

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

August 15, 2019

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, rep by John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health
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.
Gabriel Esparza, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Gerald Ley, Los Angeles County Public Works
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Vu Truong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Daniel Wibisono, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dennis Montano, Republic Services
Elizabeth Zaragoza, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Landis called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 18, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes from the July 18, 2019, Subcommittee Meeting, as corrected, was made by Mr. Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Ruiz. 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 July 2019 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of July 2019, 7 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and AQMD report listed 3 of them as No Field Response.
- In comparison to June 2019, the number of complaints received in July increased from 5 to 7 complaints.
- Compared to July of last year, the number of complaints this July decreased from 16 to 7 complaints.
- The total number of complaints received this year is 136.
- As of August 8, 2019, AQMD has not issued any Odor Complaint Notice of Violations (NOV) to SCL for the month of July 2019.

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

AQMD's Stipulated Order for Abatement for the SCL expired on June 30, 2019. As a result, as of July 27, 2019, Republic Services (Republic) has begun accepting waste at 6 a.m. and then cease operations at approximately 7 a.m. The Landfill resumes normal operations at 9 a.m.

Staff will continue to monitor odor complaints reported by AQMD to see if there is any increase in odor complaints due to the new change in operation and will provide an update at next month's Subcommittee Meeting.

Cell Construction

Mr. Truong provided an update on the SCL Cell Phase Construction status. He reported that a copy of the staff [report](#) was disseminated to Subcommittee Members on August 8, 2019. The report provided information

about the cell phase designation, location, estimate capacity, and approximate timeframe of each cell phase construction.

Mr. Hunter commented that on the map, looking at the development of the Landfill, million tons of waste are going to be eventually put on the city side of the Landfill directly adjacent to residential area. He stated that the winds are consistent year-round and even if the generation of gas is addressed, a lot of trash will still be dumped and the open air will carry the odor towards the residential area.

Mr. Ruiz commented that the objective in the beginning when the permit was issued was to create a “mound” which would create a shield and deflect the wind from the operations so that it won’t be carried down to the community. Mr. Ruiz asked for the Subcommittee Members’ opinion and thoughts in reference to the potential benefit of having the City side filled later assuming that organics may be removed from the waste stream through Senate Bill 1383 (SB 1383) so that when the fill area is closest to the residential area, it will have fewer organics content. Discussion ensued while Subcommittee Members reviewed the map. Mr. Mohajer suggested from his perspective he would seek community input. Mr. Shammas commented that with SB 1383, the most odorous organics would be the easiest to remove, like food waste.

Ms. Landis made a motion and Mr. Mohajer seconded, recommending Public Works consider holding a public meeting to discuss the development and use of the Landfill’s fill sequencing. The motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Ruiz.

Perimeter Monitoring Well 205R

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

Staff did not receive the SCL Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Monthly Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) Report for the month of August prior to the Subcommittee Meeting, however Mr. Montano, representative of Republic Services, provided a digital copy of the report to Mr. Harmon during the update. Mr. Harmon continued, stating the Monthly LEA Report provided the methane concentration reading for Perimeter Monitoring Well 205R which was taken on July 23, 2019. The highest reading for this perimeter well was 1.7 percent Methane (CH₄) by volume and continues to be below the 5 percent Methane (CH₄) limit.

Mr. Hunter questioned Mr. Montano about what Republic is doing to pursue the issue of the Perimeter Monitoring Well 205R. Mr. Montano responded that no action has been taken because no exceedances of methane gas concentration have occurred. Mr. Ruiz stated that Republic characterized the Perimeter Monitoring Well 205R gas sample to see if the gases originated from the Landfill

or from an oil well in a report submitted to the LEA. The subsequent response from the LEA was that if the gas is coming from the oil well, then Republic needs to provide additional testing information verifying that it is from the oil well, otherwise the assumption is that the gas in the monitoring well is coming from the Landfill. Ms. Landis reaffirmed that this was asked at a previous Subcommittee meeting for both the abandoned oil wells and monitoring well 205R. Mr. Montano responded that since the abandoned oil well adjacent to well 205R is outside of the landfill refuse footprint and owned by Chevron U.S.A. Inc, it is outside of Republic's capabilities to perform any actions on the oil well (API-03706077).

Mr. Hunter commented regarding Republic's perimeter monitoring probe gas speciation report, submitted to the LEA, which suggested the soil gas methane present in well 205R is coming from the adjacent oil well, owned by Chevron U.S.A. Inc. Therefore, if Republic believes the oil well had not been re-abandoned properly, it would be incumbent upon Republic to have Chevron U.S.A. Inc., re-abandon or Republic re-abandon once the ownership is transferred. Ms. Landis continued that the problem is the legal factor, that it is not affecting anybody and is within the health standard; therefore, nothing is being done. All that can be done at this point is to continue monitoring and testing to make certain it does not exceed the 5 percent gas emission.

Mr. Mohajer suggested that staff find out if an oil well is located on another property owner's land, what the legal process is in going after an owner of an oil well owner to re-abandon.

Ms. Landis stated that the problem is that the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal (DOGGR) is a State agency and they are the ones that must determine the changes, not the Task Force. However, she appreciates what Republic is doing in the monitoring and the reports. Mr. Ruiz affirmed that the State controls the requirements for abandonment.

Ms. Landis commented that the problem is mineral interests can be owned by one entity and they are below the level of the ground and then another entity can own property on top of the ground and can build a house or any structure, but they cannot plug an oil well unless they have a lease from the mineral interest owner.

Mr. Harmon then provided an update on the abandoned oil well documents requested by the Subcommittee last month for abandoned oil wells API-03706079 ([Link](#)) and API-03706080 (in development cell area CC-4 Part 3, [Link](#)). On August 13, 2019, Republic provided the report of well abandonment and final Bond Release letters from DOGGR to Staff ([Link](#)). Hard copies of both documents were made available to the Subcommittee Members.

Update on 2nd Quarter Vegetation Report

Ms. Carlson provided an update on the Second Quarter 2019 SCL Vegetation Report. Republic Services submitted the Second Quarter 2019 Vegetation Project Status Report on August 1, 2019, and the meeting with the Vegetation group at SCL is scheduled for August 28, 2019, at 11 a.m. An update from the meeting will be presented at a subsequent FPRS meeting. The following is the progress of the Landfill's efforts related to revegetation during the Second Quarter of 2019.

City Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area - Deck C / Lower Deck

- The saltbush cover and other native species continue to thrive.
- Wildlife observed include the sage sparrow and the California towhee.
- Weed coverage is moderate, consisting of dense brome grass and common barley mats.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- There is a mixture of native species that has been established including buckwheat, black sage, purple needle grass, California sagebrush, and chamise.
- Non-native weed coverage is minimal

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- The overall native coverage continues to be sparse, due to compacted poor soils especially around the access roads.
- Buckwheat is the dominant native species and is more dense than previous years.
- Desiccated Wild Oats, brome grasses, mustard, and Russian thistle are the non-native species covering the upper deck.

County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area

- Conditions in the mitigation area remain unchanged due to steep slopes, soil erosion, and toxic soils. Soil samples have indicated low pH, high salinity, and Boron present in native soils.
- Areas covered with native vegetation are dominantly California buckwheat and California sunflower.

Ms. Landis noted that for the County Side Mitigation Area for the 2nd Quarter, JMA had recommendations to create benches to control soil erosion and improve soil conditions in order to improve plant establishment and seed dispersal. The proposed actions in the report stated the recommendations will be considered each time at a later date. Ms. Landis recommended this should come up at the vegetation meeting as to why Republic is putting it off and when the later date is. She continued that if the report is stating the mitigation is successful, then the plants should be able to sustain on their own with all the animals that are in the

area; birds, butterflies, rodents, ants, and all the critters that should also be included in the report, so they have an ecosystem created. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mohajer referred to the Vegetation Report under County Sage Mitigation Area, recommending creating benches to control soil erosion and improve soil conditions to improve plant establishment. Mr. Mohajer noted the County's CUP for bench marking and erosion control and asked if Public Works is pursuing Republic to build the bench for erosion control. Mr. Ruiz responded that Public Works will need to look at what authority is given and then will report to the Subcommittee.

Update on SB 1383 Implementation

Ms. Robinson provided an update on SB 1383 implementation. She reported that on July 30, 2019, CalRecycle released its Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Adoption of Regulations for Short-Lived Climate Pollutants: Organic Waste Methane Emission Reduction otherwise known as SB 1383. The public has a 45-day comment period which commenced on July 30, 2019 and ends on September 19, 2019.

Ms. Robinson also reported that staff is currently reviewing the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and expects to have a letter ready for the Task Force's review by next week.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the standing policy is that staff prepares and reviews comment letters, he reviews, and then they are sent out. The Task Force receives copies of comment letters sent out. Ms. Robinson reported that staff will have the letter ready to send out next week.

Discussion of Finding of Conformance (FOC) Reports

Mr. Wibisono provided information regarding FOC reports submitted by landfill operators, which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills.

- 2nd Quarter 2019 FOC update for SCL
- 2nd Quarter 2019 FOC update for Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL)

Mr. Wibisono reported that on July 15, 2019, staff received the 2nd Quarter 2019 Monitoring Report for SCL dated July 15, 2019.

- Based on the report, the SCL disposed 561,000 tons in the 2nd quarter of 2019. Compared to the 1st quarter of 2019, the disposal tonnage increased by 9.7 percent. Compared to the 2nd quarter of 2018, disposal tonnage increased by 3.7 percent.

- The beneficial reuse material, including diversion and soil, total for the 1st quarter of 2019 was 54,000 tons. Compared to the 1st quarter of 2018, the beneficial reuse tonnage increased by 126 percent. Compared to the 2nd quarter of 2018, the beneficial reuse tonnage increased by 1.8 percent.

Mr. Wibisono also reported that on July 15, 2019, staff received the 2nd Quarter 2019 Monitoring Report for CCL dated July 15, 2019.

- Based on the report, the CCL disposed 411,000 tons in the 2nd quarter of 2019. Compared to the 1st quarter of 2019, the disposal tonnage increased by 4.3 percent. Compared to the 2nd quarter of 2018, disposal tonnage increased by 6.6 percent.
- The beneficial reuse material, including diversion and soil, total for the 2nd quarter of 2019 was 181,000 tons. Compared to the 1st quarter of 2019, the beneficial reuse tonnage increased by 26 percent. Compared to the 2nd quarter of 2018, the beneficial reuse tonnage increased by 1.1 percent.

Copies of the 2nd Quarter 2019 FOC update for SCL ([Link](#)) and 2nd Quarter 2019 FOC update for CCL ([Link](#)) reports were provided to the Subcommittee on July 25, 2019.

Ms. Carlson provided an update from Republic Services and Waste Connections on plans for conversion technologies (CT) and other legislative and regulatory efforts done to promote conversion technology in California during the 2nd Quarter of 2019.

On July 30, 2019, Republic, the operators of SCL, shared the following updates:

- As an active member of the Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas, Republic Services is actively engaged in Rulemaking to Adopt Biomethane Standards and Requirements, Pipeline Open Access Rules, and Related Enforcement Provisions.
- Republic is assisting the Clean Air Resource Board staff on the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program for heavy duty trucks and the Advanced Clean Truck Rule.
- Republic continues to work with CalRecycle and industry stakeholders on SB 1383 regulations and draft regulations regarding procurement requirements and the definition of renewable natural gas.
- Republic supports the following legislative concepts that will continue to incentivize the use of renewables and expand reasonable and cost-effective conversion technologies:

- SB 667– Requires CalRecycle to develop a 5-year investment strategy to meet organic waste reduction and recycling targets.
- SB 515– Establishes a fuel and feedstock requirement to be produced from bioenergy projects to meet wildfire risk reduction requirements.
- SB 457– Seeks a five-year extension for an existing incentive program for biomethane projects administered by the California Public Utilities Commission.

On August 5, 2019, Waste Connections, the operators of CCL, shared the following updates:

- Waste Connections engaged with CalRecycle and other industry stakeholders to develop sustainable regulations in accordance with SB 1383 and to create a workable system capable of meeting the 75 percent organics diversion rate.
- Waste Connections is working with legislative leaders on development of domestic markets for recycled single use plastics.
- Waste Connections is regularly meeting with industry partners to identify legislative opportunities that support efforts to both increase the use of recyclable materials in manufactured products.
- Waste Connections is working with the authors of legislation to pass an extended producer responsibility program that would require manufacturers of lithium-ion battery powered products to ensure that toxic waste in the form of batteries does not end up in the general waste stream.
- Waste Connections stated in their update they are engaged in bills related to the solid waste industry and efforts to build a sustainable system for California and Los Angeles County to achieve its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, meeting recycling goals, and diverting organic and recyclable waste from being landfilled.

Staff has reached out to Waste Management, but they have not responded with an update.

Mr. Mohajer asked staff to follow up with Republic Services and Waste Connections for correspondences that would substantiate their efforts to promote Conversion Technology.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room B of Public Works Headquarters.