

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

October 20, 2022

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
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

William Carr, Republic Services
Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Tim Fargo, City of Los Angeles
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dustin Dvorak, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dennis Lee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Omid Mazdidasni, Los Angeles County Public Works
Robel Mesfin, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gladys Rietze, Los Angeles County Public Works
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Airon Tee, 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 MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 MEETING

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to approve the Minutes, and Mr. Christopher Sheppard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Omid Mazdidasni, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

Odor Complaints and Notice of Violations (NOV)

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) reported that the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) received 3 odor complaints in July, 15 odor complaints in August, and 9 odor complaints in September. No NOVs were reported for the period between July through September 2022.

Update on Lawsuits

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 Conditional Use Permit. In June 2022, the court granted CCL's writ petition in part and denied it in part. The second lawsuit was filed on April 13, 2018, challenging a decision by the hearing officer that upheld a 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 parties have settled both lawsuits.

Task Force Request for CCL to Submit a Report regarding NOVs Received

- CCL submitted their Eighteenth Monthly Update to the Task Force dated September 30, 2022, which addressed the April 19, 2021, letter's requirements and updates on implementation of Conditions 68 (status of air quality monitoring for surrounding communities), 77 (relocation of the site entrance from Henry Mayo Drive to Wolcott Drive), and 79 (schedule of the Street Improvement project), as well as the Stipulated Order for Abatement from AQMD.

Stipulated Order for Abatement

At the September 30, 2022, AQMD meeting, the Hearing Board confirmed that the Order for Abatement is set to expire on November 15, 2022.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Hearing Board provided any provisions for the public to request extending the Odor for Abatement for items they feel the Landfill Operator did not comply with. Mr. Mazdiyasni responded no and that the Odor for Abatement expires on November 15, 2022.

Mr. Steve Cassulo, the general manager for CCL, responded that the Hearing Board was very pleased with CCL's success this year in the reduction of complaints and verified complaints. In addition, there was only one verified complaint during the summer, so the Hearing Board saw no reason to continue the Odor for Abatement.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the decision had anything to do with the lawsuit referencing conducting air quality tests and the impact on public health. Mr. Cassulo responded it was solely regarding odor complaints.

Mr. Mohajer asked if CCL had conducted a health risk assessment that the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) requires. Mr. Cassulo answered yes and that it was shared with the community a couple of years ago. Mr. Cassulo further clarified that, in addition to the health risk assessment study, CCL also has installed air monitors to check the air quality in the community.

Mr. Mohajer asked what the deadline was for completing the air monitoring, and Mr. Cassulo responded that there was none. Mr. Cassulo indicated that CCL will share with the Subcommittee a report associated with the air quality monitoring, which will come out within the next month.

IV. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF COMFORMANCE REPORTS

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, provided update on Finding of Conformance (FOC), which only reflected the incoming stream during the one-week period when the study was conducted.

Staff received the Fall 2022 Semi Annual Waste Characterization reports for various landfills. A table was shown of the breakdown of the waste type collected for Spring and Fall 2022 Waste Characterization studies at respective landfills. A majority of waste types sampled had a gradual change from the previous study.

At the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility, the Organics decreased from 74 to 46 percent, and both other wastes and plastics increased from 3 to 16 percent and 17 to 35 percent, respectively.

At the Lancaster Landfill, there was a decrease in organics from 56 to 39 percent and an increase in plastics from 34 to 58 percent.

Ms. Landis asked if the changes were seasonal and that the trends should be monitored through the year since they tend to be the same for the landfills. Mr. Herman responded that staff could monitor.

Mr. Mohajer noted that both the Antelope Valley and Lancaster Landfills are owned and operated by Waste Management, and they are the decision makers on how they allocate trucks from the transfer stations to these landfills, which impacts the waste characterizations.

Ms. Landis commented for staff to include a note on the table indicating that one company is responsible for operating these landfills. Ms. Landis added if there were no holidays or festivals during the study period, it should also be noted on reports.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the landfills submit monthly reports that staff can review to see how the quantities vary between solid waste and plastics. He also mentioned a footnote should be added with all pertinent information, including the study period dates.

Mr. Wayne Hunter with the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens asked why plastics, inert solids, household hazardous waste and tires would be so much higher in the fall as opposed to the spring. Mr. Herman responded that there was no definitive answer as the study only reflects one week of the landfills' waste streams.

V. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Robel Mesfin, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from the AQMD](#) for the month of September 2022 at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL).

- During the month of September 2022, 85 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 31 were classified as Trash, 12 were listed as No Field

Response, and 35 as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.

- Compared to August 2022, the number of complaints received since September 2022 increased from 40 to 85 complaints.
- Compared to the previous year, September 2021, the number of complaints for September 2022 increased from 55 to 85 complaints.
- As of September 2022, AQMD issued 2 NOVs related to odor for the month of September 2022 and a total of 11 NOVs for the year 2022.
- AQMD's report indicates that the total number of complaints received during 2022 is 532.

Ms. Landis noted that on the data sheets she reviewed for SCL, a lot of the odors occurred in the morning hours at 7 a.m. and odors were reported by the same addresses. She asked if it was simply due to the open face at SCL causing odors to escape. Mr. Hunter commented the issue may be seasonal and that this time of year, odor complaints go up and added that schools are now in session. He also mentioned that the landfill is coming up out of the canyon and is moving to the east, which is closer to homes, when in the past the landfill was lower, and complaints will get worse. He also mentioned that trash trucks start coming in at 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. in the mornings. Mr. Hunter continued sharing his concerns.

Ms. Kate Downey, the environmental manager for SCL, addressed Mr. Hunter's comments responding that SCL does not allow trucks to queue on site prior to disposal acceptance time and trucks that arrive early, are turned away. SCL also covers all the trash everyday with an approved alternative daily cover (ADC), Monday through Friday. Ms. Downey continued to say that every Saturday, SCL covers trash with six inches of compacted soil and at no point is trash left on the open face uncovered. SCL is also monitored by the Local Enforcement Agency and is diligently trying to mitigate odors. Ms. Landis noted that most complaints were early in the morning so assumed it was due to SCL removing ADC from the working face of the landfill. Ms. Downey responded that the ADC is not removed. The ADC is placed to cover the trash at the end of the day and is left in place and not removed prior to the next day's operation, which is the standard industry practice for ADC. Discussion ensued about weather conditions causing potential odors, as well as mitigation measures, and continued concerns from the community.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for staff to develop a proposal on how to reduce odors at SCL between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., and Ms. Landis seconded. The motion passed with one abstention.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 17, 2022, at 11 a.m.