



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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December 31, 2019

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE:

PJ-2
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TO: Each Supervisor *Angel R. George-Moody*
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 weekly 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

Project plans for the landfill gas extraction system were submitted for final approval the week of December 23, 2019, and approval is anticipated this week. Based on coordination with the First Supervisorial District, the Board letter seeking approval to advertise the project for construction bids will be on the January 21, 2020, Board agenda.

Additional Mitigation

Landscape enhancements, traffic improvements, and road repair were identified as items that would benefit the project. Public Works will review the nearby road conditions on Sheriff Road to determine the nature and scope of recommended repairs. The cost to procure landscape services, traffic, and road repair investigations is still under development and will be presented in the coming weeks.

A work plan to address fissure conditions at the site until the landfill gas extraction system is installed was approved by the Local Enforcement Agency on December 18, 2019. In addition, the Agency requested a Postclosure Maintenance Plan be submitted by February 18, 2020, identifying permanent measures that will be taken to prevent landfill gas emissions and maintenance of the repairs at the site, including Sheriff Road. Public Works will prepare and submit the Postclosure Maintenance Plan by the requested date. A Notice to Proceed has been issued to the consultant team to carry out the fissure repair work plan and a start date will be determined once rains have subsided. The work plan will be reviewed with the First Supervisorial District to ensure the nearby community is aware of the upcoming fissure repair work on 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 promotores;
- 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 that Public Works develop 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.

The initial work plan will be submitted in January 2020 to Public Health for review and approval.

Community Engagement

Community meetings continue to be a key component of the public outreach effort and will continue into the next phases of the project. A schedule for future community meetings is being formulated to include the fissure repair work and the forthcoming comprehensive health risk assessment activities that will be undertaken once the work plan is approved by Public Health. Future community meetings will also be presented with language translators made available.

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)

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 HillCogen 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 HillCogen 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.

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HLS:ew