

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

**June 17, 2021**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

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, 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:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections  
Chris Coyle, Republic Services, Inc.  
Gabriel Esparza, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Omid Mazdiyasni, Los Angeles County Public Works  
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  
Daniel Wibisono, 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 11:05 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MAY 20, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Carlos Ruiz seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Soil Importation

Ms. Sarah Solomon, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on soil importation at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL).

SCL submitted a soil importation request to Public Works (PW) for review, indicating the soil will be used for daily cover and construction of a terminal berm. Since this is a joint City/County Landfill, PW requested the Landfill to communicate their request to the City of Los Angeles for concurrence. Republic Services (Republic) confirmed concurrence from the City for the proposed project.

Republic resubmitted a revised request to PW on May 21, 2021. Republic requested to import 2,500 tons per day of clean soil to the SCL, 6 days per week for 5 years. PW reviewed the revised request based on the authority granted under the Conditions 1.D and 23.E. of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

On June 15, 2021, PW issued a conditional approval letter to Republic authorizing the importation of 2,500 tons per day of clean soil, 6 days per week for 5 years. The quantity of soil imported shall be included in the total permitted daily and weekly tonnage capacity of materials. The importation of soil shall occur during the normal operating hours of the site. Pursuant to the CUP, in no event shall the daily tonnage of materials received by the Landfill exceed 12,100 tons on any given day.

A copy of the PW's conditional approval letter was e-mailed to the Task Force on June 16, 2021.

Odor Complaints

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

- During the month of May 2021, 4 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 3 were classified as No Field Response and 1 was listed as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to April 2021, the number of complaints received in May 2021 decreased from 22 to 4 complaints.
- Compared to May 2020, the number of complaints for May 2021 decreased from 98 to 4 complaints.
- As of June 8, 2021, AQMD issued zero Notice of Violations (NOVs) related to odor for the month of May 2021.
- According to the AQMD report, the total number of complaints received during 2021 is 46.

Ms. Landis inquired if the dry weather may be the cause of less odor and the dramatic fall in the number of complaints, to which Mr. Ruiz replied that there is a seasonal variation in odor complaints and odors tend to be lower at this time of the year, but he hoped that SCL's efforts to control odors have also helped.

Mr. Chris Coyle, the general manager for SCL, informed that the Landfill conducts odor patrols onsite as well as in the neighborhood every morning, which has a large impact on controlling odors.

#### Load Checking Update

Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota with SCL's Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) provided an update regarding load checking at the Landfill.

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota informed that she has spoken with the SCL-LEA Program Manager, Mr. David Thompson, regarding load checking. The procedure during normal operating hours is to dig through the trash and open bags looking for incidental hazardous waste. However, due to concerns for employee safety because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety guidelines by the national and local public health officials, the SCL-LEA allowed the operators to modify their load checking procedures and not requiring the physical opening of trash bags. However, restrictions have been lifted as of June 15, 2021, so the normal procedure for load checking has resumed. Mr. Coyle noted that regular load checking procedures at SCL resumed on May 25, 2021.

#### **V. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL**

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

### Order for Abatement from SCAQMD

The Subcommittee requested information about the requirements for the Order for Abatement that was originally issued on December 9, 2020 and amended on March 24, 2021. The following were the major components of the amended Order for Abatement:

- 1) Odor monitoring
  - Requires the Landfill to conduct odor surveillance in the communities surrounding the Landfill.
- 2) Operational Adjustments
  - The Landfill operator to limit the size of the working face.
  - The Landfill operator to implement the tarp covers over the exposed solid waste at the end of the working day.
  - The Landfill operator to use Geosynthetic tarp as an Alternative Daily Cover.
  - The Landfill operator to use fans to control the odors.
- 3) Landfill Gas Collection System
  - The Landfill operator to hire a consultant to inspect, evaluate, and make recommendations to make improvements on the Gas Collection System. CCL is required to provide monthly reports to AQMD.
  - The Landfill operator to expand the Landfill Gas Collection System in accordance with the consultant's recommendations.
- 4) Community Outreach
  - The Landfill operator to have a dedicated section on its website, to discuss odor mitigation at the Landfill.
  - The Landfill operator to include information on upcoming public meetings. Dates include:
    - Community Advisory Committee meeting on June 29, 2021.
    - AQMD hearing on August 3, 2021.
    - Technical Advisory Committee meeting is not yet scheduled.
- 5) Standard Operating Procedures
  - The Landfill operator to hire a consultant who has experience with Landfill operations and odor control practices to develop and implement a standard operating procedure for the Landfill.
  - The Landfill operator to perform a waste profile with the intention to assist with odor mitigation measures.
- 6) Key Performance Indicators
  - The Landfill operator to work with the consultant to develop a key performance indicator to track and assess the odor mitigation efforts and the standard operating procedure implementation.
- 7) Continued Analysis
  - The Landfill operator to hire a consultant to review meteorological data and air movement at the Landfill which will allow the Landfill to determine where

to put up the litter fence and how to disrupt the odor nuisance flow to the community.

AQMD requires the Landfill operator to come back for a status hearing on August 3, 2021 to report on the implementation of the standard operating procedure and other requirements of the Order for Abatement. The Order for Abatement is set to expire on December 9, 2021, unless the AQMD Board takes action to extend it.

The Subcommittee members also asked for an evaluation of the Finding of Conformance (FOC) with respect to the CEQA document. Staff reviewed the FOC, and Condition 19 of the FOC indicates that the Landfill shall be operated in such a manner that odor generated from the Landfill shall not become a nuisance. Staff reviewed the CEQA document with regard to the Odor Management Strategy at CCL. CCL's Odor Management Strategies are as follows:

- CCL performs source control measures such as:
  - Rejecting trucks at scales with obvious highly odorous load.
  - Controlling loads with cover when highly odorous loads are detected.
  - Excluding trash loads from specific locations and on specific days if there is a history of odorous loads.
- CCL performs best operating practices during disposal, such as:
  - Shrinking the size of the working face when demand subsides to minimize odors.
  - Covering portions of the working face as needed to minimize potential odors.
  - Exceeding standards for the use of soil and other beneficial use material to cover trash.
  - Dispersing odor neutralizing agents when weather conditions have the potential to result in offsite odors.
  - Utilizing large fans to dilute and disperse odors generated at the tipping area.

CCL was also to install an extensive LFG Collection and Control System to prevent the release of odorous gases from anaerobic digestion.

The measures in the Stipulated Order for Abatement which was agreed to by both AQMD and CCL include the measures that CCL has indicated in the Environmental Impact Report that it would implement, plus additional mitigation measures. There will be an AQMD meeting on August 3, 2021, on the performance of the Odor for Abatement. Staff will monitor and report accordingly.

Ms. Landis voiced her concern that when the Landfill receives odorous loads, they take these loads to an area where there will be large fans that will blow all the odors away towards nearby communities. Mr. Ruiz noted that his understanding is that when the Landfill receives highly odorous loads, they immediately move them to the disposal area and cover them with soil. Mr. Mazdiyasni added that excluding trash loads from specific locations, large fans would be utilized to dilute and

disperse the odors generated at the Landfill. Mr. Sam Shammas commented that the purpose of the fans is to dilute the odor so there is no smell.

Ms. Landis reiterated her concern and indicated that dirt is fine to mitigate odors, but not fans. Mr. Ruiz commented that odors are affected by weather conditions in that they tend to be worse when the wind blows very slowly, and the use of fans is not uncommon in landfills. Mr. Shammas noted that some landfills add odor neutralizing agents into the fans that blow to help with odors. Mr. Mohajer stated that the process of using neutralizing agents has been going on for a very long time.

Mr. Mohajer informed that he was looking at the LEA's May 12, 2021, monitoring report which stated that perimeter probes 12, 13, 20, and 23 were monitored and no methane exceedance was observed. He stated the report was written correctly in that the LEA is implementing what CalRecycle requires. In his opinion, CalRecycle allows up to 5 percent subsurface migration, but as far as the County building code goes, it should be zero in relation to the building code enforcement in the unincorporated area and that there should be no subsurface methane leaving the perimeter because there are enclosed structures within 1,000 feet of the Landfill. He asked if PW, as the Building Officials for the County unincorporated area, is monitoring the structures, including that of the Post Office, making certain building occupants are safe. Mr. Ruiz responded that staff will look into the matter and report back to the Subcommittee at next month's meeting.

#### Alternative Daily Cover

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) at CCL.

In accordance with the Stipulated Order of Abatement issued by AQMD dated December 4, 2020, CCL is required to use a Geosynthetic panel product as ADC in lieu of the 6 inches of soil cover during daily operations at the Landfill. An additional aspect of the ADC is to avoid trash-to-trash contact and reduce the volume of soil used as daily cover at the Landfill. The ADC will be in effect through December 9, 2021. CCL received PW's approval of the ADC on December 23, 2020. As part of the approval, PW conditioned the usage of ADC at CCL subject to the following requirements:

- ADC material specifications: ADC material shall be limited to a non-reusable, geosynthetic panel cover with a thickness of 1.75 mil.
- Equipment specifications: ADC material cover shall only be deployed using EPI's Enviro™ Cover System Deployer Model 800.
- ADC material Procedures: The product will be applied at the end of the working day, except for Saturdays where soil will be applied to cover the waste. On Monday, the Landfill operator can peel back a portion of the soil and continue

to use the ADC for the rest of the week. No removal of ADC shall be conducted after it is applied at the working face.

- Material placement procedure: The ADC material is unrolled from the deployer while ballast material is simultaneously discharged at a controlled rate to securely anchor the ADC material onto the working face. During high wind conditions, the ADC material will be placed parallel to the wind direction to minimize the potential uplifting of the material.

PW also required the Landfill to submit quarterly reports containing daily performance logs to PW and the LEA containing the following:

- Any maintenance issues
- Any unusual observations related to the application of the ADC
- Any immediate odors detected during and after application of the ADC
- Any unusual occurrences such as vectors, fires, and blowing litter
- Daily weather information collected on-site

PW will monitor the performance of the ADC product and will evaluate it with respect to the following performance requirements:

- Vector control
- Fire control
- Litter control
- Odor control
- Scavenging control

The Landfill submitted the first quarterly report for the period of February 8 through May 8, 2021. The report indicated that there were no maintenance issues such as vectors, fires, litter, or scavenging. It also reported no unusual observations, no odors detected after the application of the geosynthetic panel product, no issues with the application of the product during a few days of high winds and the daily weather information collected on-site.

Staff will continue to monitor and keep the Subcommittee updated on any noticeable ADC product performance issues.

Mr. Mohajer noted the report was stating that the plastic liner will decompose, causing trash-to-trash contact. He informed that there are several legislative bills this year that address plastic that is claimed to be biodegradable but is not. Mr. Mohajer asked staff to verify if the daily cover used at CCL is biodegradable.

Mr. Aiyetiwa commented that based on the study from the manufacturer and from the report from Landfill operators, staff's understanding is that the material is biodegradable but will do background research to verify. Ms. Landis added that

she also wanted to see a report on what is meant by biodegradable plastic because of the many concerns she shared. Mr. Ruiz responded that staff would research and would present the information at next month's meeting.

#### Status of Lawsuits and NOVs

Mr. Andrew Kim, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on lawsuits and NOVs.

#### Odor Complaints and NOVs

AQMD agreed to provide odor complaint data on a quarterly basis. The next quarterly odor complaint update will be presented in July 2021. CCL received an odor-related NOV on May 5, 2021, from AQMD.

#### Lawsuits

CCL has 2 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 the Bridge and Thoroughfare Fee, accepting prohibited auto shredder waste, and failure to pay out-of-area fees. The trial is scheduled for September 14, 2021.

#### NOVs for Non-Compliance with the CUP

- Regional Planning issued 4 NOVs for non-compliance with CCL CUP Conditions 68, 77, 79, and 113 to Waste Connections on June 11, 2020, at the request of PW.
- CCL filed its appeal on August 6, 2020. The hearing was postponed and rescheduled for July 27, 2021.

#### Task Force request to CCL regarding the June 11, 2020 NOV issued by Regional Planning

- On April 19, 2021, the Task Force sent a letter to CCL regarding the NOV issued by Regional Planning.



- CCL submitted its second monthly update on June 1, 2021, which was disseminated to the Task Force on June 3, 2021. The update addressed the requirements of the April 19, 2021 Task Force letter as follows:
  - Work with regulatory agencies - CCL is working with regulatory agencies to comply with its permits and is currently in negotiations with the County for Conditions 68, 77, and 79. CCL has tried resolving the non-compliance with Condition 113 by submitting information requested by the County.
  - Submit monthly updates on the status of NOVs - CCL complied with the request by submitting its second update on June 1, 2021.
  - Pertaining to Condition 22 of its FOC, CCL provided copies of the following NOVs:
    - NOV issued by AQMD on April 29, 2021, concerning asbestos survey prior to demolition activities, which was disseminated to the Task Force on May 26, 2021.
    - NOV issued by AQMD on May 5, 2021, concerning landfill odor nuisance, which was disseminated to the Task Force on May 26, 2021.
    - NOV issued by the LEA on May 12, 2021, for failing to notify the LEA of the April 29 and May 5, 2021 NOVs issued by AQMD within 24 hours of being notified, which was disseminated to the Task Force on June 3, 2021.
    - NOV issued by the LEA on May 12, 2021, for inadequate daily cover, which was disseminated to the Task Force on June 3, 2021.

Staff will continue to follow up with CCL monthly for their NOV status update.

Mr. Mohajer informed that he was having problems opening the Regional Planning link that was sent as part of the CCL's monthly update and asked if anybody else had the same problem. Mr. Ruiz responded that staff would look into the link and will resend.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS**

Mr. Daniel Wibisono, staff to the Task Force, stated that staff did not receive any FOC reports for this period, but would provide an update at the next Subcommittee meeting.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following public comments were made immediately following Item III, Update on Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill:

Mr. Hunter commented that the City might have entered into a waste hauling agreement with SCL and he asked if the City of Los Angeles could change the landfill's hours of operation without County's approval.

Mr. Coyle noted that he is not aware of such agreement, but he confirmed that the Landfill will not be entering any agreement that would violate the Landfill's Condition Use Permit (CUP) or the City can force the Landfill to violate its CUP.

Mr. Ruiz noted that in case there are conflicting set of requirements between the City and the County, the most restrictive conditions would govern.

Mr. Mohajer asked what hours SCL has been operating on Saturdays. Mr. Coyle responded that on Saturdays after a holiday, the landfill opens at 7 a.m. and it is allowed to operate until 6 p.m., but normally the Landfill is done by 4 p.m.

Mr. David Nguyen, staff to the Task Force, noted that Condition 29 of the CUP allows the Landfill operator to operate from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays, except they may be operating until 6 p.m. to accommodate for holiday disposal, which is in line with what Mr. Coyle stated.

Mr. Mohajer reminded the members of Mr. Hunter's concern at last month's meeting about the modified load checks not noted in SCL's monthly report. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota responded that the inspection report had been amended to reflect the concern about the emergency load check modification due to COVID-19 and there were no violations.

Mr. Ruiz added that staff will work with Republic on finding out the dates that load check modification started and ended, as well as finding out how many tons of waste was received during that time. Staff will include an item at the next Subcommittee meeting to present staff's findings.

No other public comment.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled remotely for Thursday, July 15, 2021, at 11 a.m.