

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

September 18, 2025

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Jordan Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association
Felicia Truong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Basil Cantu, City of Long Beach Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Bronson, Republic Services
Jonathan Caruso, Waste Management
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Eugene Tseng, Local Enforcement Agency
Alex Fitchmun, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Emiko Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 21, 2025, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Jordan Sisson made a motion to approve the August 21, 2025, minutes, and Mr. Wayne Hunter seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, reported on Chiquita Canyon Landfill's (CCL) Notices of Violation (NOVs):

- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Fifty-Second Monthly Update](#), dated August 29, 2025, in accordance with the [April 19, 2021, Task Force letter](#) requirements and subsequent request for additional updates on NOVs issued and mitigation measures imposed by various regulatory agencies.
- CCL received 11 NOVs in August 2025 related to air quality from AQMD, compared to the 5 NOVs received in July 2025 and the 20 NOVs received in August 2024.
- CCL entered into a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) with AQMD on September 2, 2023, that was last modified on June 24, 2025, to address and abate the odors resulting from the reaction at CCL through continuous implementation of mitigation measures in the SOA. A copy of the modified SOA will be shared with the Subcommittee once available.
- The next status update and modification hearing on the SOA is scheduled for October 29 and November 12, 2025.

Mr. Sisson asked for the location of the modification hearing. Mr. Herman advised that there was a virtual option to attend.

Mr. Larry Israel with AQMD advised that the full status hearing was scheduled for 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, October 29, 2025, at the AQMD's Headquarters in Diamond Bar, with public testimony being received. He stated that there may be some modifications and additional conditions being reviewed and mostly regarding the off-site monitoring. Mr. Israel confirmed the 11 NOVs for August and 389 odor complaints that AQMD received. Currently, for September, there have been 230 odor complaints with 12 NOVs. For the month of September, the AQMD has conducted surveillance for 15 days and has verified odors for each of those days, 12 of which were raised to nuisance violations.

Mr. Hunter asked if the odors were exclusively due to the reaction area. Mr. Israel confirmed the odors detected are from the reaction area and are distinct and strong and are primarily landfill reaction gas odors. He stated that inspectors are detecting the odors every morning, which cover approximately 100 acres of the landfill, that will be covered with geomembrane. Half of the area is covered. He added that CCL is using an Ethylene Vinyl Alcohol (EVOH) geomembrane 60-mil, which is a newer liner for areas not previously addressed.

Mr. Hunter continued and asked if odors have been reduced since the use of the geomembrane cover and if it is only the uncovered area of CCL producing the odors. Mr. Israel explained it was difficult to confirm since it is not showing much of an impact right now and because they are still making upgrades and modifications to the gas collection system, including making plans to install a fourth flare. The flare will be near the three existing ones.

Mr. Hunter asked if the temporary flares that have been installed meet the AQMD requirements, including being burned at the correct temperature. Mr. Israel confirmed yes and that they are working at a minimum of 1,400°F, but those temporary flares handle much more inferior methane quality gas than the main flares.

Mr. Sisson's understanding is that the odors continue, and there is no incoming trash, or very minimal tonnage. Mr. Israel confirmed that there is no incoming trash and that CCL is closed for receiving waste as of January 1, 2025. When they are installing a monitoring well, they are removing waste soils that are being transported to their preexisting working phase in Cell 8A, which was in use until December 31, 2024.

Mr. Sisson asked what the composition of the gases was, pertaining to CO₂ and methane, and if there were elevations of CO₂. Mr. Israel responded that CalRecycle is tracking the composition of the gases and that there are a number of wells in the reaction area that were defined by the reaction committee, which was developed from the SOA. He added that outside of the reaction area, initially defined, are some wells showing elevated temperatures of up to 200°F and elevated carbon dioxide of several thousand parts per million. CalRecycle is recognizing that the reaction is expanding. However, CalRecycle has not analyzed all the data yet, but it looks as if the reaction is moving towards the northeast.

Mr. Sisson asked if there is an accumulation of water in the various cells. Mr. Israel responded they have not seen any real seepages from the ground which they saw almost daily in the last two years and that the only water they see is from spills

coming from the tank farm during the process of extracting the leachate and pumping it. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hunter commented that Assemblymember Pilar Schiavo, author of [Assembly Bill 28](#), attended the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) meeting virtually and that the bill involves CCL, but they are extending it to other landfills. He noted that at the SCL-CAC meeting, there were several residents indicating that they are experiencing similar problems as the communities surrounding CCL who received monetary assistance to cover additional costs to keep their homes closed and keep odors out. Some residents noted spending from \$600 to \$800 per month to keep their air conditioning running since they are unable to open their windows. Mr. Israel provided information on a relief fund that unfortunately ended already.

Ms. Thompson addressed Mr. Sisson's question about the composition of gases and based on her knowledge, one of the characteristics of an elevated temperature landfill event is when there is a little more carbon dioxide rather than the typical 50 percent each of methane and carbon dioxide. While odor complaints are high at SCL, the gas components are not indicative of an elevated temperature event.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Alex Fitchmun, staff to the Task Force, provided a brief update on the [odor complaints from AQMD for August 2025](#) at SCL:

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

- During the month of August 2025, 183 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 36 were classified as trash odors, 105 were listed as No Field Response, 14 were listed as landfill gas odors, 2 were listed as other odor which meant that an odor was detected but was not attributed to the landfill, and 26 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect odors.
- Compared to July 2025, the number of complaints received in August 2025 increased from 101 to 183 complaints.
- Compared to August 2024, the number of complaints for August 2025 increased from 65 to 183 complaints.
- AQMD issued 3 NOVs related to odor for the month of August 2025.
- The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 39.

Stipulated Order for Abatement

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

On March 19, 2025, the AQMD ordered Republic Services (Republic) to comply with several mitigation actions and conditions to be completed with the collaboration and approval of the AQMD and the SCL-Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). The main mitigation measures identified in the SOA include waste cover pilot projects and microbiology—based mitigation, landfill gas collection systems and infrastructure improvements, and enhancement of the surface emission monitoring grids in exceedance of methane emission requirements. AQMD also required Republic to report back on the implementation and progress of the mitigation measures after six months.

On September 3, 2025, the AQMD held a status hearing to discuss the progress of mitigation measures. All required mitigation measures were implemented by the date of the hearing and are ongoing. The Hearing Board determined no modification of the requirements in the SOA was needed and that the mitigation measures would continue to be applied. The next status hearing is scheduled for May 27, 2026, at the AQMD Headquarters in Diamond Bar.

Overview of Mitigation Measures

Mr. Eugene Tseng representing the SCL-LEA provided a [presentation](#) on mitigation measures for SCL, abbreviated from his presentation to the Hearing Board during the September 3, 2025 status hearing.

Mr. Sisson asked for clarification on whether the Posi-Shell is applied first and then the closure turf. Mr. Tseng responded no, and that the Posi-Shell and closure turf are separate and have different uses.

Mr. Hunter asked if the four different types of microbiology are being tested to determine the most effective. Mr. Tseng responded yes and that different types of microbiology operate best under different conditions and they each focus on different things, depending on the formulation. Therefore, different formulations are combined to produce maximum results.

Mr. Hunter noted concerns about elevated temperatures and fires at SCL by community groups other than the North Valley of Coalition of Concerned Citizens, Inc., (NVC). He added that Mr. Tseng did a lot of work to present data so that the group could understand that there were no elevated temperatures or fires. Mr. Hunter also confirmed that the NVC never believed there was a problem with

elevated temperatures at SCL, but if there ever was, the result could be like CCL. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sisson commented that the 2016 abatement was very effective at SCL with 150 new LFG wells installed, and asked how many of them are still active, have been repaired, or are down. Mr. Tseng responded he did not have the exact numbers available but that is information they will collect under the current SOA.

In relation to the current SOA, Mr. Sisson asked what materials the LFG wells are typically made of. Mr. Tseng responded that it depends on the type of LFG well. Vertical wells can be steel or plastic and horizontal wells, are usually just plastic. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sisson asked if there were any other landfills doing as much as SCL. Mr. Tseng responded not that he was aware of. Mr. Sisson asked about the composition of the landfill gas. Mr. Tseng confirmed that information is available on the LEA [website](#) and that the composition of gas is about half carbon dioxide and half methane and a bit of trace gases.

Mr. Sisson asked if there were any areas of more concern in terms of low methane. Mr. Tseng responded that the LEA has a heat map that shows the surface areas with higher emissions. Mr. Tseng pointed out that every landfill is required to operate on the positive pressure, it is required to physically push the methane to the surface to avoid underground fires.

Mr. Sisson indicated that his understanding is that the wellhead temperatures must comply with the Clean Air Act or seek a waiver. Mr. Tseng responded that the LEA does not issue waivers and that the AQMD does. Discussion ensued.

V. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Herman provided an update on SCL's [Second Quarter 2025 Monitoring Report](#), dated July 11, 2025, which included the following information:

- SCL disposed of approximately 863,000 tons in the Second Quarter of 2025. The disposal tonnage increased by 29 percent compared to the First Quarter of 2025.
- The beneficial reuse material total for the Second Quarter of 2025, including diversion and soil, was 29,000 tons. The beneficial reuse material increased by 93 percent compared to the First Quarter of 2025.

Mr. Hunter commented that in three months SCL disposed of 800,000 tons. Therefore, annualized would be about 3.2 million tons. SCL's largest disposal was 2.1 million tons. He was also aware that in five months, they took in about 300,000 tons of fire-related debris. Mr. Hunter asked what caused the increase in tonnage and asked if Public Works monitors tonnage in terms of municipal solid waste (MSW). Mr. Herman responded that staff reached out to Republic, who confirmed that the uptake in MSW can be attributed to the fire debris they were accepting from the Eaton Fire. Mr. Herman also confirmed that the increase in beneficial material can be attributed to the construction material they started accepting in April and May.

Mr. Sisson requested confirmation that based on the tonnage between 15,000 tons and 12,100 tons is being attributed to fire debris, and SCL should expect an increase in tonnage because of the fire debris. Mr. Herman confirmed. Mr. Sisson asked if there are any other considerations in relation to the Finding of Conformance. Mr. Herman responded that he would have to defer the question to Republic, but his understanding is that the increase in tonnage was due to the Eaton Fire.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 16, 2025, at 11 a.m.