

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

**Minutes for July 19, 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  
John Kaddis, 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  
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Reyna Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brenda Eells, Jacobs  
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  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, 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  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Isaac Reyes Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:10 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 June 21, 2018, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Ruiz, with a minor correction, and seconded by Mr. Kaddis. 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 June 2018 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of June, a total of 9 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and all of them were No Field Response(s).
- In comparison with May 2018, the number of complaints received in June increased from 5 to 9 complaints.
- Compared to June of last year, the number of complaints this June decreased by from 10 to 9 complaints.
- The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009 is 11,095 and the total number of complaints received this year is 94.
- The total number of Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009 is 214. As of July 3, 2018, AQMD has issued zero Odor Complaint NOVs to SCL for the month of June 2018.

Mr. Mohajer stated the Task Force received a response letter on July 18, 2018, from AQMD in response to the Task Force letter dated June 27, 2018, requesting clarification on AQMD procedures. Mr. Mohajer commented that the Task Force position, as far as verification is concerned for SCL, is they should use the same procedure and that AQMD's letter is not responsive to the questions the Task Force asked. Mr. Ruiz stated according to AQMD, the number of complaints reported have not changed, only when the inspectors are sent out has changed. Mr. Mohajer added the NOVs are issued based on verifying the number of complaints and if they do not verify the complaints, then they cannot issue an NOV. Mr. Nguyen commented that according to AQMD's Attorney, Mr. Nick Sanchez, the district will be sending a representative to the afternoon Task Force meeting to answer questions related to the District's response and that would provide opportunities for the members to ask questions related to the subject. Mr. Mohajer

replied he wants something in writing. If AQMD does not verify the same way they did back in 2013, then they need to add a comment that they have changed their methodology at SCL. Mr. Ruiz stated that since AQMD's response was received by staff one day ago, he requested staff to review the letter and provide an update at the next FPRS meeting.

#### Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project

Ms. Gallardo provided an 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, and subsequently Republic submitted a revised report. Public Works provided additional comments to Republic Services' revised report in a letter dated June 5, 2018. Republic Services provided a response to the comment letter on July 5, 2018, which is under review by Public Works.

#### Update on the use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)

Ms. Gallardo provided an update on the Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Project at the SCL for the month of June 2018.

Staff received the ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic Services on July 16, 2018, for the month of June 2018. Republic Services reported that site operations personnel are ensuring additional ballast material is placed along the edges of the ADC as noted on the daily inspection reports. The amount of geosynthetic panel product used for June 2018, was 25.5 rolls. It is estimated there continues to be a 40 percent reduction in the use of soil used for daily cover in the month of June 2018, from using the geosynthetic panel product instead of soil.

During this period, it was reported that there were no observations of fires, vectors, or blowing litter at the working face related to the use of the ADC material. However, one occurrence was observed for scavenging and two punctures were observed in the ADC during the month of June 2018.

Additionally, SCL-LEA sent a letter to CalRecycle dated June 29, 2018, regarding SCL Report for Facility Information (RFI) Amendment application package.

Mr. Mohajer asked about the one instance where scavenging was observed in the ADC. Ms. Gallardo responded there was one occurrence observed for scavenging caused by ravens and crows poking on the plastic. Mr. Mohajer asked if the Landfill is still using soil reduced by 40 percent compared to what was used before. Ms. Gallardo answered yes. Mr. Ruiz requested that an actual reduction

percentage and quantity be provided at next meeting. Ms. Gallardo said she would follow up with Republic Services for the amount. Discussion ensued.

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

Mr. Kaddis reported no update. He stated the item was issued as a recommendation and they have no further steps to amend. Mr. Kaddis also stated they noticed a significant decrease in the number of odor complaints. Mr. Mohajer stated that Public Health had written a letter to Regional Planning indicating there was an odor nuisance and asked Regional Planning to issue an NOV. Mr. Mohajer commented there needs to be a follow up with Regional Planning and something needs to be put in writing in order to close the recommendation.

1st Quarter 2018 Independent Monitoring Report

Mr. Harmon provided an update on the 1st Quarter 2018 Independent Monitoring Report for SCL prepared by UltraSystems on May 25, 2018 ([LINK](#)).

Regarding Erosion and Dust Control, UltraSystems reported:

- Blowing dust is a potential concern on temporary construction or access roads that are used intermittently. In mid-February dust was observed coming from the Old City North top deck, CC-3B deck, and County top deck.
- In early January, heavy rain caused slope erosion on the CC-3A slope and by late-January, the erosion rills were repaired. Erosion rills on eastern vegetated slopes of CC-3B and CC-3A, County top deck and bowl; straw waddles were not buried when installed and water flowed beneath them.
- In mid-March, there was significant amount of slope erosion at the western and eastern edges of the Closure Turf and soil interface. The Closure Turf showed no apparent impact. Erosion that was observed on western and eastern edges of slopes were repaired by late-March. Posi-shell covered areas that were impacted by erosion during previous rain events, was repaired. Over all, there was a minimal amount of areas not repaired.

Regarding Grading, UltraSystems reported:

- By March, Cell CC-4 Part 3 Stability buttress plans were approved by Public Works and biological surveys were conducted.
- Cells CC-4 Parts 1 and 2 have been filling simultaneously since late January 2018. Slopes with previous erosion rills at the backs of both cells were sprayed with Posi-shell to control erosion.

- 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.
- Throughout the 1st Quarter of 2018, a paleontologist was monitoring grading activities in and adjacent to Cell CC-4 Part 2 and Part 3 construction when grading in native, undisturbed areas.

Regarding Landfill Gas Collection, UltraSystems reported:

- During the month of January, the gas-to-energy plant was at partial production due to equipment maintenance. The energy production in the months of February and March, was at full operation.

Regarding Drainage, UltraSystems reported:

- On January 9, 2018, one of three outlet structures in the terminal basins was compromised and caused an uncontrolled release of sediment during the January 9, 2018 storm event. The riser has since been repaired and reinforced.
- Following the January storms, ponding water was observed over inactive portions of the site and in the CC-4 Part 2 lined drainage berm. This was pumped and hauled into the sewer connection.
- By March, the terminal basin was near maximum water-holding capacity. However, efforts have been made and it is currently at about 20 percent.

Regarding Odor and Air Quality, UltraSystems reported:

- In late March, the gas recovery system at the leachate tank farm was not recovering all the vapors resulting in a localized vapor odor near the tanks. Vapor recovery was recommended to be increased when filling tanks.
- The odor monitor did not detect any landfill related odors in the Granada Hills Community during this monitoring period.

Mr. Mohajer asked about the terminal basin. Mr. Ruiz further asked exactly what did the term “compromise” entail in the report. Mr. Harmon answered there are three risers in terminal basin that allow clear water to flow through the riser while sediment filters out below the risers. The filter above was compromised and a portion on top of the riser was also compromised, allowing sediment to flow in and also into the drainage culvert. Mr. Mohajer asked if there was runoff from that particular basin and Mr. Harmon responded no, the flow was diverted to the culvert.

Mr. Mohajer inquired about when the existing contract with UltraSystems will expire and if it will be renewed, revised differently, or dropped. Mr. Nguyen responded that there was discussion about renewing the contract that expires in August at the Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting held on July 10, 2018.

Mr. Mohajer stated that no copy of the letter was provided to Public Works regarding renewal of the contract and when negotiations will take place from UltraSystems. Mr. Nguyen's understanding was that the current contract is scheduled to be renewed, and after the expiration, they will have a special meeting to discuss. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Nguyen stated that staff has reached out to the City contract manager to include Public Works in future correspondence.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned the Task Force wrote a letter to Water Board questioning the discharge of leachate and landfill gas condensate back into the landfill and staff had distributed a copy of the letter from the Water Board to the Subcommittee. Mr. Mohajer suggested both the Water Board and AQMD response letters be placed on the following months agenda. Mr. Mohajer also commented on the June SCL-LEA Monthly Report, including the increase of frequency of spill occurrences reported.

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

Mr. Kaddis stated he was informed that there was no update. Mr. Mohajer commented this has been ongoing since October 13, 2017, and asked the subcommittee if this would be an appropriate time to write to DPH asking them for the status. Discussion ensued and Mr. Ruiz stated that for the benefit of the members, staff will provide a brief summary of the issue at next month's meeting.

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

Mr. Reyes-Gomez provided Subcommittee with update for Antelope Valley Landfill Permit Revision Application.

Staff received the Finding of Conformance (FOC) application for Antelope Valley Landfill due to the revision to their permit on May 7, 2018. Staff reviewed the FOC application and provided comments to the Landfill's operator on June 26, 2018. Staff received the revised FOC Application on July 16, 2018, and is currently reviewing the application and will provide updates on this matter in the next FPRS Meeting.

Mr. Mohajer asked when the information is ready to be presented to subcommittee for review, if it would be similar to Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) presentation with folder of drawings, boundaries, etc. Mr. Reyes-Gomez confirmed it will be similar.

## **VI. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL FOC**

Mr. Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with an update regarding the Chiquita Canyon Landfill FOC.

The FOC was considered at the June 21, 2018, Facility and Plan Review Committee (FPRS) Meeting. The FPRS continued its consideration of the FOC at a special meeting held on Tuesday, July 17, 2018. At this special meeting, the FPRS voted to recommend the Task Force to grant the FOC. Staff has scheduled an item on the afternoon Task Force Agenda for the members to consider this item.

Mr. Mohajer added he will present the item to the Task Force and recommend the Task Force grant the FOC and will ask staff to give an informative summary of this landfill with nothing technical.

## **VII. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Mr. Reyes-Gomez stated staff received the Second Quarter 2018 Monitoring Report for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill on July 13, 2018. Staff is currently reviewing the report and will provide an update on the matter at the next FPRS meeting.

Mr. Ruiz asked, regarding the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy, if it was officially closed. Mr. Shammass answered yes. Mr. Ruiz recalled that the operation itself was not entirely self-sustaining and was a burden to the Sanitation District. It was a resource to cities in a sense that it provided diversion credit up to 10 percent of their waste generation for the material sent to that facility and so jurisdictions are the ones that are losing, but the Sanitation District is saving money. Mr. Shammass stated that old contracts expired and new contracts had lower rates. The Sanitation District tried to raise tipping fees to compensate. Mr. Mohajer commented that the City made the decision to get rid of the facility. They have a buyer and businesses that want to take over. Therefore, raising more tax revenue for the City.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hunter commented on the logging of special occurrences for SCL. Mr. Hunter stated he did not see any mention of rain nor high wind events under special occurrences of the monthly SCL-LEA report, and he recalled seeing such events noted under special occurrences in the past. Mr. Hunter inquired on the County's requirement of special occurrences, and discussion ensued. According to Mr. Hunter, he asked Republic Services if they would include events such as rain or high winds under special occurrences and they responded it is not a requirement of Title 27.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, 2018, at Public Works Headquarters Alhambra Room.

CSO