



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

# 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>

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

December 3, 2019

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE:

PJ-2  
10145-1-5

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 EASTERN HILL LANDFILLS WEEKLY REPORT**

This is the fifth 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 Eastern Hill Landfills; 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. A Board letter seeking approval to adopt the plans and specifications is targeted for the January 14, 2020, agenda.

### **Additional Mitigation**

A meeting was held on November 26, 2019, with representatives 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.

Increasing the number of extraction wells in the current design for the landfill gas extraction system would bring added cost with no additional benefit to the performance of the system. Upon installation and monitoring, modification of the system can be revisited with the benefit of more precise data. At this time, the proposed system will sufficiently meet the landfill gas mitigation needs of the County-owned portion of the site.

The addition of the landscape at the immediate location of the landfill gas extraction system will provide ground stabilization and coverage as well as beautification benefit. This will require a specialty consultant familiar with the conditions of landfill sites in order to address the need to manage moisture and establish landscape that will not adversely impact the function of the system and/or the underground landfill conditions.

The landfill gas extraction system's safety components include a flame arrestor (prevents any igniting agents into the system) and alarm. Beyond these system measures, the investigation of traffic conditions and road repair on Sheriff's Road to address cracks in the asphalt would be beneficial.

The cost to procure landscape services, traffic, and road repair investigations will be obtained in the coming weeks.

### **Community Engagement**

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

- 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 this event was mailed to residents within 1,000 feet of the project site and to parents/guardians of students attending City Terrace Elementary School. The notice was 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:

- Review data to determine potential human health risks to residents living in the community surrounding Eastern Hill Landfills;
- 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 work plan 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.

Discussions were held with representatives from Public Works, Chief Executive Office, and Public Health on November 27, 2019, to discuss the requirements of the human health risk assessment work plan and the consultant team. Public Works requested an extension to the November 26, 2019, deadline to procure the specialty services as well as preparation of the detailed work plan. Public Works will work with Public Health to determine a revised deadline for the work plan.

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](mailto:rdanton@pw.lacounty.gov).

FG:rp

u:\\secstaff\cmgwork\cogenlandfill\boardmotion\wklyrpt\12-03-19 Week05 (Clean Copy)

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)



REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 29, 2019

**Environmental Justice for the Community Near Cogen Landfills on Eastern Hill**

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 landfills if safe and appropriate, such as the recreational opportunities and open space being created through the La Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project.

Former Cogen and Blanchard Landfills (hereinafter referred as Eastern Hill Landfills), owned in part by the County, is in unincorporated City Terrace of the First District. Although Eastern Hill Cogen Landfills has been out of commission since the late 1950s, the County must take immediate and appropriate action to protect the community near Eastern Hill Cogen Landfills, 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

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

HAHN \_\_\_\_\_

County's remediation plan, which must be complete, transparent, and swift.

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 Eastern Hill ~~Cogen~~ Landfills; 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 Eastern Hill ~~Cogen~~ Landfills;
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 Eastern HillCogen Landfills, and the former owners and operators of the Eastern HillCogen Landfills.

# # #

HLS:ew