

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

April 15, 2021

WEB CONFERENCE

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, 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:

Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Gabriel Esparza, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Andrew Kim, Los Angeles County Public Works
Omid Mazdidasni, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dennis Montano, Republic Services, Inc.
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sarah Solomon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Vu Truong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Betsey Landis called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes, as corrected, from the March 18, 2021, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, and seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the month of March 2021 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of March 2021, 3 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 1 was classified as None and 2 were listed as No Field Response.
- Compared to February 2021, the number of complaints received in March 2021 decreased from 10 to 3 complaints.
- Compared to March 2020, the number of complaints for March 2021 decreased from 12 to 3 complaints.
- As of April 6, 2021, AQMD issued no Notices of Violation (NOVs) related to odor for the month of March 2021.
- According to the AQMD report, the total number of complaints received during 2021 is 20.

Mr. Wayde Hunter, with North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens, commented that March was unusually cool with cloudy weather, which may have contributed to less odor, as well as SCL being more vigilant of odor complaints and doing what they can to mitigate odor. He acknowledged Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) is doing a good job. Mr. Mohajer concurred with Mr. Hunter and also gave thanks to Republic for a job well done.

Quarterly Vegetation Update

Ms. Sarah Solomon, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the vegetation for SCL.

At last month's Subcommittee meeting an update on the Fourth Quarter 2020 Sunshine Canyon Landfill Vegetation Report was provided, including the sage mitigation area.

Staff coordinated a virtual Vegetation Group meeting on March 31, 2021, with Republic that included vegetation group member representatives from County Regional Planning, UltraSystems, and Ms. Landis to discuss the contents of the Vegetation Report, progress, and next steps. During the meeting, updates regarding the sage mitigation area were provided and concerns regarding the Valley Oak and Bigcone Douglas-firs were discussed. Republic stated they are working towards continued vegetation efforts and replacing removed trees as required.

Staff also sent the Subcommittee's comments on the Fourth Quarter Vegetation Report to Republic on April 12, 2021. The following information was requested:

- Confirm the correct number of removed oak and big cone fir trees are reflected consistently throughout the report;
- Include information as to whether these trees have been replaced and/or provide a status update;
- The Report should include an update regarding the missing tree tags and the recommendation for retagging the mitigation trees; and
- Section 5, Table 2 of the Report regarding the County Sage Mitigation Area should include a commencement timeline in the Report for each of the recommended and proposed actions described.

Republic acknowledged receipt of the comments and confirmed they will address comments and include the requested updated information in the First Quarter 2021 Vegetation Report.

Mr. Mohajer asked if a letter was sent to Republic as requested at the last Subcommittee meeting providing comments on their vegetation report. Ms. Solomon responded that a letter was not mailed to Republic, but that staff sent them an e-mail with the Subcommittee's comments. Mr. Mohajer recommended writing a letter and attaching to an e-mail to make it formal in the event it becomes a legal matter. Mr. Mohajer also requested a copy of the e-mail that was sent to Republic. Discussion ensued.

Soil Importation

Ms. Solomon provided an update on the soil importation activities at SCL.

At the March 18, 2021 Subcommittee meeting, staff provided an update regarding the proposed soil importation at SCL. It was also mentioned that Republic had submitted a revised soil importation request to Public Works on December 23, 2020, in response to Public Works' November 10, 2020 letter. As an update since the last meeting, Republic will be submitting a revised proposal to address in more detail the projected soil needs for the site. Upon receipt of Republic's submittal,

Public Works will review the request within the authority granted to Public Works in the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) pertaining to importation of soil to the landfill for specific project. At this time, Public Works has not received any resubmittal.

Ms. Landis inquired if Republic gave staff any kind of date by which they would provide the resubmittal. Ms. Solomon responded Republic has not provided a date. Mr. Carlos Ruiz commented that Republic should recognize that it is in their interest to respond and resubmit their request quickly.

IV. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS

Mr. Andrew Kim, staff to the Task Force, gave an update on the Finding of Conformance (FOC) reports for this period.

The information presented only reflected the incoming waste stream during the one-week period when the study was conducted and does not represent the entire year or season.

Staff received the 2021 Spring Semi Annual Waste Characterization for Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility (AV) dated March 23, 2021. The study was conducted during a five-day period, from March 8 to March 12, 2021. The report was disseminated to the Subcommittee last Thursday, April 8, 2021.

- For this study, the landfill sampled 198 tons out of total 14,900 tons received during that period.
- The organic materials composed 65 percent of the total sampled load of 198 tons. Compared to the previous study period of Fall 2020, the percentage of organics was at 73 percent or 159 tons out of 217 tons.
- Plastics composed 24 percent of the total sample load. Compared to Fall 2020, the percentage of plastics was at 23 percent or 50 out of 217 tons.
- The remaining 11 percent of the sample load of 198 tons was composed of glass, metals and other wastes, including household hazardous and inert waste. Compared to Fall 2020, the percentages of the glass, metals and other wastes were reported at 5 percent out of 217 tons.

Staff received the 2021 Semi Annual Spring Waste Characterization for Lancaster Landfill (LL) dated March 23, 2021. The study was conducted during a five-day period, from March 8 to March 12, 2021.

- For this study, the landfill sampled 139 tons out of total 2,400 tons received during that period.
- During the study period, organic materials composed 37 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to the previous study period of Fall 2020, the percentage of organics was at 57 percent or 106 out of 187 tons.

- Plastics composed 49 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to Fall 2020, the percentage of plastics was at 18 percent or 34 out of 187 tons.
- Metals composed of 6 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to Fall 2020, the percentage of metals was at 12 percent or 50 out of 217 tons.

The Task Force reviewed the AV Waste Characterization table. Mr. Mohajer noted the reported tonnages showed 4 digits after the decimal point and wanted to know if they were possible errors or accurate measurements. Mr. Ruiz responded that staff would follow up with Waste Management to find out what kind of scale they are using for their waste characterization, its accuracy, and to consider the margins of error and round up accordingly.

In reviewing the LL Waste Characterization table, Mr. Mohajer commented that the quantity of organics, as defined under SB 1383, is less at LL than at AV because of transferring the green waste materials from LL to AV.

V. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Omid Mazdiyasni, staff to the Task Force, gave an update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL).

Odor Complaints

In 2021, CCL received 22 odor complaints in January, 20 odor complaints in February, and 15 odor complaints in March. CCL did not receive any NOVs in October, November, or December of 2020. The next quarterly odor complaint update will be presented in July 2021.

Lawsuits Updates

CCL filed two separate lawsuits against the County:

- The first lawsuit was filed on October 20, 2017, challenging operational conditions, and fee conditions of the CUP. In July 2020, the trial court issued a decision finding in the County's favor on some conditions and in CCL's favor on other conditions. The parties are currently engaged in settlement discussions.
- The second lawsuit was filed on April 13, 2018, challenging a decision by the hearing officer that upheld an NOV issued by Regional Planning on December 11, 2017, for failure to pay Bridge and Thoroughfare Fee, accepting prohibited auto shredder waste, and failure to pay out-of-area fees. The trial is scheduled for the Fall 2021.

Environmental and Community Groups filed a lawsuit on August 24, 2017, against the Los Angeles County and CCL.

- The third lawsuit alleges that the project Environmental Impact Report was inadequate and not in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act. The court issued a decision on October 10, 2019, in favor of the County and CCL. The Community filed an appeal and the hearing was held on November 18, 2020. On February 10, 2021, the Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's decision.

NOVs for Non-Compliance with the CUP

- The Department of Regional Planning issued 4 NOVs issued for CUP Conditions 68, 77, 79, and 113 to Waste Connections on June 11, 2020, at the request of Public Works.
- CCL filed its appeal on August 6, 2020. The hearing was postponed and rescheduled for May 4, 2021. However, staff's understanding is that the hearing is likely to be continued.

As the Subcommittee requested at the February 18, 2021 meeting, a letter is being finalized and will be sent today.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following public comment was offered immediately following the Update on Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill, Item III.

Mr. Hunter commented on the monthly Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) report dated April 15, 2021, regarding the results reported of the Hazardous Waste Load Checking Program at Sunshine Canyon, which did not detect anything. Mr. Dennis Montano, of Republic Services, responded that with the COVID-19 procedures and safety protocols, they are not allowed to go into the trash, and that the LEA is well aware of the situation. Mr. Mohajer suggested putting a note in the report stating due to COVID-19, waste load checks were not conducted. Mr. Montano agreed and said they could attach a letter in the Report.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled remotely for Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 11 a.m.