

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

**Minutes of October 20, 2011 Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Pat Proano, 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  
Judith Fries, County of Los Angeles County Council  
Zach Granat, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, 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  
Virginia Pajarito, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bereket Tadele, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Emiko Thompson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Julia Weissman, County of Los Angeles County Council

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:14 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2011 meeting was approved with one abstention from Mr. Christopher Salomon.

**III. LANDFILL DAILY COVER MATERIALS AND HANDLING OF ODOROUS LOADS**

Mr. Christopher Salomon reported on landfill daily cover materials and the handling of odorous loads. Mr. Salomon summarized how the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Sanitation Districts) generally handles deposition of odorous loads and covering of odorous loads.

Mr. Salomon stated that current regulations permit the use of daily cover, intermediate cover, and final cover. Daily cover is a minimum of 6 inches of soil; intermediate cover is a minimum of 12 inches of soil; and final cover is a minimum of 4 feet made up of three parts: 2 feet of base material, 1 foot of impermeable material, and 1 foot of an evapotranspirative layer.

Mr. Salomon explained State regulations allow other types of materials to be used as daily cover, which are called alternative daily cover (ADC). Mr. Salomon stated that in landfills operated by the Sanitation Districts, green waste is typically used as an ADC. Green waste is placed over the working face at the end of the day and compacted to 12 inches of cover as opposed to the required 6 inches. Although not a typical practice, the green waste may be mixed with soil to improve odor and cover characteristics due to weather or other conditions.

Mr. Salomon discussed how odorous loads screened at the scale are either rejected or accepted and charged as hard to handle Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). However, MSW is usually enclosed in a truck so the screeners at the scale cannot tell if it very odorous unless other conditions indicate so. If the odorous loads do make it to the working face, it is then buried with refuse at the base of the working face and covered with daily cover.

Mr. Salomon concluded by explaining that all cover materials absorb a certain amount of odors from MSW. As such, the cover would begin to smell. If loads are highly odorous, they will contact the hauling company and tell them not to bring those types of loads to the landfill. He suggested that perhaps highly odorous loads can be taken to a more remote landfill away from homes where odors aren't as much of an issue.

**IV. COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT (CSE) REVISION PROJECT TIMELINE FOR THE TASK FORCE**

Mr. Chuk Agu provided the subcommittee with an update on the status of the Revised Countywide Siting Element (CSE), including the CSE Revision Project Timeline for the Task Force. The subcommittee agreed that the timeline was reasonable and a good way for them to keep track of progress and ensure their review is completed in a timely manner.

**V. REPUBLIC SERVICES' RESPONSE TO TASK FORCE DATED OCTOBER 4, 2011, REGARDING THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa reported on Republic Services' letter of response to the Task Force, dated October 4, 2011, regarding the daily cover operation at the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill. Mr. Aiyetiwa explained that the Task Force sent Republic Services a letter asking them to substantiate the statement, "*The soil is required to be left in place and not removed. This is not standard industry practice,*" made in their Odor Plan of Action, which was submitted to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

The response letter was written by Mr. Tom Bruen on behalf of Republic Services. In summary, the letter indicated that the Task Force acted outside of its bounds by asking such a question and explained that using ADC as cover materials is a common practice for landfills in the State as well as Southern California.

Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that staff believed the letter did not answer the question that the Task Force asked. Mr. Mike Mohajer indicated his agreement.

Mr. Pat Proano asked Judith Fries from County Council to verify the following:

- Whether or not the Task Force acted outside of its bounds by asking Republic Services to substantiate the statement in their Odor Plan of Action.
- Whether or not the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) can legally require Sunshine Canyon Landfill to use 9 inches of soil as daily cover through the authority provided by the Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Ms. Fries stated that the Task Force is an advisory body and it is well within their bounds to ask for information. Furthermore, Public Works can impose the requirement of 9 inches of soil through the CUP, and it is enforceable.

Subsequently, Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter to Republic Services thanking them for their response letter and stating that unfortunately the letter did not answer the question. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Emiko Thompson shared that Public Works has participated in several meetings with the AQMD and various agencies regarding odor issues at the Landfill. Ms. Thompson explained that the landfill gas collection system has been identified to be in need of major improvement. As such, AQMD is preparing to file a petition with the AQMD Hearing Board to amend the Stipulated Odor for Abatement to include requirements for infrastructure improvements. Ms. Thompson added that next month there will be a series of meetings as part of which Republic Services and the AQMD will discuss the amendments to the Stipulated Order for Abatement.

Ms. Landis and Mr. Mohajer thanked Ms. Thompson and staff for all of their hard work.

Mr. Wayde Hunter stated that everyone liked the odor charts Mr. Aiyetiwa had prepared in the past and that he'd like to see one presented each month. Mr. Proano responded by stating that the chart would have more validity if it was produced by AQMD as the odor complaints were reported to AQMD. Staff advised Mr. Hunter to direct his request to AQMD.

## **VI. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

Staff indicated that the previous agenda item had covered the update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

**VII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mohajer stated that CalRecycle's Strategic Directive 6.1 establishes a goal for jurisdictions to reduce the amount of organics in the waste stream disposed of in 2008 by 50 percent by 2020 and that the Water Board is working on the development of a General Order for composting facilities to be used in lieu of Waste Discharge Requirement Permits. As a part of Strategic Directive 6.1, Mr. Mohajer would like to see other alternatives for organic material that are not compostable, other than composting.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

To be announced at a later date.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.