

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

Minutes of February 17, 2011 Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Conference Room C
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, California

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Becky Bendikson, City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory
Committee
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2010

A motion to approve the Minutes of the January 20, 2011, meeting was approved with one abstention (by Carlos Ruiz).

**III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL
STATUS OF 4TH QUARTER 2010 QUARTERLY VEGETATION REPORT**

Ms. Linda Lee gave a PowerPoint presentation on the revegetation efforts at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) during the 4th Quarter of 2010. As required by Condition 18 of the Finding of Conformance for the Landfill, Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted a detailed Report on January 28, 2011, describing these efforts. The Report discusses Republic's interim cover, final cover, and sage mitigation areas.

According to the Report and as shown in the PowerPoint presentation, several interim cover areas were seeded, amended, mulched, and jute-matted in some cases. For the sage mitigation area on the County side, testing of salt-tolerant plants continued through the end of the 4th Quarter and has now ended. Dr. Ted St. John is working with Republic to analyze the data and observations made during this study, and the findings will be produced in a report. For the sage mitigation areas on the closed City portion of the Landfill, Republic will initiate technical work for importing soil onto the compacted areas of the City Sage mitigation after more samples are pulled and analyzed, and recommendations from regulatory agencies are reviewed.

Republic is continuing to prepare a draft final cover vegetative plan for the northwestern corner of the Landfill. The plan will be similar to the cover plan approved in January 2009 for City Unit 1 and incorporate lessons learned from the Coastal Sage Mitigation City Side over the last few years. Several options for final cap and vegetative cover will be proposed to the regulatory agencies to ensure the vegetative cover does not interfere with the cap and cause gas migration.

After some discussion, Ms. Betsey Landis asked when soil will be imported to the City Sage Mitigation area. Ms. Landis was concerned that more harm may be caused if the wrong soil types are used and commented that soils high in nitrogen and sulphates may burn the roots of native plants. Ms. Lee responded that, as of now, there are no plans to import soil.

In looking at photographs contained in the PowerPoint, the Subcommittee commented that it shows that efforts have been made to vegetate slopes on the County side since benches, jute matting, and stakes are evident in the photographs.

In looking at photographs of the closed portion of the Landfill on the City side (City Unit 1), Ms. Landis commented that for an area that closed in 1991, the vegetation doesn't look very mature. There are many heavily compacted paths due to vehicular traffic among many islands of vegetation. The Subcommittee further inquired if soil temperature has been taken in the vegetation as well as in the compacted areas. A difference in temperature and in gas concentration may be causing the vegetation to not take hold. Mr. Mike Mohajer then asked if the Landfill is in compliance with South Coast Air Quality Management District's requirements, and Ms. Lee said yes. Mr. Mohajer asked if surface sweeps of the closed portion of the Landfill requires temperature and methane levels to be measured. Mr. Christopher Salomon answered by saying no. Mr. Mohajer then raised a point that the Task Force might want to ask Republic to measure both temperature and methane to see if either component is aiding in the delay of growth in the closed area.

Mr. Salomon also asked if City Unit 1 has been certified by the Local Enforcement Agency and if notices of violation have been issued since the area is not fully vegetated. Ms. Lee stated that there is a certificate of final closure, and she will provide the Subcommittee with a copy of it. The Subcommittee further discussed the matter, and a motion was made by Messrs. Salomon and Mohajer to recommend to the Task Force to send a letter to the City of Los Angeles Local Enforcement Agency, with copies to CalRecycle and the City/County Local Enforcement Agency Board of Directors to ask if the City portion has gone through final closure, and if vegetation of the final cover is a portion of the closure and post-closure maintenance, and if the vegetation in fact is not growing, then is there the possibility of enforcement action against the owner and operator of the Landfill." The motion was unanimously approved.

The discussion then ensued to the previously discussed landslide of January 11, 2011. Mr. Mohajer asked if the leachate collection system has been relocated. Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa then said that the leachate system has been demolished and relocated on the City side of the Landfill, along with the soil from the landslide which is being used to create a 500-foot buffer zone as required in the permit issued by the City. Mr. Aiyetiwa added that the Republic recognizes that the stockpiling of soil may have caused drainage patterns to change, so the company will be submitting a new drainage plan by the end of March 2011.

Mr. Mohajer was also concerned about whether or not Republic was required to notify Public Works regarding grading issues and the demolition of structures. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that Republic received approval from Public Works to recycle the demolished structures, and that the new facility (on the City side) is in compliance with City standards. Mr. Ruiz commented that Public Works has directed the operator to submit plans for our review for any grading, including areas on the County side where they do not need Public Works approval. Public Works will be coordinating efforts with City staff to ensure Public Works is notified in similar situations. Public Works will report back to the Subcommittee when negotiations have been completed.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

To be announced at a later date.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.