



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

MARK PESTRELLA, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

November 26, 2019

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **PJ-2**
10145-1-4

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mark Pestrella
Director of Public Works

BOARD MOTION OF OCTOBER 29, 2019, AGENDA ITEM 62-C ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR COMMUNITY NEAR COGEN LANDFILL WEEKLY REPORT

This is the fourth progress report in response to the Board's motion of October 29, 2019, Agenda Item 62-C, which directed Public Works in coordination with the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel to:

- Expedite implementation of any mitigation required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD);
- Explore implementation of other mitigation above requirements by SCAQMD;
- Schedule a series of community meetings with relevant State and local agencies that are conducted in a culturally competent and linguistically sensitive manner to provide regular updates to the community members living, working, or attending school in the area surrounding the Cogen Landfill; and
- Report back weekly on the above directives until implementation is complete.

Mitigation Required by SCAQMD

Public Works is awaiting permit approval by SCAQMD which is anticipated to be issued within the first week of December. Once SCAQMD's permit approval is received, a copy of the approval will be submitted to Building and Safety for final approval of the landfill gas extraction system plans. A Board letter seeking approval to adopt the plans and specifications is targeted for the December 17, 2019, agenda date.

Additional Mitigation

A meeting was set for the week of November 25, 2019, with members of Public Works, Chief Executive Office, and the design consultant team to review the identified potential items of improvement (landscape, slope stabilization, and additional extraction wells) to determine if and/or how they may be included into the project.

Community Engagement

Community meetings continue to be a key component to the public outreach effort and include the recent and future meetings noted below:

- November 21, 2019: Representatives from First Supervisorial District, Public Health, and Public Works hosted an information event in City Terrace that included community information vehicles from both Public Health and Public Works. Also, additional notice was given for the November 23, 2019, Open House event at City Terrace Park.
- November 23, 2019: Community Information Open House Event at City Terrace Park hosted by First Supervisorial District, Public Health, and Public Works, addressing questions regarding the conditions of the Cogen Landfill and the proposed landfill gas extraction system. Public Works conducted presentations throughout the day on the landfill gas extraction system and how it works, and Public Health was present to offer health screenings to interested community members.
- December 7, 2019: First Supervisorial District, Public Health, and Public Works will be present in City Terrace along with community information vehicles to answer questions on the proposed landfill gas extraction system and community safety concerns.

Notice of these events was mailed to residents within 1,000 feet of the project site and to parents/guardians of students attending City Terrace Elementary School. Notices were also hand-delivered to residences up to 2,000 feet of the project site.

Coordination with Public Health to Assess Human Health Risks

The Board's motion of October 29, 2019, directed Public Health in coordination with Public Works, Chief Executive Office, and County Counsel to:

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- Review data to determine potential human health risks to residents living in the community surrounding Cogen Landfill;
- Conduct outreach and provide any necessary services through Public Health Nurses and promoters;
- Identify internal or external sources of funding for this work; and
- Report back in 90 days regarding the above directives.

On November 18, 2019, Public Health requested Public Works' development of a workplan to:

- Review available data and provide a work plan to address the collection of additional data, including, but not limited to, expanded chemical testing of surface and subsurface vapors and routine environmental monitoring in the community surrounding the Cogen Landfill; and
- Conduct a comprehensive health risk assessment of community members living, working, or going to school near the Cogen Landfill.

Public Works is currently in discussions with its consultant team to develop the workplan and obtain a proposal to conduct the work.

Public Works continues to explore procurement of a facilitator familiar with the surrounding communities to assist in organizing and managing the public outreach effort.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Rossana D'Antonio at (626) 458-4004 or rdanton@pw.lacounty.gov.

FG:rp

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cc: Chief Executive Office (Sachi A. Hamai, Amir Alam, Matthew Diaz, David Howard)
Executive Office
Department of Public Health (Barbara Ferrer, Liza Frias, Cyrus Rangan)

bc: Shari Afshari, Rossana D'Antonio, Massood Eftekhari, Environmental Programs (Skye), Project Management I (Moey, Perez, Ramos)

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 29, 2019

Environmental Justice for the Community Near Cogen Landfill

Landfills have plagued the First District of Los Angeles County (County) for decades. These environmental hazards raise legitimate concerns about the health and safety of residents—and require complete and immediate mitigation and remediation. Remediation should accompany revitalization of the former landfill if safe and appropriate, such as the recreational opportunities and open space being created through the La Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project.

Cogen Landfill, owned in part by the County, is in unincorporated City Terrace of the First District. Although Cogen Landfill has been out of commission since the late 1950s, the County must take immediate and appropriate action to protect the community near Cogen Landfill, where there are residents, grade school students, and a workforce essential to the County’s safety net programs.

Robust community engagement is the linchpin to this work. The County must apprise residents and other individuals to ensure they are aware and help inform the County’s remediation plan, which must be complete, transparent, and swift.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

The public health and well-being of our residents is of utmost importance – and that priority extends to addressing environmental justice issues regardless of cost or convenience.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel, to:

1. Expedite implementation of any mitigation required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District;
2. Explore implementation of other mitigation above what is required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District;
3. Schedule a series of community meetings with relevant state and local agencies, that are conducted in a culturally-competent and linguistically-sensitive manner, to provide regular updates to the community members living, working, or attending school in the area surrounding Cogen Landfill; and
4. Report back weekly on the above directives until implementation is complete.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, Chief Executive Office, and County Counsel, to:

1. Review data to determine potential human health risks to residents living in the community surrounding Cogen Landfill;
2. Conduct outreach and provide any necessary services through Public Health Nurses and promotores;
3. Identify internal or external sources of funding for this work;

4. Report back in 90 days regarding the above directives.

I, **FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to evaluate legal and administrative options against the other current owners of the Cogen Landfill, and the former owners and operators of the Cogen Landfill.

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HLS:ew