



MARK PESTRELLA, CHAIR
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LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE
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July 9, 2020

Mr. Wayne Nastri, Executive Officer
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Dear Mr. Nastri:

LANDFILL ODOR COMPLAINTS - REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION REGARDING RECENT CHANGES TO SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT RESPONSE PROCEDURES

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) would like to respectfully request clarification regarding the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (District) procedures in response to odor complaints at landfills.

At its June 18, 2020 meeting, the Task Force was made aware of a recent change in the District's odor complaint response procedures at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. According to representatives from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee, the number of complaints which must be received per hour before the District dispatches an inspector to investigate the odor complaints has been increased from one to three under the revised procedures (emphasis added).

With the goal of ensuring the safe operation of landfills in Los Angeles County and the health and safety of the neighboring communities, the Task Force has been closely monitoring odor complaints at major landfills. Sunshine Canyon Landfill is particularly important to the Task Force for several reasons, including:


- The significant increases in odor complaints experienced at the site since September 2019 (odor complaints have increased by more than 80 percent over the same period the year before);
- The granting of an emergency waiver which temporarily increased its maximum daily tonnage to 14,100 tons of solid waste per day;
- Expanded operating hours including receipt and disposal of solid waste beginning at 6:00 a.m.; and
- The potential that the handling of large quantities of COVID-19 contaminated solid waste, including food waste, if not properly done, could cause the virus to become airborne and be carried into the surrounding communities under adverse wind conditions.

Therefore, the Task Force respectfully requests that the District clarify and/or address the following:

- The current odor complaint policy/procedures at Sunshine Canyon Landfill;
- Whether the District's odor complaint policy was recently revised, and if so, provide a description of the changes and the basis or necessity for those changes;
- Whether the changes are permanent or temporary; and
- Whether the odor complaint policy is and has been applied to other landfills in Los Angeles County.

We thank you for your consideration of this Task Force request and look forward to your written response. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a Member of the Task Force, at MikeMohajer@yahoo.com or at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force and
Mayor, City of Rosemead

VT:cso

P:\epub\Budget\TTASK FORCE\6-Letters\2020\July\SCAQMD Odor Complaint Responding Procedures (SCL)

cc: South Coast Air Quality Management District – Hearing Board Members
(Julie Prussack, Mohan Balagopalan, Allan Berstein, Nate Holden,
Cynthia Verdugo-Peralta
Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Local Enforcement Agency (Shikari Nakagawa,
Maurice Pantoja, Dorcas Hanson – Lugo, David Thompson)
County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (Maria Masis,
Edgar De La Torre)
City of Los Angeles Planning Department (Ly Lam, Tiffany Butler,
Nicholas Hendricks)
Sunshine Canyon Landfill Technical Advisory Committee (Lisa Webber,
Jon Sanabria)
Republic Services (Chris Coyle)
Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Community Advisory Committee (Wayde Hunter)
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force