

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

Minutes of June 16, 2011 Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy 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
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Becky Bendikson, City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory
Committee
David Cieply, Republic Services, Inc.
Wesley I. Colvin III, County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning
Bahman Hajjialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rafael Garcia, Republic Services, Inc.
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Virginia Pajarito, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jim Teter, Republic Services, Inc.
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Becky VanSickle, Republic Services, Inc.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 26, 2011

A motion to approve the Minutes of the May 26, 2011 meeting was unanimously approved subject to incorporation of the following two changes requested by Betsey Landis:

Section IV, Page 4, 2nd Paragraph, Last sentence: Revise the sentence to read as follows: "Ms. Landis stated that it was pretty typical of the soil onsite to have high sulfate and felt the assumptions made in the analysis were incorrect and was concerned about the nitrogen levels in the proposed soil amendments." These native plants do not require a lot of nitrogen.

Section IV, Page 5, 5th Paragraph: Add a sentence at the end to read as follows: "Additionally, Ms. Landis requested for imported soils to be tested first, so that current onsite soil conditions are not exacerbated."

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa informed the Subcommittee that Public Works is reviewing the Odor Mitigation Plan of Republic Services, Inc. Mr. Aiyetiwa reported that odor complaints decreased from 99 in April 2011, to 91 in May 2011. Mr. Aiyetiwa provided the following updates:

- The Joint City/County Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 11, 2011, and will meet again on June 22, 2011.
- The TAC will consider awarding a 5-year contract with UltraSystems Environmental, Inc. to monitor the City's Zoning Ordinance, County's Conditional Use Permit (CUP), and associated mitigation measures.
- The Working Face Study Report was completed by ENVIRON International Corporation on June 14, 2011, as required by the Order for Abatement issued by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The purpose of this report is to determine the most effective odor mitigation measures at the working face.

Following Mr. Aiyetiwa's report, Republic Services represented by David Cieply, Rafael Garcia, Jim Teter, and Becky VanSickle, provided an update on the progress Republic Services made regarding the odor complaints. Mr. Cieply stated the following:

- Republic Services continues to improve the effectiveness of the landfill gas collection system.
- Republic Services has hired three contractors to improve operational practices at the landfill, including conducting studies, operations and maintenance tasks (such as monitoring and well balancing of the landfill gas control system), and identifying other areas of concern.
- Republic Services is satisfied with the progress they have made so far, but are not yet fully satisfied, and that it will take them more time to reach their goal. Mr. Cieply also noted that Republic Services is committed to resolving the odor problem.

Furthermore, Mr. Jim Teter discussed that the Working Face Study is inconclusive at this time and Republic Services will provide additional follow-up reports. Mr. Teter noted that other studies showed not all of the odors in the community were related to the landfill, but Republic Services will work with the public more closely and conduct neighborhood studies. Ms. Landis suggested it may be a good idea for Republic Services to create a project with the elementary school in monitoring a weather station at the school, to enable the community and school to be part of the solution.

IV. CONTINUATION OF DISCUSSION ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL QUARTERLY VEGETATION REPORTS

The Subcommittee continued their discussion from the May 26, 2011, meeting on the revegetation at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Wesley Colvin, a biologist for the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning, also participated in the discussion.

The Subcommittee discussed various options for revegetation, including using mulch if it does not contribute to odor. Furthermore, mulch cannot be used on steep slopes, and Sunshine Canyon Landfill has steep cut slopes that make it difficult for plants to grow. Therefore, the slopes at the landfill must be stabilized.

Ms. Landis made the following recommendations:

- Different seed mixtures, including native annuals, should be planted in order to determine what works and what does not. She added that Buckwheat and Deerweed grow well and can handle various conditions.
- “*A Manual of California Vegetation*” should be used as a reference as it provides a wider variety of plants that may be suitable for the landfill.
- When importing soils, ensure it does not make the conditions worse. It is not wise to use soil from the Antelope Valley because it is similar to the current soil at the landfill.
- Republic Services should conduct a survey on what is growing successfully at the landfill. Due to the many different types of soils, various surveys should be completed simultaneously to experiment and determine which soils allow vegetative growth.

Mr. Teter stated that Republic Services will send a letter to the Subcommittee outlining their future course of action, and will send a revised revegetation plan to the Subcommittee within 120 days.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz explained that staff is working with Public Works’ Flood Maintenance Division and Republic Services to identify Flood Control District’s facilities that may have suitable soil that can be brought to the site to foster better vegetative growth. Mr. Mohajer recommended that the effort should be discussed with the Department’s Management.

The Subcommittee discussed the Waste Acceptance Plan (WAP) and its requirements. Ms. Linda Lee explained that the Water Board recently amended the Waste Discharge Requirements to require every landfill to have a WAP in place, which describes the testing criteria and allowable levels of constituents for materials to be accepted at a landfill. The Water Board will approve each WAP

and require the landfill owner/operator to be responsible for all materials that it receives. Ms. Lee explained that the Flood Control District is working with different landfills in the County to ensure the WAPs allows for the acceptance of various Flood Control District's soil sediments, as necessary.

The Subcommittee expressed interest in reviewing the WAP for Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Republic Services indicated a copy of the approved WAP will be provided. The Subcommittee also asked if Mr. Wayde Hunter of North Valley Coalition would work with Republic Services to request the Water Board to expedite their review and approval of the WAP. Mr. Hunter agreed.

IV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

The Subcommittee inquired about the status of the County of Los Angeles Countywide Siting Element (CSE) chapter revisions. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that staff will provide a CSE revision update at the next meeting.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

To be announced at a later date.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.