

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

April 16, 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 Caruso, Waste Management

Miriam Thompson, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

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

Dave Nguyen, 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 11:01 a.m.

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

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve March 19, 2025, Subcommittee minutes, and Mr. Sam Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Emiko Thomson reported a request to reverse the order of Items III and IV on the agenda.

III. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL (SCL)

Mr. Larry Israel, Supervising Inspector with Southcoast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) provided a brief update on the [odor complaints summary from AQMD for March 2026](#) at SCL:

- During the month of March 2026, AQMD logged approximately 486 odor complaints and issued 11 nuisance violations.
- To date for April 2026, AQMD logged approximately 40 odor complaints and issued one nuisance violation.
- In 2026, there were approximately 1,767 odor complaints and 42 violations.
- The next Order for Abatement (OA) status hearing is scheduled for April 30, 2026, with several modifications made to the existing OA.
- Ongoing construction activities resulted in two trackout violations in mid-March for dirt tracked from SCL to San Fernando Road. Under Rule 403, trackout must not extend beyond 25 feet of the property line, which is a cumulative total of 25 feet.

Mr. Hunter raised concerns that odor complaints are back up to 2015 levels and asked about proposed short-term relief measures. Some issues relate to training, specifically improving operational response times to leachate seeps and exposed refuse. Well integrity also remains a concern, as many wells have become flooded or washed out. Mr. Israel added that implementing the conditions of the OA will take time.

Mr. Hunter further recommended delaying landfill operation until 9 a.m. to help reduce early morning odor impacts. Mr. Israel explained that in a previous OA, in effect from 2016 through 2018, SCL was required to delay dumping activities until

after 9 a.m. He noted that reductions in morning trash odors were observed almost immediately.

Mr. David Fahrion noted that SCL is basically the one major landfill left in Los Angeles County (County) and that limiting the amount of time that waste is disposed of at SCL could be detrimental to the County and City of Los Angeles (City). He explained that variables such as SCL operating hours, traffic, and their continued receipt of 8,000 tons of trash per day could result in possible backflow to transfer stations and waste being left at the curb. Given the severe lack of in-County landfill capacity, Mr. Fahrion strongly supports the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts opening Mesquite Regional Landfill as soon as possible. Discussion ensued.

IV. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL (CCL)

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

Odor Complaints and NOVs

- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Fifty-Ninth Monthly Update](#), dated April 1, 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 11 NOVs in March 2026 related to air quality from AQMD, compared to the 4 NOVs received in February 2026 and 7 NOVs in March 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.

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

- During the month of March 2026, AQMD logged 12 nuisance violations. While there were 659 total odor complaints, a single complainant is sometimes responsible for robocalling 20 to 30 complaints at a time. Therefore, the actual number of unique odor complaints may be closer to 559.
- The last NOV was issued on March 29, 2026.

- To date in April 2026, AQMD logged approximately 678 odor complaints, 614 of which are unique, and issued 12 nuisance violations, including one confirmed this morning at Castaic Elementary School.
- On April 1, 2026, AQMD confirmed odors with Live Oak Elementary School faculty.
- The next hearing is scheduled for May 28, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., at the Diamond Bar Headquarters with conditions and modifications to be imposed.

Mr. Hunter requested that AQMD prepare a summary spreadsheet for CCL similar to the one that is provided for SCL and asked what the reason was for the increase in odor complaints in March and April after CCL installed a new flare. Mr. Israel noted that the latest flare was installed two years ago, and recently, CCL installed Portable Thermal Oxidizers (TOXs), which are considered smaller flares. However, CCL is having problems with operating the TOXs stemming from the collection system and equipment.

Mr. Israel noted that the expanding gas, combined with underground settlement, is causing slope failure and leachate seepage on the west side. He stated that CCL is pumping out the leachate the best they can but have also run into problems with finding places to dispose of the extracted leachate. Furthermore, the main facility that was receiving most of CCL's leachate is no longer accepting it, requiring CCL to send its leachate for disposal to Mexico, Arizona, and other states.

Inspection Process

Ms. Miriam Thompson, with the Department of Regional Planning (DRP), provided an overview of their inspection process at landfills.

DRP serves as the County's land use authority for conditional use permits (CUP) and in ensuring that landfills are complying. DRP's responsibilities include four major areas:

- Permit administration and oversight – DRP is responsible for administering CUPs, governing landfill operations, maintaining records, and coordinating with other regulatory agencies for County compliance.
- Monitoring compliance and enforcement – DRP conducts ongoing monitoring through reports, audits, and implementation and monitoring program. DRP has authority to issue violations, assess administrative penalties, and bring matters to a hearing officer or DRP commission.
- Public engagement and transparency – DRP facilitates transparent communication between Landfill Operators and surrounding communities such as with hotline postings, complaint tracking, quarterly newsletters, and

collaboration with community and technical advisory committees. Community concerns are documented, addressed, and integrated into ongoing compliance review.

- Long-range planning and site development control – DRP conducts periodic and multi-year performance reviews for each landfill, assessing compliance, operational changes, and long-term capacity. They also identify opportunities to implement updated environmental protections and best practices.

DRP is also responsible for approving any site plan revisions and ensuring that no changes occur to critical constraints. DRP conducts planning studies, open space transition plans for closed areas, and implements mitigation measures.

When conducting field inspections at SCL at CCL, inspectors focus on compliance, confirming that operational practices align with the County's protection standards. DRP verifies CUP conditions and uses independent consultants, UltraSystems, that are present during site visits. They assist in monitoring roughly 1,400 conditions and provide DRP with monthly compliance evaluation reports for each landfill. Quarterly reports, featuring a detailed breakdown of inspection findings, are also provided to DRP.

Once findings are reported to the Landfill Operators, they work to improve conditions, which are then verified by DRP, UltraSystems, and other regulatory agencies during follow-up inspections.

V. NPFE – NONDISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT

Mr. Lance Cervantes, staff to the Task Force, provided the following review on the County's NPFE;

- The NDFE operates in compliance with Public Resources Code (PRC) Sections [41730](#) and [50001](#). Prepared In 1994, the original County NDFE complied with then-applicable state law and California Integrated Waste Management Board guidelines.
- Currently, there are two nondisposal facilities being proposed in the unincorporated County area including:
 - KORE Demonstration – a biomass conversion facility at the Lancaster Landfill that utilizes non-combustion thermal conversion technology (CT) designed to economically process source separated organic waste. The pilot project will assess the operational performance and viability of local thermal conversion pyrolysis.

- Lang Station – a proposed large volume composting facility in the Santa Clarita Valley. The facility is intended to process mixed organic waste delivered by various collection and transfer vehicles from multiple jurisdictions. The facility is intended to provide regional composting capacity to support diverting organics.
- The County must identify both projects in its NDFE before the facility permitting process is completed. Therefore, pursuant to PRC, Section [41734.5](#), Public Works (PW):
 - Transmitted a letter to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), dated [February 19, 2026](#), requesting that they append the facilities' information to the County's existing NDFE currently on file with CalRecycle.
 - CalRecycle responded to PW with an acknowledgement letter, dated [March 23, 2026](#).
- Under current guidelines, this is a routine administrative action, not final project approval. All permitting, environmental reviews, and operational approvals will be handled separately. Additionally, this update does not require Task Force or CalRecycle review. PW staff is presenting the update as information-only item.

Mr. Fahrion asked who the Operator is for the Santa Clarita Valley composting facility. Mr. Cervantes responded that he did not recall offhand. Mr. Fahrion requested written reports for updates like this for tracking purposes. Mr. Cervantes stated that updates are being made to the NDFE and copies will be made available.

Mr. Hunter inquired about how close Lang Station was to Windrose and the community as he was concerned with potential odor problems. Mr. Cervantes was unsure of the distance.

VI. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Finding of Conformance Semi-Annual Waste Characterization Study Reports for Lancaster and Antelope Valley Landfills, noting the one-week sampling data is not intended to reflect annual trends:

- Antelope Valley Landfill (AVL) – Organics increased from 54 percent to 72 percent while plastics decreased from 35 percent to 17 percent.
- Lancaster Landfill (LL) – Organics decreased from 50 percent to 29 percent while plastics increased from 45 percent to 59 percent.

Ms. Emiko Thompson inquired about the possible causes behind fluctuations in organics and plastics at AVL and LL. Mr. Herman confirmed with landfill staff that tonnage fluctuations were expected, as they are based on a small sample of randomly selected loads. At AVL, the decrease in plastics likely stems from increased recycling, whereas the rise in organics lacks a clear explanation. Conversely, at LL, the drop in organics may reflect improved compliance with Senate Bill 1383, and the increase in plastics appears to be behavior driven.

Mr. Hunter asked whether Subcommittee approval of landfill reports is required. Ms. Emiko Thompson clarified that the Task Force previously found facilities in conformance. Therefore, no action is required by the Subcommittee since it is for information purposes only.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 21, 2026, at 11 a.m.