

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

**September 16, 2021**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative  
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

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  
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections, Inc.  
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 Mazdiasni, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Aric Rodriguez, 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 11:01 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 19, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Coby Skye made a motion to approve the minutes, as corrected, and Ms. Landis seconded. Motion did not pass, 2 voted yes and 3 abstained. Mr. Mike Mohajer stated his abstention was due to the minutes failing to indicate what he stated at the meeting, that based on information provided by staff, there are several enclosed structures located on, or within 1,000 feet of the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL). According to the Los Angeles County Building Code, the existing buildings and enclosed structures may be subject to subsurface migration of the landfill gases, in accordance with the information provided by staff as of August 2021. Mr. Mohajer stated that it does not appear that Public Works staff, as the representatives of the Los Angeles County building officials, are adequately enforcing the building code requirements and administrative action. This should not be a discretionary action for the protection of the structures and their occupants.

**III. CONSIDERATION OF REVIEW COMMENTS ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PRELIMINARY DRAFT REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Mr. Joe Bartolata, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the comments from the Task Force on the Los Angeles County Preliminary Draft Revised Countywide Siting Element (Draft Revised Siting Element) and Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR). At last month's August 19, 2021 Task Force meeting, the Task Force directed staff to work with the Subcommittee to review and compile all their comments on behalf of the Task Force. Staff compiled comments received as of September 15, 2021, which were provided in an attachment to the staff report, which would also be presented to the Task Force at the September 16, 2021 meeting. Staff will continue to accept comments from both the Subcommittee and Task Force members.

The Subcommittee discussed following 3 options to be considered:

1. Consider the comments received, present those comments to the Task Force for consideration, and recommend that the Task Force send a letter to Public Works transmitting its comments on the Draft Revised Siting Element and Draft EIR.
2. Request an extension of the public review period for an additional 45 days to complete the Task Force's review of the documents.
3. Both Options 1 and 2.

The public review deadline is currently September 30, 2021, and the County will respond in writing to each substantive comment received no later than 105 days after the close of the review period.

Ms. Landis indicated that what was being done at today's Subcommittee meeting was to make certain that everyone had submitted their comments and she believed that the Subcommittee was going to consider Options 1 and 2, as Mr. Bartolata noted. Discussion ensued about the Subcommittee not having enough time to review the comments submitted with the deadline fast approaching. Mr. Skye recommended moving on to Item IV of Agenda regarding consideration to request extension of public review period. Ms. Landis concurred and said both she and Mr. Mohajer had many comments that they did not necessarily agree upon. She also noted her concerns that the Draft Revised Siting Element is inconsistent in its terminology and some things were left out, and that it did not address the need for alternative technologies in the processing of solid waste, simply addressing the disposal of solid waste. Ms. Landis believed that all the source material that can be obtained should be used to produce electricity instead of exporting waste for disposal outside the county. She suggested waiting until everyone has had a chance to review the most recent comments that were disseminated in the morning.

Mr. Skye made a motion to suspend Item III and to move to Item IV of Agenda, which is the consideration of an additional 45 days for the public review period, which will provide time for the Subcommittee and Task Force to consider comments and further refine the actual document. Mr. Skye asked Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa to share his thoughts on the topic.

Mr. Aiyetiwa responded that the reason he sent out the staff report was to give the Subcommittee advanced knowledge of what he would present at the Task Force meeting, as well as giving the Subcommittee an opportunity to review the comments that had been submitted. Staff will consider an extension for an additional 45-day public review period to allow the Task Force time to continue to provide comments to staff and to give the Task Force an opportunity to make a motion to direct staff to compile comments and officially send a letter to Public Works by the October Task Force meeting. Ms. Landis asked which other Subcommittee members reviewed the comments that were disseminated this morning. Mr. Skye also recommended that the Subcommittee have until next month's meeting to thoroughly review the most recent comments that were added to the Draft Revised Siting Element and Draft EIR, and the extra time would allow staff consider comments received.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PRELIMINARY DRAFT REVISED COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Mr. Skye made a motion and Ms. Landis seconded, to request Public Works to extend an additional 45-day public review period for the Draft Revised Siting Element and Draft EIR. Motion passed unanimously.

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

##### Subsurface Landfill Gas Migration

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Landfill Gas Migration at the CCL. As requested by the Subcommittee at the August 19, 2021 meeting, staff prepared a [presentation](#) on landfill gas migration at the Landfill. The following 5 slides were shown:

- Site map of CCL taken from the 2017 Joint Technical Document (JTD) showing the network of gas monitoring wells.
- Table extracted from the 2017 JTD showing information of each monitoring probe with well identification numbers, surface elevation, base refuse elevation, and Title 27 calculated depth.
- An example of a typical methane gas monitoring probe.
- A sample of the Landfill's perimeter gas monitoring data for the month of April 2021 extracted from the CCL's 2nd Quarter 2021 Monitoring Report.

Mr. Mohajer has the following comments:

- As the site map was revised on October 24, 2009, he inquired if there is an updated map that shows the boundary of the existing landfill and the boundary for the completed landfill.
- The typical slide for the monitoring well has the last revised date of November 1991. A new date should be noted if the information is still applicable.

Mr. Mohajer said he did not know how far apart the monitoring wells are and if they were more than 1,000 feet, which would not be a sufficient amount of monitoring probes. He would like staff to report on the distances between the monitoring wells and the boundary of the previous landfill area since the site map does not identify.

Ms. Landis concurred with Mr. Mohajer's comments about updated information and the condition of the monitoring wells.

Mr. Skye responded that staff would get the requested information and will provide to the Subcommittee at next month's meeting.

Status on the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Landfill Operation and Maintenance Mitigation Measures

Mr. Omid Mazdidasni, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the CCL Stipulated Order for Abatement.

The AQMD hearing regarding the Stipulated Order for Abatement was held on August 10 and 17, 2021, which staff provided an update for at the last Subcommittee meeting. The hearing was continued to August 19, 2021, and the updates from that hearing included modifications to the Stipulated Order for Abatement. Following are the modifications:

1. CCL will continue to reduce working face size to 85 percent of the maximum allowed working face size until they do not receive a Notice of Violation (NOV) for 3 consecutive weeks to signify a break in the short-term trend of odor complaints.
2. Language was clarified for a wind study to be conducted at various parts of the Landfill and to include optimization of orchard fans. The wind study was previously for Cells 6 and 8, which had been completed.
3. CCL will conduct additional consultant-led training for odor surveillance, and previously trained staff for odor surveillance as part of the original Stipulated Order for Abatement.
4. CCL will update the AQMD whenever there are additional operational changes for odor control.

The Landfill Operator posted information on the CCL website regarding updates on Implementing Odor Mitigation Measures. Updates included:

*Listed as Completed Tasks*

- Retained a consultant for the landfill gas collection system.
- Consultant completed the initial odor surveillance training and has accompanied all odor surveyors on their odor surveillance trips.
- CCL selected its new Odor Control Supervisor and introduced her to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC).
- CCL constructed a litter fence on the western ridgeline of the Landfill.
- Consultant completed a study of air movement around the Landfill, and the report was submitted to AQMD.
- Consultant completed a study of the feasibility of a vegetative barrier or other wind flow disruptors, and the report was submitted to AQMD.

- CCL submitted an application for expanded use of the alternative daily cover material.
- CCL constructed and deployed the orchard fans.

*Listed as Ongoing Tasks*

- Twice daily odor surveillance monitoring by Landfill staff started and is ongoing.
- Adjustments to the use of Cell 6 for waste disposal, the size and location of the landfill's working face, and the use of fans equipped with odor neutralizer are being made in accordance with the Stipulated Order.
- Daily inspection of tarp covers is ongoing.
- Weekly inspection of the intermediate cover is ongoing.
- CCL started using the new Enviro-Cover material.
- CCL is hosting its monthly community meetings.
- CCL is implementing the Standard Operating Procedures, Odorous Load Profiles, and Key Performance Indicators.
- CCL and consultant are undertaking supplemental classroom and consultant-accompanied odor surveillance training.
- CCL is utilizing a designated odor control zone on site for odorous loads received.

The next Stipulated Order for Abatement hearing will be held on November 2, 2021.

Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of Mr. Mazdiyasni's verbal update, a copy of the modified Stipulated Order of Abatement that AQMD issued, and the link to the Landfill website. Ms. Landis requested the information be e-mailed to the entire Subcommittee.

Update on Community Advisory Committee

Mr. Andrew Kim, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on CCL-CAC. Following are key points to CCL-CAC meetings:

- Typically, CAC meetings are held quarterly, but may be held more or less frequently at the discretion of the committee.
- The CAC is normally comprised of 7 members that are appointed by Supervisorial District 5.
- CAC meetings must comply with the Brown Act. Agendas must be posted at least 72 hours prior to meetings.
- CAC serves as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors, Regional Planning Commission, and County staff on issues relating to the Landfill and as a conduit for the community to communicate with the Board, Commission, and agencies concerning the development and operation of CCL.
- The last CAC meeting was held in June 2021 and the next meeting is scheduled virtually for October 5, 2021, at 6 p.m.

- Due to COVID-19, CAC meetings are held virtually. Meeting links can be found on the Department of Regional Planning's [website](#).

Mr. Mohajer requested staff to provide a list of CAC Members, website address, and a list of offices if any.

#### Updates on Odor Complaints and NOVs

Mr. Kim provided the following information for CCL:

- AQMD agreed to provide odor complaint data on a quarterly basis. The next quarterly odor complaint update will be provided in October 2021 and staff will present to the Subcommittee at the October Subcommittee meeting.
- 2 NOVs were issued by AQMD, dated August 28 and September 9, 2021.

#### NOV issued by Regional Planning Department on June 11, 2020

- On April 19, 2021, the Task Force sent a letter to CCL regarding NOV.
- In response, CCL submitted their fourth monthly update on August 30, 2021, that was disseminated to the Task Force on August 31, 2021. The update addressed the following April 19, 2021 letter requirements:
  - CCL Chiquita is currently in negotiations with the County for Conditions 68, 77, and 79. CCL tried to resolve the non-compliance with Condition 113 by submitting information requested by the County on July 10, 2020.
  - Compliance with Finding of Conformance (FOC) Condition 22 requires the Landfill to provide any NOVs received by a permitting agency to the Task Force. The Landfill provided copies of NOVs to staff dated August 10, 28, and September 9, 2021 by AQMD. Copies of the August 10 and 28, 2021 NOVs were disseminated to the Task Force on August 31, 2021, and a copy of the September 9, 2021 NOV was disseminated to the Task Force on September 13, 2021.
- Staff will continue to follow up with CCL monthly for their NOV status update.

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

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from the AQMD](#) for the month of August 2021.

- During the month of August 2021, 71 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 16 were classified as Trash, 9 were listed as Landfill Gas, and rest were listed as No Field Response and None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.

- Compared to July 2021, the number of complaints received in August 2021 increased from 27 to 71 complaints.
- Compared to August 2020, the number of complaints for August 2021 decreased from 82 to 71 complaints.
- As of September 7, 2021, AQMD issued 2 NOVs related to odor for the month of August 2021.
- According to the AQMD report, the total number of complaints received during 2021 is 175.

Ms. Landis commented that odor complaints do not seem to be close to any schools and wondered if schools were open. Also, Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens noted that there were 2 occasions when many odor complaints were called in.

Mr. Coyle confirmed that school had been in session since the beginning of August 2021 and that AQMD stopped by the school several times throughout the month to check on potential odors. He also confirmed 71 complaints and 2 NOVs issued. On Sunday, August 1, 2021, there was a power outage that hit the landfill gas to energy plant on the transmission side that had nothing to do with the Landfill and pulled the flares down. Flares were down for about 1 hour and 45 minutes, which is when the Landfill began restarting the flares and complaints started filtering in. Downtime was under 2 hours, at which time complaints went away, but caused an NOV. The second NOV was issued on August 11, 2021, due to an extremely hot day and transfer stations backed up, so material was sitting for a while. After August 11, 2021, efforts were doubled on odor patrols and in managing operations to reduce odors from potentially impacting the neighborhood. There were under 20 complaints reported after August 11, 2021.

Mr. Hunter asked if the gas to energy plant had a backup generator. Mr. Coyle responded that he did not know since the gas to energy plant is an entirely separate operation.

Mr. Hunter wondered why they would not have a backup generator and wanted to know what the process is for finding out if they have one and whether there should be some action taken upon by the County or AQMD to have them install a backup generator.

Ms. Landis responded that there has been a continuous problem with the power grid failing so having a backup generator would not help, which is the reason she commented on the Draft Revised Siting Element the need for more local electrical production.

Mr. Coyle also stated that the gas to energy plant is served on transmission lines and not service lines, so those transmission lines are much more reliable than the

actual power grid. The incident was a rare event. The backup generator would also be on the AQMD side. He noted that there are rules that hinder the ability to use generators. For example, a standby generator can only be used for 200 hours a year. Mr. Coyle stated that California Air Resources Board and the State Legislature had either passed or were waiting for the Governor to waive any hours related to a public safety power shutoff counting towards 200 hours. Discussion ensued about power needed for a backup generator.

**V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS**

Staff did not receive any reports for this period. Staff will provide updates at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public Comment.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 11 a.m.