreme wind conditions.

Additionally, Mr. Mohajer had a question regarding the leachate discharged from two well heads at the Landfill, one of 10 gallons and the other of 100 gallons, in January 2018. He requested a response from the SCL LEA on how the Landfill Operator disposed of that leachate. Ms. Landis asked Ms. Hanson-Lugo if she had a comment regarding this, Ms. Hanson-Lugo replied that they cannot enforce conditions in the CUP. As such, they cannot report on those conditions in their inspection reports. Mr. Mohajer disagreed and said the CUP and the City Ordinance are very specific and allow the LEA to handle these other issues, which is the reason for requiring Republic to pay certain fees to Public Health LEA to perform this work.

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, Public Works received Republic Services’ Final Evaluation Report for the ICE

Demonstration Project. Public Works staff is currently finalizing its letter regarding the ICE project. Staff will ensure the Task Force and the Community Advisory Committee obtain a copy of the letter once it is finalized.

Staff will provide an update at a subsequent FPRS meeting regarding this item.

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

Ms. Dorcas Hanson-Lugo reported that issuance of an NOV is on hold and Public Health's recommendation is currently with the Department of Regional Planning. She also mentioned that the level of odor complaints has significantly dropped to a level comparable with other landfills of similar size.

Mr. Mohajer asked Ms. Hanson-Lugo if she believes sending a letter from the Task Force to Regional Planning requesting a status would help. She responded that she didn't know if such a letter would help. After further discussion, it was concluded that Staff will look into the chronology and status of the DPH's NOV recommendation and report back at the next meeting.

Independent Monitor Report (3rd Quarter, 2017)

Ms. Gallardo provided an update and staff report to the Subcommittee members on UltraSystems' 2017 3rd Quarter Report ([LINK](#)).

Regarding Drainage, UltraSystems reported:

- Cell CC-4 Part 2 had a drainage system to a low-point sump and discharge piping installed.
- In early July, the slopes that previously sloughed soil into the Basin A were repaired.
- In late July, Basin A and B were clean and dry
- In mid-August, Basin D was clear of sediment and was dry.

Regarding Odor and Air Quality, UltraSystems reported:

- In July, Localized odors were detected along the access road to Cell CC-3A due to gas well GW 2004, that was observed discharging liquids. BAS repaired the well immediately after Republic was notified. In mid-August, a gas leak was detected at the Flare 1 northern-most gas blower's discharge flange.

- In late September, a landfill liquid transfer pipeline near the west end of the CC-3A slope Closure Turf malfunctioned and leaked liquids onto the dirt access road. The area was covered with soil and treated with deodorizing liquid.

Regarding Erosion and Dust Control, UltraSystems reported:

- In mid-August, drainage in V-ditch above the Flare 1 site had the slope soil sloughed away. The County sage mitigation slope erosion rails had not been repaired and no erosion control wattles were installed.

Regarding Grading, UltraSystems reported:

- In mid-August, Cell CC-4 Part 1 was the active fill area. The Cell CC-4 Part 2 slope seeps and springs were captured and piped to the water recovery system piping.
- The only grading this quarter was for the development of Cell CC-4 Part 2 and the removal of soil for waste cover from stockpiled soil in Cell CC-3A.
- The landfill perimeter boundary PVC pipe survey markers have not been replaced where the Edison pole grading took place, as well as near the Flare 11 site pad grading.

Regarding Landfill Gas Collection, UltraSystems reported:

- The gas-to-energy plant was operating at 100% energy production in July, 100% energy production in mid-August, and 100% energy production in September.

Regarding the Oil Wells and Oil Field Gates, UltraSystems reported:

- The two-abandoned oil well steel casings in the area north of the office site have been covered with stockpiled soil.
- None of the “old abandoned oil well casings adjacent to the new secondary access road from the Flare 11 site” were leaking oils or gas, nor pose a current hazard.

Ms. Gallardo stated UltraSystems’ report concluded that “As shown by the Non-Compliant and Further Review Needed sections in the Report, the landfill is actively working toward being fully compliant with conditions and/or mitigation measures, with no non-compliant conditions observed, as Republic was in the engineering, planning, or implementation phases of each.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned an ongoing item on Ultrasystem's Report, which requested for various plans to be made available for inspection. He asked Mr. Coyle for verification, but Mr. Coyle said he was not aware of this as no one brought it to his attention. He will look into this.

Mr. Mohajer stated his concern regarding a wall on San Fernando Road that needed repair, which was mentioned in the previous report. Mr. Hunter said it was repaired. Mr. Coyle said the repair status will be noted in the fourth quarter.

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

Ms. Hanson-Lugo stated that she did not have any updates to report.

V. ANTELOPE VALLEY LANDFILL PERMIT REVISION APPLICATION

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

On February 5, 2018, Staff sent a Task Force letter for Antelope Valley Landfill's consideration due to a permit revision for the facility.

Staff contacted the Antelope Valley Landfill's operator on March 6, 2018, requesting a status update on the Finding of Conformance Application. On March 12, 2018, the Landfill's operator responded that the FOC application will be submitted to Staff for review by the end of this month. Staff will review the submittal and provide updates on this matter at the next FPRS meeting.

Mr. Mohajer stated that he would like to have a copy of all written communication between Staff and the Landfill included in the mailout packets.

VI. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with an update regarding Chiquita Canyon Landfill Finding of Conformance.

As presented at the last FPRS meeting, Chiquita Canyon Landfill needs to submit more information to complete an FOC package. Staff communicated these deficiencies with the Landfill on February 20 and March 5, 2018, and the Landfill's

operator informed Staff that they will provide the complete FOC application by the end of this month.

Staff will review the resubmittal and provide updates on this matter at the next FPRS meeting.

VII. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS

Mr. Nam Doan had no current updates to report. Updates will be provided at the next FPRS meeting.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that he is aware that the City of Commerce sent out the announcement letter regarding the facility's closure. He nor any of the Subcommittee Member received a copy. He told Staff last month that he needed a copy because he intends to include an article in *Inside Solid Waste Newsletter*. Mr. Ruiz stated that the letter came in one or two days ago, and Staff will provide a copy to the Subcommittee Members.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.