

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

June 20, 2019

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative
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:

Reyna Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Maria Carlson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Brenda Eels, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.
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
Daniel Wibisono, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Landis called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 16, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes from the May 16, 2019, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Shammass. 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 the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the month of May 2019 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of May, a total of 2 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and AQMD report listed 1 of them as “No Field Response.”
- In comparison to April 2019, the number of complaints received in May decreased from 12 to 2 complaints.
- Compared to May 2018, the number of complaints this May decreased from 5 to 2 complaints.
- The total number of complaints received this year is 124.
- As of June 4, 2019, AQMD has not issued any Odor Complaint Notice of Violation (NOV) to SCL for the month of May 2019.

Copies of the latest odor complaint charts were made available to Subcommittee Members.

Update on the Status of AQMD’s Order for Abatement

Mr. Truong stated on December 15, 2016, the AQMD’s Hearing Board issued the Stipulated Order for Abatement (OA) requiring the Landfill to take corrective actions to abate odor emissions from the landfill. Some of the requirements include changing operational hours when trash is accepted, implementing alternative daily cover and intermediate cover enhancement measures, repairing and expanding gas control and collection systems.

Since March 2017 to June 2019, the Hearing Board has held a series of status hearings regarding the OA. At the recent compliance status hearing held on June 6, 2019, the Hearing Board decided that the Landfill is in compliance with all

of the conditions of the OA, and that the Board does not have the authority to continue to regulate the Landfill if there is no present or continuing nuisance. Consequently, the Board has decided to let the OA expire on June 30, 2019.

According to Republic Services (Republic), as of now the Landfill intends on continuing its existing and current operations and practices.

Ms. Landis asked if operation hours were changed for trash accepted and Mr. Truong responded the Landfill will continue to receive waste at 9 a.m. Ms. Landis commented the Landfill fixed the problems under the OA. Mr. Wayne Hunter, with North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, stated that the Hearing Board indicated they could not continue their authority and extend the OA because it was based on the NOVs and since the NOVs have been reduced, they could not extend their authority. Discussion ensued.

Perimeter Monitoring Well 205R

Mr. Harmon provided an update on the status of methane readings from the perimeter monitoring well 205R.

Staff received the SCL Solid Waste Facility Permit Monthly Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) report dated June 14, 2019, from Republic for the month of May 2019. The report provides the methane concentration readings for several methane monitoring probes, including perimeter monitoring well 205R, which was taken on May 23, 2019. The highest gas concentration reading for this perimeter well was 2.8 percent methane by volume, which is below the 5 percent methane limit. Staff will continue to monitor the methane probe readings.

At last month's meeting the Subcommittee requested Republic to provide information regarding the ownership of the nearby abandoned wells to that probe. In accordance with Republic and the California State's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) website, the nearby well to probe 205R is owned by Chevron U.S.A, and the other closest well is owned by Edwards & Cole.

Additionally, the Subcommittee requested Republic to provide procedures for well abandonment. Mr. Harmon provided a general well abandonment methodology under DOGGR standards. A well is typically plugged and abandoned by placing cement to seal the well-bore or casing at several intervals. Cement plugs are required to be placed across the oil or gas reservoir zone, across any base-of-fresh-water, and at the well's surface. Drilling mud is used between cement plug intervals. The Subcommittee was provided a hard copy of the DOGGR requirements for oil and gas well plugging and abandonment as submitted by Republic Services.

Mr. Hunter posited that an abandoned oil well on Republic's property that they do not own is influencing the perimeter methane gas well 205R. He asked if there is any requirement to make Republic address the abandoned oil wells. Ms. Landis responded that the issue may have to be directed to the State. Mr. Hunter asked Public Works staff what they are going to do in terms of course of action. Ms. Landis stated since the readings are lower than what the law states is the limit, she suspects not much can be done. She continued that since there are no abnormal readings, the well can just be monitored to see if situation worsens.

Mr. Mohajer stated that the landfill's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) contains a provision to control the migration of [landfill] gas. Mr. Ruiz added that the landfill operator had indicated that they performed a gas speciation profile on gas sampled from well 205R and Public Works will follow up with the operator regarding the results as to whether it is landfill gas migrating or subsurface natural gas emitting from an oil well. Ms. Landis stated what is important is knowing where the gas is coming from and suggested reports from Republic with a chemical profile of the gas samples. Ms. Landis suggested Republic continue monitoring the well and submitting reports just like the odor reports to determine if the profile is natural or landfill gas.

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota stated that the LEA and Republic are monitoring well 205R and the readings have historically been between 2 and 3 percent; below the 5 percent threshold. She stated that the LEA has not determined the origin of the methane gas. The LEA received a letter from Republic requesting to disregard well 205R as a perimeter well. The justification provided through gas speciation for that request was deemed not adequate by the LEA and the request was denied. Therefore, well 205R remains as one of their perimeter monitoring probes, and the readings are to be recorded on the monthly inspection report. If an exceedance is detected, then the LEA will take action. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mohajer indicated that on Page No. 6 of last month's subcommittee meeting minutes, it reads, "Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Mills if he can provide staff with DOGGR certifications of the two wells Republic re-abandoned. Mr. Mills responded that Republic just re-abandoned the two wells last week and once they receive the certification from DOGGR, he will forward to Public Works." Mr. Mohajer asked for the status of the certification. Mr. Nguyen responded that staff spoke with Republic and they say they have coordinated with DOGGR on the abandonment but are still waiting for DOGGR to finalize and record the abandonment documents. An update on the well abandonment records for the Republic-owned oil wells will be provided at the next subcommittee meeting.

Power Interruptions

Mr. Harmon gave an update on the power interruption incidents mentioned at last month's meeting. Republic will take the following action and will install a redundant power surge protector on the primary power supply to supplement existing surge protector system. Additionally, Republic stated that they will evaluate the possibility of automating the start-up of the existing generator that serves as the power backup for the gas collection and control system.

Update on First Quarter 2019 Vegetation Report

Ms. Carlson gave an update on the Vegetation Group's meeting at SCL held on May 22, 2019, which met to discuss the Landfill's progress and efforts related to revegetation during the First Quarter of 2019.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Decks C and B

The Vegetation Group meeting began with a discussion of the weeding plan across all the sage mitigation project areas. The first quarter rains have allowed for the weeds to grow, and while the soil is still wet, it is the easiest time to weed. The area has received intermittent rains, which creates challenges for the weeding schedule. Republic stated that on Decks C and B on the City Side are maintained by the landscaping crew on additional Saturdays. When followed up with Republic, they said the contractor, hired for weed abatement, weeds weekly and Saturdays were added as an additional weeding day due to the heavy rains received this year. It was recommended in the meeting to have an animal/insect survey for Decks C and B in the future quarterly vegetation reports.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Decks C, B, and A

Across the City Side Decks C, B, and A, the native vegetation is doing well and was discussed and observed in the meeting. Newer vegetation is concentrated around the straw wattles on Decks C and B. Deck C continues to show more Coastal Sage. This field visit was a good time to see the diversity before defoliation during the summer. Deck B has made drastic changes since the seeding during the Fourth Quarter of 2018. The seeds were placed at optimal time for germination and the native areas are filling in with only small voids. It was recommended for Deck A to have a greater weeding effort, working in sections, defining the deck's limits, and keeping traffic on a defined area.

County Side Sage Mitigation Area

The County Side Sage Mitigation Area continues to be relatively unchanged for some time, as stated in the last few vegetation reports. Approximately 60 percent of the area is established, and the following steps for approval and completion were discussed at the meeting.

- Although the areas with poor soil have been a challenge, the next step for assessing the progress of the County area would be to do a reference site approach, proposed by UltraSystems.
- UltraSystems offered to write up a methodology to submit to Republic for the reference site approach to determine the success of the vegetation on the County's Mitigation Area.
- When followed up with UltraSystems, the methodology for the reference site approach will hopefully be completed by their staff by next week.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE (FOC) REPORTS

Mr. Wibisono provided an update regarding the Semi-Annual Spring 2019 Waste Characterization for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL), dated May 15, 2019. The reporting period for the waste characterization was from March 25 to March 30, 2019.

The Landfill Operator submitted their report in compliance with the FOC requirements. Staff received the report on May 22, 2019, and it was disseminated to the Subcommittee on June 3, 2019.

As requested at the last FPRS meeting, staff has categorized the data from the Landfill Operator's report based on CalRecycle's definition of organic waste. According to CalRecycle, the definition of organic waste is any solid wastes containing material originated from living organisms and their metabolic waste products, including but not limited to food, green material, landscape and pruning waste, organic textiles and carpets, lumber, wood, paper products, printing and writing paper, manure, biosolids, digestate, and sludges. Based on this definition, the organic materials composed of 76 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to previous study period of Fall 2018, the percentage of organics is 28 percent higher.

Mr. Ruiz also pointed out the numbers cited by Mr. Wibisono in terms of the waste characterization at CCL, particularly in the differences between the proportion of the organic waste as defined under Assembly Bill 1826 (AB 1826) versus the organic waste as defined under Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383). The definition of organic waste under SB 1383 as any waste that has its origin in living organisms.

Therefore, that definition of organics would include other materials not under AB 1826; such as paper, plastics and tires. Mr. Ruiz commented that 76 percent of the disposable waste stream would fall under the definition of organic waste under SB 1383, which is much higher than if it were under AB 1826, and special attention should be made on the definition of organic waste because the amount of organic waste that needs to be kept out of landfills by 2020 and 2025 is much greater than people may think.

Ms. Landis noted that Waste Plan Conformance Agreement submitted by CCL for April 2019 is outdated, and some tables are no longer applicable. Discussion ensued. Mr. Ruiz suspects that CCL staff took the old report under the old CUP and submitted it with the updated waste characterization report. Staff will follow up with proper updates.

According to Mr. Mohajer, CalRecycle emphasized that in Southern California, they found 4 million tons of available composting capacity that is not being used and is noted in their report dated April 29, 2019. Yesterday, the Task Force received an email from CalRecycle stating that comments must be submitted to them on disposal quantity qualification as part of the 15-day review on SB 1383, which began on June 19, 2019, and only runs through July 3, 2019. Mr. Mohajer mentioned speaking with Mr. Timothy Hall of CalRecycle this morning and Mr. Hall stating that is not what CalRecycle meant. Mr. Mohajer requested Mr. Hall send something in writing withdrawing the email sent. CalRecycle will also be conducting a "feasibility" study to determine whether there should be efforts to provide/assist the market or the development of infrastructure. Lastly, Mr. Mohajer would like a composting plan item to be added to the Subcommittee Agenda for the next few months.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter briefly noted his waste characterization summary for SCL for the month of April and it was between 77 and 78 percent organics on the basis of looking at the organics a little bit differently.

Mr. Mohajer commented to Mr. Ruiz that when staff is preparing comments for SB 1383, the definition for organic waste is anything that is a living organism and plastic is a fossil fuel living organism. He continued that the specific question was asked at the Board Hearing on June 18, 2019, about plastic being organic and Mr. Hank Brady of CalRecycle responded, plastics are not organic. Mr. Ruiz noted that in looking at the definition of organic waste, current state regulations already define organic waste in a very similar way as the new SB 1383 regulations. However, there is a difference in the current definition of organics stating that anything coming from a living organism and their metabolic waste products, and

from petroleum. The definition in the draft regulations for SB 1383 is similar. It has no reference to petroleum, but it does not necessarily exclude it.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, July 18, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room C of Public Works Headquarters.