

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

**Minutes for January 17, 2019**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative  
Reyna Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Maria Carlson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Dennis Montano, Republic Services  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Vu Truong, Los Angeles County 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; therefore, Mr. Mohajer served as Chair.

## **II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2018, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes from the November 15, 2018, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Shammass and seconded by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed with one abstention.

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

### Odor Complaints

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

- For the month of December 2018, a total of 36 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 17 of them were categorized as No Field Response.
- The number of complaints received in December increased from 18 to 36 complaints in the past year.
- The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009, is 11,209, and the total number of complaints received this year is 208.
- The total number of Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009, was 215. As of January 4, 2019, AQMD issued one Odor Complaint NOV to SCL for the month of December 2018.

Mr. Ruiz asked if the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) knows the cause of the NOV. Mr. Kaddis responded he was substituting for Shikari Nakagawa-Ota and will provide update on this matter at the next month's subcommittee meeting. Mr. Mohajer then requested staff to look in the cause of the NOV and provide update at the next meeting.

### Update on the Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Project

Ms. Carlson provided the following updates on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project at SCL for the months of November and December 2018:

- Staff received the ADC Pilot Project monthly report from Republic Services (Republic) on December 14, 2018, for the month of November 2018; and on January 15, 2019, for the month of December 2018.

- Republic reported that for these two months, 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 November was 3,038,750 square feet (approximately 70 acres), the amount of geosynthetic panel product used for December 2018 was 2,571,250 square feet (approximately 59 acres). During this period, there was one observation of very faint odors on a Wednesday morning in November; a minor scavenging from birds in December where there was soil cover; and two days in December where the ADC had a small tear in the morning from the winds. No observations of fires, vectors, or blowing litter at the working face related to the use of the ADC material were reported for the months of November and December.
- In the third year Evaluation Report of the ADC Pilot Project, Republic requested the termination of the Pilot Project, and the use of ADC on a permanent basis. On January 15, 2019, Public Works sent a letter to Republic approving the request. However, the approval is subject to various conditions. One of the conditions state that Public Works reserves the authority to modify the use of the ADC as necessary, in accordance with Condition 45N of the Landfill's Conditional Use Permit, to ensure public health and safety.

#### Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Ms. Carlson provided an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project at the SCL. Ms. Carlson stated that the Task Force sent a letter to Republic on November 28, 2018, requesting the following information:

1. The performance results and findings from the use of the Posi-Shell as a standalone product, including its effectiveness in controlling landfill gas emissions, odor, and leachate leaking from the intermediate slope areas.
2. The benefits from and justification for the use of the Posi-Shell at the Landfill.
3. Any specific future plans that Republic has for the usage of the Posi-Shell, provided the appropriate justifications.

Ms. Carlson stated that Republic provided the following responses in its December 12, 2018, letter (which was disseminated to the Task Force on January 8, 2019), to the above inquiries:

- The choice of medias used in the intermediate cover lead to better gas extraction and better drainage. However, it was difficult to quantify the

effectiveness of the Posi-Shell during the duration of the project due to several variables.

- Posi-Shell was an effective precursor to the control of odors and surface emissions. The Posi-Shell allowed for Sunshine to collect more gas, but the true solution is the improvements to the gas collection system.
- Republic does not have any specific future plans for the use of the combination of Posi-Shell at this time but would like to reserve the right to use this product in the future as deemed appropriate.

Mr. Ruiz stated that Republic tested regular soil, Posi-Shell, double Posi-Shell, and a combination of both Posi-Shell and soil, and they concluded that the Posi-Shell and soil was best in reducing emissions. Mr Ruiz mentioned that the ICE Project was proposed by Republic and was not a Public Works' requirement. He also stated that Republic will not continue the use of Posi-Shell but may consider it as one of the tools to be applied if the landfill experiences odor issues. Mr. Ruiz added that Republic reserves the right to use Posi-Shell in the future and staff will monitor in terms of odor complaints.

Mr. Mohajer commented that from a technical standpoint, numerous programs were implemented to address the odors and not a single program by itself would have resolved the problem.

Mr. Mohajer continued that SB 1383 implementing regulations will be released tomorrow and the comment period is open until March 4, 2019. He will be preparing comments for the proposed regulation. Mr. Mohajer also noted that SB 1383 proposed regulations will change the intermediate cover thickness from 18 inches to 36 inches of soil for those areas of the landfill that disposal activities are not expected sooner than three years.

#### Third Quarter Vegetation Update

Ms. Carlson stated Republic submitted on November 1, 2018, the Third Quarter Sunshine Canyon Landfill Vegetation Report

Ms. Carlson mentioned that staff typically organizes quarterly meetings with the SCL Vegetation group at SCL. Due to scheduling conflicts, the group was unable to meet this month. The quarterly vegetation meeting will be held on February and an update on the meeting will be provided at next month's subcommittee meeting. Ms. Carlson continued to update on the Third Quarter report:

*City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck C*

- Maintenance activities such as removal of invasive plant species and weeding activities were conducted in the third quarter. Most weeds are currently dormant within Deck C.
- Wildlife observed include the side-blotched lizard during the assessment.

*City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B*

- Soil samples indicated that the soil has a low pH and high salinity in the area.
- Additional soil amendments and resampling is expected to take place before planting can begin, which is anticipated to take place during the fourth quarter.

*City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A*

- Deck A continues to be sparsely covered with native vegetation, due to poor soil conditions. In some areas, the soil is heavily compacted and gravelly, and evidence of previous seeding is no longer discernible in these areas.
- Weeds continue to grow without any level of control. Buckwheat is the dominant native plant, most prevalent in the southwestern portion of the upper deck.
- Overall natural recruitment is low on Deck A.

*Hydroseeding Trial Project*

- The site is undergoing preparations for hydroseeding of approximately 15 acres, application of the approved seed mix is expected to happen by the end of the fourth quarter.

*County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area (Pilot Project Area)*

- California buckwheat species is in highest concentration amongst native species where vegetation is present.
- No revegetation activities took place during the third quarter.
- Conditions in the mitigation area have remained unchanged for some time.

- The southern portion of the “county slope” has a greater density of vegetation. The northern portion exhibits minimal vegetative cover due to striations of rocky (hydrophobic) soil conditions, steep slopes, soil erosion, and toxic soils. Soil samples indicate low pH, high salinity, and Boron present in native soils.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the revegetation of the landfill has been a sore point with the community and the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Hunter, with the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, what his perspective was since he lives in the area. Mr. Hunter stated that the County’s involvement has helped the landfill to become more accountable with the progress of the revegetation project. However, the County side of the landfill is the problematic area with the most sparse results. With the recent rains however, Mr. Hunter believes there will be vast improvement with the area. Mr. Mohajer suggested staff continue assessing and having onsite visits.

The following items, which were not as part of the agenda, were discussed by Mr. Mohajer:

- Application for a Finding of Conformance (FOC) – Mr. Mohajer made a general comment that an applicant, such as Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Chiquita Canyon Landfill, must comply with all rules and regulations when obtain permits. If there are any changes to the permits, Mr. Mohajer would like those changes identified by staff and discussed at the FPRS meeting. This will provide the Task Force an opportunity to comment on, to expand, or to modify the conditions of the FOC.
- Air Quality Management District’s Notice of Abatement (NOA) for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Mr. Mohajer commented that the NOA issued by the District is set to expire at the end of June 2019 if the District Hearing Board does not vote to take action to extend the NOA. At the last meeting in December, the AQMD Hearing Board scheduled a meeting in March to discuss the NOA, especially the waste acceptance hour restriction.
- The status of the County Department of Public Health’s NOV referral to the Department of Regional Planning - Mr. Mohajer would like a status update at the next FRPS meeting.
- The Fourth Quarter Independent Monitoring Report from the City/County Consultant - Mr. Mohajer inquired about the update on the quarterly report. Mr. Dave Nguyen, a Staff member, stated that they received the Fourth Quarter Independent Monitoring Consultant Report a couple of days ago and are in the process of reviewing the report. An update will be provided at next month’s subcommittee meeting.

- Gas migration at the perimeter probe P205R - Mr. Mohajer inquired about the spike in detection at this probe. He commented that the gas might be coming from abandoned oil wells located nearby the probe. To verify if the wells were to be abandoned properly, Mr. Mohajer as staff to obtain the certificate of abandonment from the responsible agency and report the findings at the next meeting.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Ms. Carlson stated that staff have recently received reports from Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Chiquita Canyon Landfill and will be providing the information at the next subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the landfill operator should provide “reader-friendly” report for the Task Force’s use, such as a comprehensive table for easier reviewing and comprehension. He also added that appropriate links should be provided in reports so if somebody has a question, they can immediately be directed to the proper information available.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room A.