

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

November 17, 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:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Kate Downey, Republic Services
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
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, 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
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gladys Rietze, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, 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 MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 MEETING

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

Mr. Mohajer requested that the Subcommittee receive a copy of the Board of Supervisors package approving the Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) settlement. He also mentioned that at last month's meeting a motion was passed with one abstention for staff to develop a proposal on how to reduce odors at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) between the hours of 6 a.m. - 9 a.m. and did not see anything on the agenda, nor a report from staff. Mr. David Nguyen responded that the report is under Item IV Odor Mitigation Measures and staff will speak on the different mitigation measures for SCL.

III. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

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

Odor Complaints and Notice of Violations (NOV)

The next quarterly update from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) will be provided in January 2023.

Task Force Request for CCL to Submit a Report regarding NOV's Received

- CCL submitted their Nineteenth Monthly Update to the Task Force dated October 31, 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.
- No NOV's were received for the month of October 2022.

Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of the settlement agreement between CCL and the County, which staff updated the Subcommittee on at last month's meeting. Mr. Mazdiyasni responded that it would be provided.

Mr. Mohajer noted a series of questions he asked regarding CCL on last month's minutes, addressing the concerns he brought up from the public and how the Subcommittee is responsible for advocating those concerns.

Ms. Landis asked Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens if he was receiving sufficient information from the Subcommittee. Mr. Hunter responded that the FPRS agendas do not provide specific times allotted for each agenda item and are not detailed enough for the public to understand.

IV. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Third Quarter Vegetation Report

Mr. Alexander Castro, staff to the Task Force provided an update on the [Finding of Conformance](#) Third Quarter Vegetation Report submitted by Republic Services (Republic) on October 28, 2022.

City Side South Sage pilot Area – Deck C/Lower Deck

- Lower Deck appears to have almost fully recovered from the wildfire. The most prevalent native plant species observed in the third quarter of 2022 was the California sunflower, followed by saltbush, and beardless wild rye.
- Exotic annual plant species have declined in cover between the second and third quarters of 2022.

City Side South – Deck B Area/Middle Deck

- A large portion of the deck that burned during the wildfire has rebounded and an abundance of new seedlings has filled the once barren dirt. The regrowth of seedlings has demonstrated that the deck has become self-sustaining and establishes no need for supplemental irrigation.
- Many of the observed native species in the seed mix that were germinating or blooming in the previous quarter are currently exhibiting fruiting. The following native plants were observed: White Sage, Mexican Elderberry, Menzie's Goldenbush, and Prickly Pear.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- Deck A continues to be sparsely covered with native vegetation and total vegetation coverage, native and non-native, is generally sparse due to compacted and poor soil conditions.

County Side Sage Mitigation Area

- No vegetation activities were conducted in this area. The northern and upper portions of the mitigation area continue to be bare and problematic for establishment of vegetation, primarily due to highly eroded soils, steep slopes, and Boron-toxic soils.
- Vegetation is dominant in this portion of the upper deck indicating that the soils are suitable for supporting native and exotic vegetation.

Ms. Landis shared her continuous concern with SCL hydroseeding because most seeds do not germinate. Ms. Landis mentioned several ways of giving native seeds a chance to grow which included mounds, troughs, and pots. She also questioned what SCL is doing with the oak trees around the front entrance of the landfill. She also inquired about how Republic would address the impact to the oak tree mitigation bank. Mr. Hunter responded that SCL had eight oak trees left out of 40 and are constructing a new landfill termination berm and sediment basin at the entrance to SCL. Ms. Landis agreed SCL should have a projected schedule for their proposed actions on their reports and wanted staff to follow up with SCL on concerns being brought up.

Ms. Kate Downey of Republic responded that the removal of the coast live oak trees at the front entrance are mitigated by growing and replanting at a ratio of two for each tree removal. Ms. Downey stated that Republic is still growing oak trees in their nursery, and they still have a program for free vegetation giveaways to the public. Republic is working with their subcontractors on a plan for replanting in 2023. Republic should be able to provide an update on the next vegetation report regarding the planting schedule for the oak trees. Mr. Hunter suggested adding the status of the nursery into the vegetation report. Ms. Downey responded that Republic could include that information as well.

Odor Complaints

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

- During the month of October 2022, 64 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 17 were classified as Trash, 17 were listed as No Field Response, 5 were classified as Landfill Gas, and 25 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to October 2021, the number of complaints received in October 2022, decreased from 85 to 64 complaints.

- As of October 2022, AQMD issued 1 NOV related to odor for the month and a total of 12 NOVs for the year 2022.
- AQMD's report indicates that the total number of complaints received during 2022 is 596.

Ms. Landis noted early morning odor complaints were reduced after the discussion at last month's Subcommittee meeting regarding early morning odor complaints.

Mr. Hunter asked Ms. Downey who was representing SCL at the SCL Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. The City/County Landfill meetings have been held since 2009 and a SCL representative had always attended in accordance with the City/County agreement, but there was no representative at the November 10, 2022, meeting. Ms. Downey apologized for the oversight and that it is a priority to have a representative at every meeting. She explained there had been recent management changes. Ms. Downey is now the team environmental manager, Mr. Bill Carr is the Division Manager onsite, and Mr. Paul Coster, is a new environmental manager on the team. Mr. Mohajer asked that Ms. Downey provide a list of SCL managers and contacts to the Subcommittee and the SCL-CAC. Ms. Downey agreed.

Odor Mitigation Measures

Ms. Gladys Rietze, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on SCL's odor mitigation measures, which included suggested mitigation measures to reduce landfill odors between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m., requested by the Subcommittee last month. The following measures were suggested:

- Request operator to provide independent third-party monitoring at or near schools located in the vicinity of the landfill and to timely report back to the Landfill operator for immediate action.
Request operator to provide the current Best Management Practices, including transfer trailer unloading practices, to mitigate fresh trash odor complaints to the Task Force for further review. Additional practices may be recommended that landfill could pursue to mitigate the trash odors.
- Request operator to evaluate the effectiveness of physical barriers, such as the Oak Tree mitigation berm.
- Request operator to evaluate the current odor neutralizer system in the Operator's transfer stations and provide recommendations of any needed improvements.
- Request operator to evaluate current odor neutralizer systems at the working face and areas surrounding the landfill for its effectiveness to manage fresh trash odors from the working face.

- Request Operator to prohibit the unloading and dumping of transfer trailer loads and route collection trucks at the landfill.

Mr. Mohajer asked how the suggested odor mitigation measures compared to the [October 31, 2022, letter](#) that Public Works sent to SCL. Mr. Nguyen clarified that the October 31, 2022 letter was a standing requirement from Condition 45 of the [SCL Conditional Use Permit](#) (CUP), for the Landfill Operator to submit the quarterly dust and odor report and address any complaints received by the Landfill. Public Works found the report provided was insufficient and requested the Landfill to submit a revised report detail. He confirmed that Public Works staff received the [revised report from the Landfill on November 15, 2022](#) and was under review. Mr. Mohajer asked if the October 31, 2022, letter was disseminated to the Task Force and requested that the odor mitigation measures item be placed on the agenda for consideration. Mr. Christopher Sheppard confirmed the October 31, 2022, letter and the odor mitigation measures suggested would be disseminated to the Subcommittee for review and the odor mitigation measures would be included on the next Subcommittee meeting agenda.

IX. DISCUSSION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Dennis Lee, staff to the Task Force, provided the following:

- [Fall 2022 Semi Annual Waste Characterization Studies Report for CCL](#)
- [3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report for CCL](#)
- [Fall 2022 Semi Annual Waste Characterization Studies Report for SCL](#)
- [3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report for SCL](#)

Ms. Landis asked what White Goods were, that was listed under Metals. Mr. Sheppard responded they were household appliances such as washing machines, dryers, and refrigerators.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the second, third, and fourth bullet points of page 1 of the [Fall 2022 Semi Annual Waste Characterization Studies and Quarterly Monitoring Reports for Various Landfills Staff Report, dated November 10, 2022](#), needed to be corrected due to typos. Staff agreed to revise the Staff Report per Mr. Mohajer's comments and resubmit to the FPRS members once revised.

As requested by the Subcommittee, staff has incorporated the corrections from the November 10, 2022, Staff Report into the [Revised Fall 2022 Semi Annual Waste Characterization Studies and Quarterly Monitoring Reports for Various Landfills Staff Report, dated February 9, 2023](#).

X. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter expressed concern that at the November 10, 2022 SCL-CAC meeting, he learned that SCL had submitted an application to City of Los Angeles for a berm project including 1.5 million cubic yards of imported dirt and raised the issue to the County. Mr. Nguyen confirmed that at the SCL-CAC meeting, City Planning Staff reported receiving the application submitted by SCL. Since then, the County met with the City Planning Department and conveyed the County's CUP requirement regarding approval of importation of soil by the County. Mr. Nguyen restated the CUP tonnage capacity limitation of 12,100 tons per day for all material. Mr. Sheppard confirmed the County will continue to work with the City Planners and County Regional Planning as they review the application.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion that if the Task Force has a meeting in December, then the Subcommittee will have a meeting in December. However, if the Task Force does not have a meeting in December, then the Subcommittee will not have a meeting in December. Mr. Sheppard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m. The next Subcommittee meeting is to be determined.