

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

**Minutes of August 15, 2013, 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  
Gerardo Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Becky Bendikson, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee  
Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services, Inc.  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Decruyenaere, County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning  
Patrick Holland, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council  
Jason W. Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Lukas Przybylo, 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 11:15 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 20, 2013, AND JULY 18, 2013, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of June 20, 2013, and July 18, 2013, was approved with Mr. Gerardo Villalobos abstaining.

**III. PRESENTATION ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Anthony Bertrand, General Manager of Sunshine Canyon Landfill provided a [PowerPoint presentation](#) on site development and odor management at the Landfill.

The presentation included, but was not limited to the following updates:

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

**Offsite Sewer**

At the Landfill, Republic Services (Republic) will be constructing an onsite lift station to accommodate 282,000 gallons of treated discharge per day, and a 2,100 linear foot forced main in San Fernando Road. The off-site sewer connection permit is projected to be issued by the City of Los Angeles in September 2013 and the project is expected to be operational by the end of the year. The project will also be able to accommodate additional sewer connections from surrounding properties.

**Development of Cell CC-3A, Part 2**

Republic began constructing an 11-acre cell in April 2013 which will provide two and a half years of disposal capacity at the current disposal rate. Phase 1 and Phase 2 liner installations are projected to be completed in September 2013 and November 2013, respectively.

**Development of Cell CC-3B – Draft Approval of Design Report**

Republic received a preliminary approval of the Design Report on July 22, 2013. There is currently a 30-day public comment period on the Report, which ends on August 19, 2013. The 20-acre cell is planned for construction in 2015. The project requires approval of a design report for Cell CC-3B and the West Drainage Channel from the Water Board before the liner system is installed.

#### Front Entrance Temporary Access Road

Construction of the front entrance temporary access road has been delayed until 2014.

#### LANDFILL GAS AND ODOR MANAGEMENT

Since 2011 Republic has been working to improve the efficiency of the landfill gas collection system by means of additional vertical wells, upgraded capillaries, upgraded perimeter header system, and increased flare capacity. Over the last 22 months, 329 vertical extraction wells have been installed, and a total of 67,400 linear feet of piping have been laid. One additional flare has already been installed. A second permanent flare was also installed to replace a temporary flare. In addition, a landfill gas-to-energy plant is expected to be operational in May 2014. The gas-to-energy plant will be able to generate 20 megawatts, which is enough electricity to power 15,000 homes annually.

#### IMPROVEMENTS IN GAS COLLECTION EFFICIENCY

Mr. Bertrand reported that there have been significant improvements in gas collection efficiency, with an 83 percent increase in flare production and a decrease in surface emissions by 90 percent.

Republic and their Independent Consultant, Brown and Caldwell, monitor odors daily at the Landfill when most of the complaint calls are anticipated. Most odor complaints are made between the hours of 8 p.m. and 12 a.m., and 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. While monitoring, approximately 1,500 observations are made in any given month, and Republic classifies the odors detected as being very faint and fleeting. According to Mr. Bertrand's sources, most of the odors are not considered a nuisance by South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) standards.

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that the figures Mr. Bertrand cited in his presentation were not reflective of the findings of the AQMD, and even though the odors may be classified as faint and fleeting, homeowners are still being affected. Ms. Landis suggested that in reporting odor monitoring results, the source of data should be provided so the readers could fully understand how the data is being generated, and who is conducting it.

Mr. Bertrand acknowledged that Republic understands that odor mitigation can be improved and he is focused on reducing odors at the Landfill.

Mr. Mike Mohajer asked if an accelerometer had been installed at the Landfill, as it is a requirement of the Finding of Conformance issued to the Landfill by the Task Force. Mr. Bertrand was not aware, but stated he will check into that. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Subcommittee thanked Mr. Bertrand for all of Republic's efforts.

#### **IV. UPDATE ON THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

##### SECOND QUARTER 2013 VEGETATION REPORT

Mr. Russell Bukoff presented findings of the Second Quarter 2013 Vegetation Report on the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill. Mr. Bukoff's presentation primarily discussed the respective City and County sage mitigation areas and described the following:

##### Update on County and City Sides

- Interim areas will be seeded, mulched, or amended in late 2014 to take advantage of the winter rains. A weed abatement program is in place and actively followed.

##### Update on County Sage

- Conditions on the County-side sage mitigation area remain unchanged.
- A significant portion of the County-side sage mitigation area continues to remain bare and problematic.

##### Update on City Sage

- The final portion of the sage pilot project was completed at the end of May 2013 and included the following activities:
  - Defining a roadway around the trial plot area. Installation of boulders and rip rap to contain drainage and establish topography.
  - Installation of container plants and seeding through various methods.
  - Republic's design consultant, Architerra Design Group, will evaluate the plantings 90 days after the planting and seeding.

Mr. Joe Decruyenaere, the County Biologist, evaluated the progress of the sage pilot project and provided the following findings:

- There is recruitment of non-planted species – primarily salt tolerant non-native weeds, including at least one native Four-wing Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*).

- California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and other container plants, including the Blue Elderberry and Coyotebush, are largely surviving, while seeded plants are not thriving.
- Recommend the use of a salt-tolerant plant palette consisting of Four-wing Saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), Quailbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), Saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), Creeping Wildrye (*Elymus triticoides*) and Poverty Weed (*Iva axillaris*)

Ms. Landis commented that Republic is making a good effort at re-vegetating the Landfill and suggested that staff work with Republic and provide them with Mr. Decruyenaere's recommendations on the use of a salt-tolerant palette.

#### ODOR COMPLAINTS

Mr. Lukas Przybylo reported that 65 odor complaints were made to AQMD in May 2013:

- 2 complaints were verified by inspectors to be trash odors
- 25 complaints were verified to be landfill gas odors
- 8 complaints were verified as a combination of trash and landfill gas
- 17 complaints were called in, but inspectors could not verify the odor upon arrival
- 13 complaints were not responded to by inspectors

The number of complaints received in July 2013 was very similar to the number of complaints received in June 2013. The number of complaints received in July 2013 (65 complaints) was 42 percent lower than the number of complaints received in July 2012 (113 complaints).

#### INTERAGENCY EFFORTS

The Sunshine Canyon Landfill Interagency Task Force (ITF) met on August 8, 2013, and discussed how to implement the odor mitigation measures proposed in their June 24, 2013, memo presented at the last Subcommittee meeting. The Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) plans to discuss the Working Group memo at the next Board of Directors meeting scheduled for August 29, 2013. Additionally, the Working Group discussed the August 1, 2013, letter received by the Task Force that made the following recommendations:

- The Working Group should send the memo to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Community Advisory Committee (CAC), incorporating appropriate recommendations by the CAC.
- Include a discussion regarding a reduction in the daily tonnage received at the Landfill.
- Include timelines and milestones for implementing the measures.

The ITF agreed to prepare a response letter to the Task Force. The next Working Group meeting will be held on September 11, 2013, to further discuss how best to move forward.

Discussion ensued among Subcommittee members, and Mr. Mohajer emphasized the importance of including public comments on the recommendations.

## **V. CITY OF GLENDALE AMENDMENT TO NON-DISPOSAL FACILITY ELEMENT**

Mr. Patrick Holland presented a proposed Amendment on the City of Glendale's Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE). The City of Glendale sent a letter to the Task Force, dated July 3, 2013, informing the Task Force of their plans to amend their NDFE. CalRecycle, formerly the California Integrated Waste Management Board, initially approved the City's NDFE in 1994. Mr. Holland reminded the Subcommittee that since the passage of AB 341, the Task Force is no longer required to review and comment regarding updates to NDFE's.

The City proposes to add the Glendale Recycling Center as a large volume transfer/processing facility to the NDFE. The proposed Amendment would increase the facility's permitted capacity to 250 tons per day by adding the processing of mixed waste along with recyclables. The City's operational diversion goal for the facility is 75 percent and residual material will be sent to Scholl Canyon Landfill. Staff finds that the NDFE is in conformance with the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, complies with environmental regulations (Section 41735 of the California Public Resource Code), and state laws and regulations (Section 18752, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations). Staff recommends the Task Force concur with the subject amendment to the City's NDFE and requests that monthly reports be submitted by the facility owner/operator. Ms. Landis made a motion to accept the staff's recommendation to accept the City's NDFE Amendment. As the Task Force is no longer required to review and concur with NDFE Amendments, Mr. Mike Mohajer offered an amendment to the motion, which was accepted by Ms.

Landis, to recommend the Task Force send a letter to the City of Glendale expressing appreciation for submittal of the proposed NDFE Amendment, and requesting that the City provide monthly reports to the Task Force. The motion was passed unanimously.

## **VI. UPDATE ON THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**

Mr. Holland presented an update on the current status of the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE). On November 15, 2012, the Task Force concurred with the preliminary draft of the revised Siting Element, and the County Department of Public Works advertised a Request for a Proposal to retain a consultant to perform the following tasks:

- Graphic design and publishing
- Environmental document preparation
- Public outreach
- Printing and distribution
- Technical consultant services

On June 4, 2013, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors awarded Tetra Tech BAS with an approximate 3-year, \$3,069,300 consultant services agreement for work on the draft CSE. The County issued a Notice to Proceed on June 26, 2013. An initial study for the CSE will be distributed to the appropriate agencies, such as permitting agencies, local enforcement agencies, councils of government, and the 88 unincorporated cities for review and comment. Mr. Holland emphasized that the Task Force will have an opportunity to review and provide comments on the Initial Study.

Ms. Landis asked if the contract includes holding public meetings, and Mr. Holland confirmed that it does. In addition, Mr. Mohajer requested staff provide him with a copy of the Tetra Tech's consulting agreement with the County.

## **VII. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Due to time constraints, discussion on this item was postponed until the next Subcommittee meeting.

**VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no discussion/public comment.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.