

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

Minutes for June 21, 2018

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, Chair, General Public Representative
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, 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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Reyna Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Brenda Eells, Jacobs
Steve Cassulo, Chiquita Canyon
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gladys Gallardo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Dennis Montano, Sunshine Canyon Landfill
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carol Oyola, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Vu Truong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. Ms. Landis, Chair, was not in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 21, 2018, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes from the May 17, 2018, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Mohajer, with a minor correction, and seconded by Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Truong provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the month of May 2018 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of May, a total of 5 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and all of them were No Field Response(s).
- In comparison with April 2018, the number of complaints received in May, decreased by 44 percent, from 9 to 5 complaints.
- Compared to May of last year, the number of complaints this May decreased by 74 percent, from 19 to 5 complaints.
- The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009 is 11,086 and the total number of complaints received this year is 85.
- The total number of Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009 is 214. As of June 14, 2018, AQMD has issued zero Odor Complaint NOVs to SCL for the month of May 2018.

Mr. Mohajer asked if a letter had been written to AQMD asking about changes to their monitoring schedule. Mr. Esparza responded that staff has reached out to AQMD a few times to verify their current procedure. AQMD responded that the total number of odor complaints is still the total number of complaints received. The difference is their response to those complaints.

Mr. Mohajer stated there is a difference because of the potential for NOVs. He proposed a letter be written to AQMD asking them to address the question and provide a written response. Mr. Mohajer motioned the letter be written to AQMD

and Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. Mr. Mohajer stated the letter should be sent as soon as possible due to the upcoming SCL hearing being held by the AQMD, the following Tuesday.

Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project

Mr. Harmon provided update of the ICE Project at SCL. On December 8, 2017, Public Works received Republic Services' Final Evaluation Report for the ICE Demonstration Project. Public Works sent a letter to Republic Services commenting on the ICE Project Evaluation Report. Republic Services provided a revised report. Public Works provided comments to Republic Services in a letter dated June 5, 2018. A copy of the letter was provided via email to Task Force members on June 6, 2018. Staff will provide an update to this item at a subsequent meeting.

Department of Public Health (DPH) NOV recommendation based on Order to Abate dated November 9, 2016

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota stated there was no update since the last meeting.

Mr. Mohajer asked details about the recommended NOV. Mr. Ruiz' stated Public Health made the recommendation to Regional Planning and because the operator was implementing the measures to reduce the odors, both Regional Planning and Public Health decided to wait and monitor the progress. Therefore, Regional Planning has not issued the NOV.

Mr. Mohajer recommended Staff following up with Regional Planning to provide a resolution to this outstanding item.

1st Quarter 2018 Vegetation Report

Mr. Harmon provided update on the 1st Quarter 2018 SCL Vegetation Report and the June 5, 2018, meeting of the SCL vegetation meeting group.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck C

- Saltbush is the dominant cover. The native species: Encelia californica, Artemisia, and Salvia were currently in bloom; regeneration is visible.
- Weed growth was moderately high. Dense brome mats and flowering mustard were observed in high concentrations.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B

- The Deck B construction began in April. The planting and seeding phase of the project has been delayed due to poor soil conditions. Although modeling the project area after Deck C, soil pH is low (2-3 current, 5-6 ideal) and salinity is high. The operator plans to leach potable water through the soil horizon and add lime soil amendments to improve soil conditions.
- Seeding and planting of Deck B is anticipated to take place in the 4th Quarter 2018 report.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A

- The upper deck is covered with native and non-native vegetation. Total vegetation coverage is patchy due to compacted and poor soil conditions.
- Wild oat, brome grass, and mustard dominate the non-native cover. Buckwheat is dominant native plant.

County Side Sage Mitigation Area

- California buckwheat species were in highest concentration. The northern portion exhibits striations of rocky (hydrophobic) soil conditions, soil erosion, and boron toxic soils. Republic Services will be improving erosion control measures on the slope.

Hydroseeding Trial Project

- A trial hydroseeding project was initiated in April 2017, utilizing the new hydroseed mix approved by the County and City of Los Angeles in February 2017. Currently, 57 acres of the intermediate slope area was completed in December 2017.
- Species of Encelia and Lupin were in highest concentration.

Mr. Mohajer stated this is an ongoing process and would like to see something similar to Puente Hills Landfill (PHL) and asked how close we are to seeing SCL similar to PHL, as far as the vegetation.

Mr. Ruiz responded that there has been a change in the approach to the final cover. The type of vegetation at PHL requires more water. There was a plan to use native vegetation at SCL. He also mentioned that the Oak trees that were planted around the rim of the canyon did fairly well. It is the planting area near the disposal area and on the closed portions of the landfill that are more challenging.

Update on the use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)

Mr. Truong provided an update on the ADC pilot project for the SCL. Public Works sent a conditional approval letter to Republic Services, dated April 10, 2018, extending the ADC pilot project for another year, to October 25, 2018. Staff had previously reached out to Republic Services in mid-May, on the status of the ADC monthly report. On May 30, 2018, Public Works staff followed-up with Republic Services to discuss and clarify the ADC reporting requirements based on Public Works' conditional approval letter. Based on the discussion, Republic Services was unclear that ADC monthly reports were needed, and it was agreed that they would prepare ADC monthly reports starting the month of June. Once Public Works receives the ADC report for June, an update will be provided at the subsequent FPRS.

Mr. Mohajer asked if Public Works was okay with the issue. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) state regulations are different from Public Works requirements. Public Works' requirements are still in effect. Staff's understanding is that Republic has to comply with Public Works requirements because they are more restrictive. Discussion ensued.

Finding of Conformance (FOC) – SCL Joint Technical Document (JTD) Amendment

Ms. Gallardo provided an update on the amendment application package dated May 29, 2018. She stated that the proposed amendment to the JTD requested the following changes:

- Daily cover operations to include the use of a non-reusable geosynthetic panel product as an ADC, as approved by the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA). Use of the ADC is requested for periods of up to 48 hours prior to placement of additional refuse or other approved cover as supported by the Pilot Project Using Geosynthetic Panel Product, dated October 11, 2017.
- Daily cover description has been revised to clarify that a minimum of six inches of daily cover soil are used whenever ADC is not used and that in an effort to enhance landfill gas extraction system performance and conserve on-site soil usage, the minimum 6-inch cover is peeled back to approximately one-inch prior to placement of the day's waste. The recovered soil is stockpiled for use as daily cover at the end of the day.

Regarding the applicability of a FOC, Chapter 10 of the Countywide Siting Element (CSE) requires that existing solid waste disposal facilities that institute a "significant change" must obtain an FOC. A "significant change" is defined as:

- any change in the solid waste disposal facility's land use permit/conditional use permit, or Waste Discharge Requirements Permit...;
- any revision in the facility's Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP); or
- any increase in daily permitted capacity as defined in Chapter 3 of the CSE.

According to Republic Services' proposed package, the application did not constitute a change in the facilities CUP or WDR; an increase to daily permitted capacity; nor a revision to the SWFP. Furthermore, Staff reached out to the LEA regarding the SWFP, and the LEA stated an RFI Amendment was being processed, which they anticipated sending to the State for review by the end of the week or early the following week.

Additionally, staff looked into the issue of an FOC in late 2015, which ultimately resulted in a letter dated November 30, 2015, from the Task Force to Republic Services. The Task Force letter stated the following, "The Task Force has consulted with counsel regarding the requirement for a revised FOC...The Task Force has determined that a revision to the Landfill's existing FOC is not necessary at this time."

Mr. Ruiz clarified that the proposed amendment to the JTD does not require revision to the SWFP. Therefore, it does not require the FOC.

Mr. Hunter commented the request to use ADC for up to 48 hours conflicts with the current requirement of placing soil cover at the end of operations on Saturday. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota confirmed that on Saturdays, the Landfill has to use the soil as daily cover and the use of ADC for up to 48 hours is acceptable during the weekdays. Mr. Hunter asked if ADC is already used in daily operations what was the reason for requesting up to 48 hours. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota responded that there is a mechanism to address a problem during the week versus on Sunday, when SCL is not open. She also stated that the SCL-LEA had responded to Republic Services' application package stating that the use of ADC is acceptable for up to 48 hours except on Saturdays.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned that the application package, which states "The recovered soil is stockpiled for use as daily cover at the end of the day," was also unclear. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota clarified that it was referring to the case when ADC is not used.

First Semi-Annual 2018 FOC Waste Characterization Report

Mr. Reyes-Gomez reported on the First Semi-Annual 2018 Waste Characterization Report for the SCL dated June 11, 2018. In comparison to the previous waste characterization report, about 35 percent more paper-waste and 11 percent less plastics-waste were received at the SCL for this reporting period. The majority of the waste received was in the organics.

Mr. Mohajer stated the study was to be done in March and September. It was done on May 22 to May 25, 2018, so they were not in compliance. Mr. Mohajer also commented during the four days, they received from residential sources 1,242 tons of household hazardous waste. From commercial sources, they received 270 tons of household hazardous waste. From industrial sources, they received 174 tons of household hazardous waste, total of approximately 1,700 tons of household hazardous waste in four days. Mr. Mohajer asked if SCL is allowed to accept hazardous waste. Mr. Ruiz responded no Class- III landfill is permitted to allow hazardous waste. However, there is some incidental quantities that go through, about one half percent. Mr. Mohajer stated staff needs to communicate with Republic Services and ask them the specifics and ask what they did with the hazardous waste and where the material was disposed of.

Mr. Hunter commented that he has observed, in the past, that approximately 40 more long haul trucks showed up at the facility and he was not sure where they came from.

Mr. Mohajer stated that generally CUP allows an increase in the daily tonnage limits in the event of an emergency, and asked Mr. Ruiz and Mr. Aiyetiwa if LEA submitted a request. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota responded that the LEA can make a temporary waiver based on emergencies to protect public health and the environment. Mr. Mohajer asked if CUP required that Public Works grant approval. Mr. Aiyetiwa answered no. Mr. Mohajer asked for a motion to send a letter to Republic Services asking them about quantity of hazardous waste and how they manage it. Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Chiquita Canyon Landfill FOC

Mr. Reyez-Gomez stated the existing FOC was issued by the Task Force on February 19, 1998. The Landfill has undergone an expansion and obtained a new land use permit. A new FOC is required per the Countywide Siting Element document and as part of Condition No. 100 of the new CUP. Mr. Reyez-Gomez stated the LEA is currently working on the issuance of the new SWFP. According to Water Board staff, they will try to approve the WDR permit by November 2018 or earlier. Mr. Reyez-Gomez also displayed maps depicting landfill boundaries, its surroundings, waste footprint for existing and proposed structures. He stated the Chiquita Canyon Landfill may receive waste during the following times:

- Upon Effective Date of the CUP through December 31, 2024:
Monday – Saturday from 4:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Effective January 2025 through 2047:
Monday – Saturday from 5:00 am to 5:00 pm

Mr. Mohajer stated this project requires more than one hour of discussion. He asked if committee members are willing to meet with consultant for a couple of hours in the morning or afternoon to discuss Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Mr. Ruiz stated staff can schedule a special meeting to go over FOC.

Mr. Mohajer stated that staff had forwarded a copy of a letter from the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Operator suggesting changes to the draft FOC Conditions base on the premises that some of these CUP conditions are being challenged in the court. However, that is a separate process. At this time, the Task Force is inclined to proceed with Staff's recommendation and will be discussing those conditions at the upcoming special meeting to go over the FOC.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 19, 2018, in Conference Room B.

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