

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

**Minutes of August 16, 2012 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  
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
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:

Becky Bendikson, City/County Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory  
Committee  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition, Granada Hills North Neighborhood  
Council  
Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services, Inc.  
David Cieply, Republic Services, Inc.  
Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Linda Lee Miller, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Sevak Khatchadorian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Lukas Przybylo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:21 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF JULY 19, 2012 MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the July 19, 2012, meeting was unanimously approved.

**III. SAVAGE CANYON LANDFILL IN THE CITY OF WHITTIER, FINDING OF CONFORMANCE**

Ms. Linda Lee Miller informed the Subcommittee that the City of Whittier continues to work with CalRecycle and the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) on the revision of the Solid Waste Facility Permit. The LEA granted an extension for the City to submit additional information. Staff recommended that the Subcommittee postpone its determination on whether a Finding of Conformance (FOC) is needed until the City's application is determined complete, and staff has all the technical information to make a recommendation on whether an FOC is needed.

Ms. Betsey Landis instructed staff to keep the item on the agenda and provide updates until the City's application is deemed complete, and staff has all the technical information.

**IV. REVEGETATION AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

Mr. Russell Bukoff made a [PowerPoint presentation](#) to the Subcommittee on Sunshine Canyon Landfill's Second Quarter 2012 Vegetation Report. The report contained the status of vegetation efforts on interim cover, final cover, and sage mitigation areas within the landfill.

On the County and City sides of the landfill, Republic anticipates weeding to be performed through the second half of 2012. Interim areas on both sides were not seeded, amended, or mulched during the second quarter.

John Minch and Associates (JMA) anticipates completing a conceptual revegetation plan by August 2012, and implementing a trial area on the south City landfill side in the fourth quarter. JMA will be monitoring the trial area performance in the first and second quarters of 2013. If successful, JMA will begin implementation of a phased plan in the fourth quarter of 2013.

For the City side sage mitigation of the landfill, germination, growth and recruitment of native species were inhibited by poor soil quality and

resource competition from non-native species. Non-native weed species dominate vegetation on the city side. Hydrophobic soils as well as sloped surfaces prevented infiltration of rain.

JMA recommended continuing to investigate ways to import soil for better plant growth, plant native species on the lower and middle decks, and utilize various planting methods (container plants and hydroseeding) along with installing a temporary irrigation source.

For the County side sage mitigation, the condition remained unchanged. Vegetation establishment was only present on the lower southern quarter of the mitigation area. JMA recommended the following:

- Create benches throughout the mitigation area to control soil erosion and improve soil conditions
- Consider planting native species on upper portion of slope that is visible to public prior to fall/winter rains
- Use container plants if a temporary irrigation source is available.

Ms. Betsey Landis recommended Republic and JMA to spend more time removing non-native weeds to prevent them from blooming, and weeding must be conducted prior to the planting of native plants.

Mr. Anthony Bertrand of Republic Services clarified that the consultant working on the sage plan is Architerra Design Group, and JMA prepared the revegetation report. He indicated his availability to present the proposed Sage Mitigation Plan for both the County and City side at next month's meeting.

Mr. Bertrand informed the Subcommittee that weeding had been completed at the pilot project area, and they do plan on more weeding work prior to hydroseeding.

Mr. Wayde Hunter indicated his concerns about using the terminal basin soils near the entrance. Mr. Bertrand replied that the terminal basin soil is better and cleaner than the upper retention basin based on tests they had conducted. Mr. Hunter inquired about the availability of terminal basin soil tests. Mr. Bertrand stated that the test results would be available along with the Sage Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter of encouragement to Republic on the progress made towards revegetation and recommend regular frequent weed abatement to improve the growth of native plants. The motion passed with one oppose from Mr. Christopher Salomon.

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

Mr. Lukas Przybylo provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. During the second quarter of 2012, the landfill received an average of 7,600 tons per day (tpd) and disposed of approximately 7,400 tpd. For comparison, the landfill received 7,200 tpd and disposed of 7,000 tpd during the first quarter of 2012.

On the landfill gas infrastructure improvements, Flare 9 came online on August 3 as anticipated. Initially Flare 9 was operating at 2,000 standard cubic feet of landfill gas per minute. Currently Flare 9 is destroying approximately 4,000 standard cubic feet of landfill gas per minute. The landfill's contractor, BAS, is working on directing more landfill gas to Flare 9 by connecting more gas lines.

The landfill continues to work on upgrading its current blowers. Flares 1, 3, and 8 will be upgraded with two 200-hp blowers each. The delivery of the blowers was delayed by the manufacturer and was scheduled to ship this week.

Mr. Przybylo informed the Subcommittee that in July of this year, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) received a total of 113 odor complaints, of which:

- 5 were verified to be landfill trash related,
- 36 were verified to be landfill gas related,
- 44 complaints were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival, and
- 28 were not responded to by inspectors.

Compared to the month of June, the number of odor complaints in July had doubled.

Mr. Bertrand informed the Subcommittee that within the past year, Republic has done the following upgrades to the landfill's gas infrastructure:

- Installed 15,000 feet of 36 inch perimeter header lines
- Installed two new flares
- Installed 163 new vertical gas extraction wells
- Installed 20,000 feet of horizontal collectors
- Upgraded 8,000 linear feet of internal pipes
- Installed 3,000 feet of perimeter liner edge collectors

Combined, the upgrade amounted to roughly 9 miles of pipes within one year.

Mr. Bertrand stated that a year ago the landfill gas collection was at 7,600 standard cubic feet per minute. Today, with Flare 9 and the temporary flare being operational, that figure increased to 13,600 standard cubic feet per minute, which is 6,000 standard cubic feet per minute more. Before Flare 9 came online in August, the landfill was collecting an average of just about 11,400 standard cubic feet per minute.

All 5 flares are connected to one perimeter header system. Republic's gas engineers and consultants have improved their gas collection system to reduce the competition among blowers and flares and have isolated wells to certain flares to maximize flare production. Landfill surface emissions have been reduced by 71% from September 2011 to July 2012.

According to Mr. Bertrand, an analysis conducted 6 to 9 months ago indicated that they would need to install an additional flare by 2016. Republic has already started the permitting process and expects to have it installed by August of 2013.

Dr. Jay Chen of the AQMD advised the Subcommittee that although the number of complaints is a good source of information and reference, but it is very difficult to establish a scientific relationship with the improvements being made at the landfill. There are many variables such as the time of the day, how soon inspectors can get on site, weather conditions, and specific activities at the landfill. Odor management is a longer-term project that requires continuing maintenance.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz stated the number of complaints can be used to evaluate improvements made at the landfill, identify the type of sources, and compel solutions to address the problem. Dr. Chen agreed that the complaints are a good reference point, and AQMD will continue to encourage people to call and accurately record the complaints.

Mr. Christopher Salomon inquired about results of landfill surface monitoring. Mr. Bertrand stated that there were 254 instantaneous surface monitoring hits in September 2011, and the number of hits reduced to 73 in July 2012. On the integrated surface monitoring, there were 27 out-of-compliance grids in September 2011, and by July 2012, there were 5 out-of-compliance grids.

## **VI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Mike Mohajer informed the Subcommittee that the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee (ATAS) adopted a revised definition for conversion technology during their meeting earlier in the day. Mr. Mohajer indicated that the new definition removes the word “solid” and reads “recycled or residual ~~solid~~ waste into a useful product.” He stated that the revised definition is not in line with the definition utilized in the Countywide Siting Element, and the ATAS would like to further remove the word “recovery” from the term “conversion/recovery technology” used in the Countywide Siting Element.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to include this issue as an emergency item on the Subcommittee agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to address the issue with the Task Force, and advise the Task Force to adopt the definition of conversion technology that is utilized in the Countywide Siting Element. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

September 20, 2012.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.