

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

March 19, 2026

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Barbara Moore, City of Long Beach Energy and Environmental
Services Department
David Fahrion, California Waste and Recycling Association
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Felicia Truong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Bronson, Republic Services
Brenda Eells, Waste Connections
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
John Mendieta, Waste Management
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program
Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works
Lance Cervantes, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alex Fitchmun, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Cameron Jones, Los Angeles County Public Works
Adrian Perea, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, 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 11:05 a.m. She introduced two new representatives serving on the Subcommittee: Ms. Barbara Moore, representing the City of Long Beach and serving as alternate to Mr. Basil Cantu; and Mr. David Fahrion, Chief Executive Officer of the California Waste and Recycling Association, who will be assuming the role of Subcommittee member on an interim basis, filling the vacancy left by Mr. Jordan Sisson.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2025, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Fahrion made a motion to approve February 19, 2025, Subcommittee minutes, and Mr. Wayde Hunter seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL (CCL)

Mr. Cameron Jones, staff to the Task Force, reported on CCL's Notices of Violation (NOVs):

- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Fifty-Eighth Monthly Update](#), dated February 27, 2026, which included updates 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 4 NOVs in February 2026 related to air quality from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), compared to the 4 NOVs received in January 2026 and the 9 NOVs received in February 2025.
- CCL entered into a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) with AQMD on September 2, 2023, that was last modified on [December 9, 2025](#), to address and abate the odors resulting from the reaction at CCL.
- The next status update and modification hearing on the SOA is scheduled for May 28, 2026.
- On February 25, 2026, CCL received a [Summary of Violations](#) from the Department of Toxic and Substances Control (DTSC) alleging CCL failed to mitigate the risk of releasing hazardous constituents and creating a threat to soil, groundwater, and public health and transferred custody of hazardous waste and/or condensate to transporters who did not hold a valid registration issued by DTSC. CCL is evaluating the alleged violations and will provide detailed findings in a subsequent report.
- As of February 27, 2026, there have been no new updates regarding NOVs issued by Public Works (PW) and Regional Planning.

At last month's Subcommittee meeting, members sought clarification on what Los Angeles County inspects during its site visits to CCL. Mr. Jones explained that both PW and Regional Planning conduct joint site visits that are organized and tracked by an independent monitoring consultant under the purview of Regional Planning. Regional Planning has also agreed to attend next month's Subcommittee meeting to discuss the organized inspection process, as well as their quarterly inspection reports for CCL.

Mr. Jones noted that, on site visits, PW typically focuses its inspection on areas within its purview, which will be further detailed at next month's Subcommittee meeting with both PW staff and Regional Planning representatives.

Mr. Larry Israel with AQMD provided the following update on odor complaints at CCL:

- As of March 19, 2026, there have been 252 odor complaints reported and 3 nuisance violations issued for the month of March 2026.
- AQMD staff are currently staged in the community seven days a week, typically between 7 a.m. and noon, but will respond to any odor complaints 24/7, including in the late evening and early morning hours.
- As of March 19, 2026, there have been approximately 870 odor complaints and 11 nuisance violations issued so far in 2026.
- There is an Order for Abatement (OA) status hearing scheduled for Thursday, May 28, 2026, and there will likely be some modifications on the OA.
- AQMD will be requesting that CCL source test their three portable flares that are operating due to complaints of physical flames emanating from the surface of the equipment.

Mr. Fahrion inquired into the root cause of the odor complaints. Mr. Israel responded that CCL is experiencing a subsurface elevated temperature event and the odors may be caused by reaction gas odors or leachate primarily.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided a brief update on the [odor complaints from AQMD for February 2026](#) at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL):

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

- During the month of February 2026, 568 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 64 were classified as trash odors, 366 were listed as No Field

- Response, 36 were listed as landfill gas odors, and 102 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect odors.
- Compared to January 2026, the number of complaints received in February 2026 decreased from 673 to 568 complaints.
 - Compared to February 2025, the number of complaints for February 2026 increased from 340 to 568 complaints.
 - AQMD issued 14 NOVs related to odor for the month of February 2026.
 - The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 30.

Mr. Israel provided the following update on odor complaints at SCL:

- As of the month of March 2026, there have been approximately 332 odor complaints reported. There were 8 nuisance violations and 2 track out violations issued during the month.
 - 2 NOVs that were the result of odor complaints received from schools.
 - Of the total number of nuisance violations in March 2026, 3 were reported after hours.
- The total number of odor complaints for the calendar year is approximately 1,575 and approximately 35 nuisance violations.
- SCL is operating under an OA. The status hearing was rescheduled from May 17, 2026, to April 30, 2026. AQMD will be seeking to modify many conditions imposed in the initial OA.

Mr. Hunter reported that during the SCL-Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, Mr. Eugene Tseng, representing the Local Enforcement Agency, stated that the well pumps at SCL were unable to keep pace with inflows from recent rain events.

The meeting also included discussion of ongoing landfill construction activities. Mr. Hunter asked whether appropriate odor control measures were being maintained during construction, noting an increase in reported odors. Mr. Israel responded that he did not believe the odors were solely attributable to construction. He noted that many complaints verified by inspectors occur in the early morning, typically between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., while some construction activities do not begin until later in the morning. Discussion ensued.

Vegetation Update

Mr. Alex Fitchmun, staff to the Task Force, provided an [update](#) on the SCL Fourth Quarter Vegetation Report that Republic Services submitted on January 30, 2026. Mr. Hunter commented that Rincon Consultants (Rincon) produced a quantitative monitoring report for the City Side Sage Mitigation area, which included a series of

recommendations, and asked whether PW reviews those recommendations. Mr. Fitchmun noted that PW inspects Rincon's recommendations during landfill site visits.

Mr. Hunter asked if anyone is tracking the implementation of Rincon's recommendations. Mr. Harmon responded that PW attends the site visits with Ultrasystems, which is the consultant selected by the City and County as an independent monitor, and that the primary vegetation permit documents are maintained by City and County Planning Departments. Mr. Harmon stated that PW will collaborate with Planning agencies to ensure reasonable implementation timelines for mitigation recommendations.

Mr. Hunter continued to share his concerns about accountability for SCL completing the recommendations for revegetation.

Mr. Tseng confirmed that Ultrasystems contractors were at SCL that morning and noted he observed the crew removing weeds last Friday. Mr. Hunter asked whether a biologist was present, but Mr. Tseng was unsure.

Mr. Harmon noted that the report provided to the Subcommittee documents the biologist's supervision of the weeding activities.

Mr. Hunter requested that a schedule be developed to track progress on the recommendations.

Finding of Conformance

Mr. Joe Bartolata, staff to the Task Force, addressed questions the Subcommittee had at last month's meeting regarding applicability of the operator's Finding of Conformance (FOC) in relation to NOV's issued to SCL:

- Assembly Bill 939 (AB 939), as amended, requires each county to prepare a countywide siting element (CSE) that describes how the county, and the cities within the county, plan to manage the disposal of their solid waste for a 15-year planning period. The revised CSE document, dated [November 2023](#), was approved by a majority of the cities containing a majority of the incorporated population in the County, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).
- AB 939 mandates that the CSE establishes goals, policies, and guidelines for the proper planning and siting of solid waste disposal facilities on a Countywide basis.

- The CSE offers strategies and establishes siting criteria to aid in evaluating the feasibility of potential sites for the development of solid waste management and disposal facilities.
- One of the components for the CSE is the FOC. Specific requirements of the FOC process may also be found in the California [Public Resources Code Section 50001](#) and [California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 18756](#).
- The FOC is applicable to all permitted Class III landfills, inert waste landfills, and alternative technology facilities in Los Angeles County. New and existing or expansion of existing solid waste disposal facilities that institute a significant change to their operation must obtain an FOC granted by the Task Force. Operational changes may include expanding the facility's footprint, hours, or permitted acreage, as well as increasing the maximum daily tonnage of waste received. For landfills, this includes increasing airspace capacity, disposal footprint, or maximum elevation.
- The FOC process ensures strict adherence to the CSE criteria while providing a public forum for stakeholders to comment on individual disposal facility projects.
- The FOC issued by the Task Force only determines whether a project is consistent with the CSE planning policies and not whether the facility is operating in compliance with regulatory requirements. The FOC is not designed to enforce day-to-day operational compliance. Regulators such as the Local Enforcement Agency, CalRecycle, AQMD, and the California Air Resources Board, and Regional Planning manage operational enforcement.
- According to CalRecycle, modifying the FOC typically does not necessitate a revision to the current solid waste facility permit.
- The FOC review process occurs early in the facility approval sequence, prior to permit issuance and construction and is not meant to be vehicle to monitor on going compliance.

After Mr. Bartolata clarified the FOC process, Mr. Hunter understood that the FOC was limited to the initial siting of the landfill and could not enforce ongoing operational compliance.

V. UPDATE ON ILLEGAL DUMPING CLEANUP

Mr. Harmon provided an update on the [Los Angeles County Illegal Dumping Procedure](#) that was enhanced due to the October 2025 illegal dumping incident in the unincorporated Agua Dulce area. The updated procedure includes construction debris cleanup and incorporates Subcommittee input. The procedure also details the testing, safe removal, and disposal of hazardous materials found at an illegal dumping site, with disposal occurring at certified facilities. PW Road Maintenance

staff are now implementing the updated procedure for illegal dumping of construction debris.

Mr. Hunter thanked PW staff for incorporating the Subcommittee's recommendations into the procedures.

Mr. Israel noted that Rule 1403 requires a [Procedure 5](#) plan is prepared by a certified asbestos consultant when asbestos materials are found. Cleanup can only begin after the certified asbestos consultant's plan is approved by AQMD.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hunter requested that Mr. Tseng share his recent SCL-CAC presentation with the Subcommittee. Mr. Tseng responded he would coordinate with PW staff.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 16, 2026, at 11 a.m.