

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

Minutes for August 16, 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
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Reyna Pereira, City of Los Angeles
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative*

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chris Coyle, Republic
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gladys Gallardo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Margarita Quiroz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carol Oyola, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Sonia Terry, Public Citizen
Vu Truong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Isaac Reyes Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Maria Carlson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative*

* Designates participants over the telephone

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:24 a.m. Ms. Landis, Chair, participated as a member of the public via telephone since her site address was not included in the August 16, Meeting Agenda.

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 21, 2018, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes from the July 17, 2018, special Subcommittee Meeting regarding Chiquita Canyon Landfill and the Minutes from the July 19, 2018, Subcommittee Meeting as made by Mr. Ruiz and seconded by Mr. Shammass. The motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints and Response Letter from South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Dated July 18, 2018

Ms. Gallardo provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from AQMD for the month of July 2018 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of July, a total of 16 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 8 of them were categorized as No Field Response.
- In comparison with June 2018, the number of complaints received in July increased from 9 to 16 complaints.
- Compared to July of last year, the number of complaints this July increased from 14 to 16 complaints.
- The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009, was 11,111 and the total number of complaints received this year was 110.
- The total number of Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009, was 214. As of August 8, 2018, AQMD issued zero Odor Complaint NOVs to Sunshine Canyon Landfill for the month of July 2018.

A copy of the latest odor complaint charts by the AQMD and a copy of the graphs prepared by staff displaying “Odor Complaints Vs. NOVs, Surface Gas Emissions, and Leachate Generation” were provided. The information on the graphs was obtained from monthly AQMD and LEA reports, as well as monthly and quarterly reports prepared by Republic Services.

Additionally, Ms. Gallardo mentioned that on July 18, 2018, the AQMD responded to the Task Force letter dated June 27, 2017, requesting clarification on the odor complaint responding procedures for Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Staff reviewed AQMD’s letter, and when compared to the Task Force’s request, staff found that

AQMD's letter responded to some of the Task Force's concerns. However, the following were some pending questions for AQMD:

- What are the District's policies and procedures in responding to odor complaints at the Landfill since 2009 to present, for regular operating hours?
- When did any changes take effect?

Based on the findings, Ms. Gallardo stated a follow-up with AQMD may be needed to fully address the Task Force's concerns.

Mr. Mohajer motioned writing another letter to AQMD with the aforementioned questions. Mr. Ruiz seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Water Board Response Letter Regarding Leachate Disposal

Ms. Gallardo gave an update on the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) response letter dated July 12, 2018, to the Task Force.

The Task Force sent a letter to the Water Board on May 31, 2018, requesting clarification on the requirements for untreated leachate and gas condensate disposal requirements at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Staff received the Water Board's response letter on July 16, 2018, and subsequently, the letter was disseminated to the Task Force.

Based on the subcommittee's request, staff reviewed the Water Board's response letter and had the following comments:

1. According to the information provided in the letter, the Landfill operator is permitted to manage the leachate and gas condensate by direct return to the Landfill's waste mass in accordance with the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR). The letter continues to make the following statement "Disposal of leachate or gas condensate by direct return to the landfill's waste mass, although permitted under the WDR, has never been practiced at the landfill". This statement appeared to not coincide with information reported on the Monthly LEA reports. Based on the LEA reports, on some occasions, the Landfill disposes the impacted soils, from incidental spills of Landfill leachate and gas condensate, to the waste mass. Therefore, the Water Board's statement needs clarification; and
2. Is the untreated leachate or gas condensate generated by Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Class III-Landfill, considered hazardous waste? If so, can it be disposed of at the Landfill?

Ms. Gallardo suggested a follow-up may be needed with the Water Board to address the subcommittee's concerns.

Mr. Ruiz asked Ms. Gallardo to describe the three methods the Water Board's response letter says can be used. Ms. Gallardo responded that in the Water Board's letter it states that Section J.1 of the WDR requires that leachate and gas condensate at the Landfill shall be managed in one or more of the following ways:

- a. By removal from the site to a legal point of disposal, such as a municipal wastewater treatment plant.
- b. By treatment in the wastewater treatment facility at the Landfill and reused on-site.
- c. By direct return to the landfill's waste mass under the conditions of Section J.3. of the WDR. Section B.2. of the WDR prohibits the discharge of semi-solid wastes, wastes with less than 50 percent of solids, at the Landfills.

Mr. Ruiz commented the need for clarification because the WDR allows the disposal of the leachate into the Landfill, then it needs to be determined whether or not the leachate is hazardous waste.

Mr. Ruiz's understanding was that for large quantity spills, the liquid was collected and taken to the treatment facility. For small quantity spills that essentially get absorbed into the soil, the operator would remove the soil and take it to the disposal area and bury it with the trash. Mr. Mohajer mentioned the Water Board's letter did not include at what point the operator was allowed to dispose of gas condensate and leachate back into the Landfill.

Mr. Ruiz motioned sending a letter to the Water Board from the Task Force seeking clarification for leachate and gas condensate and if it is considered hazardous waste, what the threshold is for disposal back into the Landfill, and if the operator is complying with all requirements for disposal of these substances. Mr. Mohajer seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Update on the Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Project

Mr. Truong provided an update of the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL). Staff received the ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic Services on August 14, 2018, for the month of July 2018. Republic 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 July 2018 was 22.6 rolls. During this period, it was reported that there were no observations of

fires, vectors, scavenging or blowing litter at the working face related to the use of the ADC material for the month of July 2018.

Mr. Mohajer summarized Mr. Truong's report to conclude that based on the report, everything appears to be functioning properly. Mr. Truong concurred.

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

Staff's Update

Mr. Esparza provided an update regarding the Department of Regional Planning's response letter dated August 1, 2018, to the Task Force.

On July 25, 2018, the Task Force sent a letter to the Department of Regional Planning, requesting a status update regarding the Department Public Health's referral to Regional Planning for the issuance of an NOV to Republic Services for odor nuisance at the SCL. Regional Planning responded to the Task Force in a letter dated August 1, 2018, which was disseminated to the committee members. Regional Planning's response letter stated the following: the operator of the SCL is subject to a number of requirements aimed at reducing odor nuisance at the Landfill, and both Departments of Regional Planning and Public Health have agreed to closely monitor the operator's progress in relation to odor complaints prior to issuing an NOV. At this time, Regional Planning has not issued an NOV based on Public Health's referral.

Both Mr. Mohajer and Mr. Ruiz agreed that the response letter from Regional Planning is only stating that they have not yet made the decision of putting closure to the recommended NOV, but simply continuing to monitor the issue.

Mr. Mohajer asked who signed the response letter and Mr. Esparza answered Mr. Dennis Slavin, Chief Deputy Director of Regional Planning. Mr. Mohajer suggested sending a letter to Regional Planning thanking them for their response, but that the matter was left open. In addition, because a decision has not been made on the matter, to request a semi-annual update. Mr. Ruiz motioned to send the letter and Mr. Shammas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DPHs Update

No representative from Public Health was present to provide an update on this matter.

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

Mr. Esparza was requested by the subcommittee to provide a brief summary of the request made from the Task Force to Public Health regarding the Aliso Canyon Health Study.

Mr. Esparza stated following the Aliso Canyon natural gas blowout incident, an independent health study was performed by Dr. Jeffrey Nordella, a physician practicing in the Porter Ranch community. In October 2017, Dr. Nordella presented symptomatic and specimen-based data from patients under his care observed from October 2016 to August 2017. Staff provided a presentation for this item at the November 2017 FPRS meeting. At that meeting, the subcommittee requested Public Health to report back on their analysis and actions taken regarding Dr. Nordella's study. Staff followed up in January 2018, regarding the subcommittee's request. Since then, the item has been reoccurring on FPRS Agenda.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned a recent settlement agreement made a couple weeks ago between the County, City, and State, with Southern California Gas which he forwarded a copy of the agreement to staff. Discussion ensued and Mr. Mohajer suggested the Task Force send a letter to Public Health asking them to address the previous health study conducted by Dr. Nordella in concert with the new health study stipulated by the recent settlement agreement. Mr. Shammass made the motion and was second by Mr. Ruiz. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hunter commented that based on what he read, he believed the proposed health study would be very extensive for that area.

Mr. Mohajer announced there was no representative present from Public Health, and therefore no further updated was provided on this matter.

V. UPDATE ON ANTELOPE VALLEY LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE (FOC)

Mr. Reyes-Gomez provided an update on Antelope Valley Landfill FOC. Staff received the FOC application for Antelope Valley Landfill due to 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. Upon review of the revised FOC application, more information from the Landfill was needed. Staff

received the required information on August 7, 2018, and is currently reviewing the materials and will provide updates in the next FPRS meeting.

VI. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS

Mr. Reyes-Gomez provided update on the FOC reports submitted by landfill operators, which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills: the Second Quarter 2018 Status Report for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill and the First Quarter 2018 FOC Monitoring Report for the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility.

The Second Quarter 2018 Status Report for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill was disseminated on July 30, 2018.

- The report provides detailed information of incoming tonnages broken down by various sources, such as residential and commercial, as well as material types during the second quarter of 2018. Based on the report, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill received 564,670 tons in the second quarter of 2018. This amount was about 10 percent more than the first quarter of 2018, during which the total tonnage received was 514,900 tons.
- The total tonnage of MRF fines diverted from disposal during the second quarter of 2018 was 40,020 tons, which was about 17 percent more compared to the first quarter of 2017, during which about 34,350 tons of MRF fines were diverted.

Staff received the First Quarter 2018 FOC Monitoring Report for the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility dated April 27, 2018.

- The report provides the number of loads and tonnages of refuse received for combustion, the amount of energy produced, and the treated ash tonnages during the 1st Quarter of 2018. Based on the report, the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy facility received approximately 26,903 tons during the 1st quarter of 2018, which was about 6 percent less compared to the 1st Quarter of 2017.
- Also during the 1st Quarter of 2018, the facility produced a total of approximately 21,490 megawatt-hours of energy, which was about 26 percent less compared to the 1st Quarter of 2017.
- Additionally, the facility produced about 4,547 tons of ash in the 1st Quarter of 2018, which was about 13 percent more compared to the 1st Quarter of 2017.

Mr. Ruiz asked if the 564,000 tons for Chiquita Canyon on the 2nd Quarter of 2018, report was for disposal. Mr. Reyes-Gomez said the figure was for total daily inbound and that the disposal was 385,190 tons.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018.

CSO