

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

**Minutes for September 20, 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  
Reyna Pereira, City of Los Angeles  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiya, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave 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  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Dennis Montano, Republic Services  
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  
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

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

Mr. Mohajer noted the lack of attendance from the Department of Public Health at both last month's and this month's Subcommittee Meetings and suggested that Mr. Ruiz contact the Department of Public Health to discuss the issue.

## **II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 16, 2018, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes from the August 16, 2018, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Ruiz and seconded by Mr. Shamma. The motion passed unanimously.

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

### Odor Complaints

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

- During the month of August, a total of 6 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 4 of them were categorized as No Field Response.
- In comparison with July 2018, the number of complaints received in August decreased from 16 to 6 complaints.
- Compared to August of last year, the number of complaints this August decreased from 30 to 6 complaints.
- The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009, was 11,117 and the total number of complaints received this year was 116.
- The total number of Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009, was 214. As of September 13, 2018, AQMD issued zero Odor Complaint NOVs to SCL for the month of August 2018.

At the August 2018 Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee meeting, a motion was made to send a response letter to AQMD requesting further clarification regarding their odor complaint procedures. Subsequently during the afternoon Task Force meeting, Mr. Aspell from AQMD agreed to provide a more detailed response at the September 2018 Task Force meeting. As a result, the Task Force members agreed that a follow-up letter to AQMD was not needed at that time.

Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Ms. Gallardo provided an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project (ICE), regarding the use of Posi-Shell material at the SCL.

Based on the ICE Demonstration Project Final Evaluation Report submitted by Republic Services (Republic) and subsequent revisions and clarifications provided, Republic does not have any specific plans for continued future use of Posi-Shell at the SCL. Other Intermediate Cover Enhancements such as the Closure Turf and Vegetative Cover will continue to be utilized at the site. Public Works was finalizing its response letter to Republic and will ask them to continue to keep Public Works informed of any potential future use of the Posi-Shell material at the Landfill, and any request for permanent use of Posi-Shell at the Landfill would require Public Works approval. Additionally, as the ICE demonstration project is completed, staff requests the subcommittee consider removing this from a standing agenda item. However, Staff will provide updates as new information arises.

Mr. Ruiz asked if Republic mentioned in the Final Evaluation Report why they decided to discontinue the use of Posi-Shell. Ms. Gallardo answered that it appeared that the data from the demonstration project, such as surface gas emission testing, did not fully support the effectiveness of the Posi-Shell material in meeting the project's objectives. Therefore, Republic has no specific plans for continued future use of the material.

Mr. Mohajer stated that Public Works has been involved with the approval process of the ICE project for quite some time, but he could not recall what the project contained. Ms. Gallardo stated Republic was using Posi-Shell, a material similar to stucco, that was sprayed over the intermediate slopes for odor control. Mr. Mohajer stated since Public Works was reviewing the ICE project, was the use of the material approved. Ms. Gallardo answered that the use of the Posi-Shell was restricted to certain priority grids. Once the project ceased, there was no application of the Posi-Shell anywhere else at the Landfill. Mr. Mohajer commented that if Republic is no longer using the product, they should send a letter to Public Works withdrawing their request for approval. Mr. Esparza stated that the Final Evaluation Report was submitted by Republic in December. There was subsequent correspondence back and forth based on Public Works comments and in Republic's most recent response they clarified that they have no intended future use for the Posi-Shell material. Mr. Ruiz recommended presenting an update at next month's meeting. Discussion ensued and Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that staff would review Republic's Final Evaluation Report and provide a response back to Republic.

### Update on the Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Project

Mr. Truong provided an update of the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project at SCL for the month of August.

Staff received the ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic Services on September 14, 2018, for the month of August 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 August 2018 was 37.5 rolls. It was reported that during this period, there were no maintenance issues and three events of minor scavenging from birds, which occurred on Mondays when there was soil cover. 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 for the month of August 2018.

### 2nd Quarter Vegetation Update

Mr. Esparza provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Vegetation Group. The 2nd Quarter Vegetation Report was submitted by Republic Services on August 15, 2018. The Vegetation Group was unable to meet in the month of September due to schedule conflicts with group members availabilities. Staff was attempting to schedule a tentative vegetation meeting date in the month of October, at which time the Vegetation Group will review the report in conjunction with a site visit.

Staff proposed to provide a full update and Staff Report following the upcoming Vegetation meeting at the next subcommittee meeting.

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

Mr. Mohajer asked if there were any comments, Mr. Ruiz responded that a letter was sent to Regional Planning and asked Staff if there was a response. Mr. Esparza answered that a letter from the Task Force was sent to Regional Planning requesting they provide routine updates on this issue every six months. Regional Planning responded they do not provide scheduled written updates on open cases. They suggested the Task Force forward their request to Timothy Stapleton of Regional Planning. Mr. Aiyetiwa commented that his understanding of Regional Planning's response is if the Task Force wants an update on the matter the Task Force will need to request a status update. After further discussion, Mr. Mohajer requested Staff provide an update at the next subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Hunter, with North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, commented that a letter was sent from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) to Regional Planning regarding the Sonoma Technology Inc. contract via e-mail on September 17, 2018. Mr. Ruiz commented that Staff will disseminate letter to the Task Force.

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

Mr. Mohajer commented that Staff received an e-mail acknowledgement from Dr. Davis, Health Officer for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, stating he would look into this matter and will keep the Task Force apprised.

**V. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL'S (CCL) REVISED SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT**

Mr. Shirzadegan gave an update on the CCL Revised Solid Waste Facility Permit.

The CCL, as part of their expansion project, applied for a new Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) to Los Angeles County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). On September 4, 2018, LEA informed Public Works that LEA had submitted the proposed SWFP for CCL to CalRecycle for review. Staff, upon review of the proposed SWFP as provided by LEA, found that certain key provisions such as permitted hours of operation, maximum tonnage capacity, and design parameters were in conflict with the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor on July 25, 2017.

Mr. Ruiz provided clarification in that the County approved the land use permit for CCL and it includes many conditions that restrict the operation of the facility. Those restrictions are not necessarily what was analyzed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIR analyzed a project that was proposed by Waste Connections' owner/operator of the facility, but that is not what was approved in the CUP. There are differences in the SWFP compared to the land use permit. Public Health, as the LEA, noted that when they write the SWFP, they have to rely on the environmental document, the technical documents, or the state minimum standards. That is the reason why there may be provisions in the CUP issued by the County that are more restrictive than what the EIR analyzed, but they have to go with the information and the parameters of the facility that were analyzed the EIR.

Mr. Mohajer asked when the draft Facility Permit that Public Health issued would go to CalRecycle for their approval. Mr. Aiyetiwa answered CalRecycle has already received and is reviewing it. There was also a Public Hearing on

September 18, 2018, where three comments were received so the first step is to address the comments received. Mr. Ruiz asked if there would be a separate action in the approval. Mr. Aiyetiwa answered there would be no more public hearings and that the approval would be administrative and they expect to issue the permit before November.

Mr. Mohajer confirmed there are conflicts at times between the land use permit and SWFP and in the past there was a condition that required the SWFP to be consistent with the local land use permit. The waste industry and their lobbyist removed that consistency requirement from State regulations. Currently, LEA is under no obligation to ensure consistency with the County CUP. Being part of the County and the LEA has certain responsibilities, as such, the LEA should have raised the issue with the landfill operator and resolved the issue or put the concerns in writing. Mr. Mohajer added Public Health needs to follow up with this issue and it should also be pursued by both Public Works and Regional Planning. Mr. Mohajer recommended raising the issue with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through management. Mr. Ruiz responded that Public Health had a discussion with CalRecycle. Their dilemma is that CalRecycle has certain expectations with their writing of the SWFPs and if they do not follow them, they can lose their LEA certification.

#### **VI. UPDATE ON ANTELOPE VALLEY LANDFILL (AVL) FINDING OF CONFORMANCE (FOC)**

Mr. Reyes-Gomez provided an update on AVL FOC. Staff received the FOC application for AVL due to revision to their permit. Since then, staff has been coordinating with the AVL to obtain all necessary document to complete the review process. Most recently, the AVL provided some information for the review of the FOC package on August 7, 2018. Staff has concluded their review of the submitted materials and determined that the FOC application is complete. Staff will be scheduling the FOC item on the October 18, 2018, FPRS and the Task Force meeting agendas for consideration.

Mr. Mohajer stated for the record that he asked staff to provide and require that Republic Services, Waste Management and Waste Connections, which are the landfill owners/operators of three landfills in the County unincorporated areas, to submit status reports on their efforts to promote legislation and regulations toward development of conversion technologies (CTs) facilities. Their CUPs require the owners and operators do so. Mr. Mohajer suggested a quarterly report, in writing, from each of these landfills with an update of what has been achieved towards CTs. Mr. Reyes-Gomez stated that staff did contact the landfills and received information that would be discussed under the next Agenda Item.

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

Mr. Reyes-Gomez provided an update on FOC reports. He stated staff did not receive any FOC reports for this period. Staff will provide updates on the FOC reports at the next FPRS meeting.

### Conversion Technology Updates

Staff requested an update on the efforts by Waste Management, Republic Services, and Waste Connection to promote CTs and presented a verbal update to the subcommittee. Mr. Mohajer requested the CTs discussion to be presented at the next FPRS meeting including a report in writing of the information being provided. A report will be verification and substantiates efforts of production. As a side note, Mr. Mohajer commented that the Southeast Resource Recovery Facility in Long Beach approved expenditures in upgrading their facility. They received \$8M from the City and \$7M from the facility operator they are contracted with.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2018, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room B. Antelope Valley will be on the Agenda.