

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

**Minutes of July 17, 2014, Meeting**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeanne Biehler, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Christopher Salomon, represented by Debra Bogdanoff, County Sanitation  
Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Stephen Beitz, Real Energy, LLC  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
David Coscia, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Patti Costa, Republic Services, Inc.  
Brenda Eells, CH2M Hill  
Anna Gov, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
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  
Karlo Manalo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Rob Sherman, Republic Services, Inc.  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Coby Skye, 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  
Villalobos, Gerardo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 19, 2014, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the June 19, 2014, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer and seconded by Ms. Jeanne Biehler, subject to the following revision. Add the following sentence to the end of the third paragraph on page 6 of the Minutes: "Mr. Mohajer will be meeting with staff to provide his comments regarding the Initial Study". The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. STATUS OF THE TASK FORCE CORRESPONDENCE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Mr. Joe Bartolata provided an update on Task Force Correspondence from the previous meeting. At the June 19, 2014, meeting, the Task Force made a motion for staff to draft a letter from the Task Force to Public Works regarding the Task Force's comments on the Initial Study for the Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE) revision. The Draft letter contained comments, received as of today, which included the following, among others:

- Acknowledge the role of the Task Force on the CSE such as determining if a proposed project is consistent with the Siting Element, by ensuring compliance with the Siting Criteria, and obtaining a Finding of Conformance (FOC) from the Task Force.
- Provide a more thorough description of the physical setting of the County in the project description.
- Make sure the term "solid waste disposal facility" is consistently used throughout the document.
- Change references to Los Angeles County General Plan and Los Angeles County Zoning Ordinance to Los Angeles County or host jurisdiction's General Plan and Zoning Ordinances, as appropriate.
- Emphasize that any future landfill expansion or alternative technology facilities would be subject to future California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review for each facility.

- Acknowledge the cities' efforts through various policies and programs to ensure compliance with AB 32's requirements.
- Change references to the County's adoption of the CSE to the County and cities adoption of the CSE.

#### **IV. DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL EXPANSION**

Mr. Karlo Manalo provided a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion. Mr. Manalo stated that the current maximum permitted disposal limit for the Landfill is 6,000 tons per day (tpd) with a weekly limit of 30,000 tons. Currently, there is no limit on beneficial use materials, such as green waste and treated auto shredder waste. The Landfill is permitted to accept municipal solid waste (MSW) and is prohibited from accepting liquid, hazardous and radioactive wastes, sludge and sludge components.

Mr. Manalo stated that the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) currently allows the establishment and operation of a materials recovery facility and a household hazardous waste facility. However, neither of these facilities were developed as part of the facility's current CUP. The current CUP also permitted the development of a composting facility. He added that a composting operation had taken place at the Landfill starting in 1997, however, ceased operating in 2009 as a result of the economic downturn.

Mr. Manalo stated that the Landfill's CUP will terminate upon completion of the approved fill design, as shown in Exhibit "A" site plan, or when 23 million tons of capacity is reached, or on November 24, 2019, whichever occurs first. Based on the Landfill's 2013 average intake of 3,300 tpd, the Landfill is expected to reach its fill capacity by early 2016, at which time the CUP is estimated to expire.

Mr. Manalo informed the Subcommittee that the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning), acting as the Lead Agency, has filed a Notice of Completion and Availability of a DEIR for the Landfill's expansion project. The DEIR has been prepared pursuant to the CEQA. The formal public review period for the DEIR is from July 10, 2014, to August 24, 2014.

The proposed expansion includes the following:

- Increasing the permitted daily disposal limit from 6,000 to 12,000 tpd; and weekly disposal limit from 30,000 to 60,000 tons.
- Lateral extension of the existing disposal footprint from 257 acres to 400 acres.
- Increasing the maximum elevation from 1,430 feet to 1,573 feet.
- Relocating the site entrance to the Landfill from Henry Mayo Drive to Wolcott Way.
- Development of an on-site household hazardous waste facility and an open mixed organics composting operation.
- Setting-aside a portion of the subject site for possible development of a conversion technology facility

Mr. Manalo informed the Subcommittee that, according to the DEIR, the proposed project may have potentially significant impacts on the following environmental issue areas:

- Geology and Hydrogeology
  - Debris flow and expansive soil
- Surface Water Drainage
  - Mud flow
- Water Quality
  - Surface water and groundwater quality standards, contaminating water supply, and degrading water quality
- Biological Resources
  - Vegetation communities, special-status species, species of concern, and nuisance wildlife
  - Local policies or ordinances and conflicts with habitat conservation plans

- Traffic and Transportation
  - Temporary significant impact at the intersection of Commerce Center Drive and SR-126 during construction
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change
  - Generation of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in exceedance of 7,000-Metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year
- Air Quality
  - The cumulative impact analysis in the DEIR considered the combined air quality impacts from pollution emissions, localized carbon monoxide, and health and odor impacts from nearby related projects, together with the proposed project during both the construction and operation stages. As a result of the project's operational activities (primarily fugitive dust from travel on onsite paved roads), the DEIR determined that PM<sub>10</sub> annual and PM<sub>2.5</sub> 24-hour cumulative concentrations would exceed their respective thresholds for project years 2021 and 2032.
  - In accordance with the DEIR, continuous watering of onsite paved roads was considered to mitigate PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> cumulative impacts. However, it was determined that mitigation would not be feasible because of water availability concerns in the project area. Therefore, overall cumulative impact from operational activities would be significant and unavoidable for these particulate matters. Impact is not expected until the Newhall Ranch development commences.

According to the DEIR, implementation of the proposed mitigation measures will reduce the impacts to less than significant levels for all issue areas except for air quality, which is considered significant and unavoidable.

In conclusion, Mr. Manalo recommended that the Task Force send a letter to Regional Planning with the following comments:

- According to the DEIR, impacts to air quality are significant and unavoidable due to water availability concerns for irrigation and dust control. However, the discussion regarding water supply in Public Services and Utilities Chapter in the DEIR concluded that there is a sufficient amount of water that can be used for dust control and irrigation for the proposed project. Therefore, the DEIR needs to clarify the adequacy of the water supply for dust control and irrigation, and whether

or not concerns regarding air quality can be mitigated to result in a less than significant impact.

- Potential impacts to Visual Resources may be considered significant and unavoidable due to the proposed Newhall Land and Farming Company condominium residential units, of which 4,811 units and 744 units will be constructed immediately west and south of the Landfill, respectively. Mitigation measures should be proposed to minimize the view of the Landfill operation from future development of these residential units.

Mr. Manalo stated that the deadline for submitting comments on the DEIR to the Department of Regional Planning is August 24, 2014. In order to meet the deadline, Mr. Manalo requested the Task Force to provide any comments on the DEIR by August 12, 2014, to allow time for staff to compile the comments and prepare the Task Force letter. He also announced that a Hearing Examiner Public Hearing on the DEIR will take place on July 31, 2014.

After discussion on the proposed expansion, Mr. Mohajer made a motion that members of the Task Force and Subcommittee submit any comments on the DEIR for the Proposed Chiquita Canyon Landfill Expansion to Emiko Thompson before August 12, 2014. His motion further stated staff will prepare a draft letter based on comments received, including comments made at the July 2014, Subcommittee meeting, to be submitted to the Subcommittee for review prior to the August 2014, meeting. Ms. Biehler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer commented that Waste Connections has the right to develop their property within the policy and guidelines of the State; however, the policy and guidelines for how the State regulates solid waste management have changed significantly since the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 939 and AB 32.

Mr. Mohajer suggested the DEIR needs to demonstrate the County's need for disposal capacity while taking into consideration several legislation that may affect solid waste management infrastructures in the County. Mr. Mohajer emphasized that several legislations were developed by the State in accordance with the requirements of AB 32, which would reduce land disposal of organic waste. These legislation include AB 341, which mandated a state policy goal of achieving a 75-percent recycling rate by the year 2020; AB 1594, which eliminates diversion credit for the use of green waste as Alternative Daily Cover for purposes of AB 939; and AB 1826 which mandates the commercial recycling of organic waste (excluding residential waste).

Based on the need for disposal capacity, the DEIR can address the need for the expansion of the Landfill. Mr. Mohajer further commented on the need for infrastructure within the County to handle organic waste, stating that the Landfill should consider developing a facility for managing organics at the site.

Mr. Mohajer commented that he would like the DEIR to include a map delineating the proposed expansion areas of the Landfill and the proposed residential development areas in the vicinity of the Landfill. He further commented on the need for a 2,000-foot buffer zone between the edge of the landfill footprint and nearby residential development.

Ms. Landis commented on a concern regarding the Landfill's proposed increase in permitted MSW elevation rising to levels where dust generated from landfill operations may reach residential development close by, potentially exposing residents to particulates that could pose harmful health risks. She also expressed concerns over potential flooding of the Santa Clara River causing mud and debris flows to the residential development areas around the Landfill. Ms. Landis will be commenting on these issues in writing, as well as other significant issues.

Mr. Mohajer commented that CalRecycle needs to be included among the list of agencies to review the document and stated that he will be meeting with staff after this meeting to discuss his comments on the DEIR.

**V. REVIEW COMMENTS AND APPROVE THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNTYWIDE INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT**

Mr. David Coscia provided an update on the Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Five-Year Review Report (Five-Year Report). At the June 19, 2014, Task Force meeting, members were asked to review the draft and provide comments to staff by July 8, 2014. Given the large amount of comments that have been received, staff requires additional time to prepare the final draft. Mr. Coscia informed the Subcommittee that staff will present the final draft of the Five-Year Report to the Subcommittee and Task Force for approval no later than the September Subcommittee and Task Force meetings.

## **VI. PROPOSED SOLID WASTE FACILITY PERMIT REVISION FOR THE AZUSA LAND RECLAMATION FACILITY**

Ms. Anna Gov provided an update on the Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) Revision for the Azusa Land Reclamation Facility (ALR). At the last Task Force meeting, a motion was passed for the Task Force to send a letter to the ALR operator, Waste Management, Inc. (Waste Management), requesting the facility to submit an FOC application for the revision to their SWFP. The letter was sent to the operator on June 26, 2014. Staff sent a follow-up e-mail on July 7, 2014, and left a voicemail message on July 14 with Mr. Brent Anderson of Waste Management to see if there are any questions in regards to the application for the FOC. However, staff has not yet received a response from Waste Management. Ms. Gov will provide any new information to the Task Force as it becomes available.

Ms. Gov also stated that at last month's meeting a motion was made for the Task Force to send a letter to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) requesting the Task Force be given the opportunity to provide comments on the May 2014 Initial Study/Environmental Checklist and Addendum to the 1988 Negative Declaration for ALR. Ms. Gov informed the Subcommittee that the LEA responded with a letter to the Task Force, dated July 7, 2014, stating they will answer any questions the Task Force may have regarding the pending application to revise the SWFP.

Mr. Gerry Villalobos, on behalf of the LEA, provided an update regarding the proposed permit revision for the ALR. He provided information to address a question posed at the previous Subcommittee meeting regarding requirements of the Addendum for public comment. He informed the Subcommittee that the Addendum was not distributed for public comment because it was not required, per Section 15164C of the CEQA Guidelines. He stated that the document can, however, be included in or attached to the final Environmental Impact Report or adopted Negative Declaration. The Addendum was sent to staff for purposes of referencing it in their presentation regarding the revised SWFP.

Mr. Villalobos also commented that the Task Force was welcome to submit any comments to the LEA, as part of the LEA's formal record. However, since the document was not circulated for public review, the LEA would not be providing a written response.

Mr. Villalobos also informed the Subcommittee there would be no significant changes to the types of materials being received at the Landfill and how they are



handled. He commented that the facility's Joint Technical Document (submitted as part of the permit revision) included an asbestos management plan. The asbestos being brought into the landfill is going to be placed in zone 2 which is a lined portion of the landfill. No MSW will be accepted at the facility as it has been prohibited since 1996. The revised permit will state what materials can be accepted at the site, and the operator does not plan to accept MSW in the future.

Ms. Landis indicated that the sump pumps seemed to be located on the edge of the Landfill boundary. She also cautioned that the sump pumps may overflow. Mr. Villalobos' replied that there is a silt pond that is part of zones 2 and 3. Ms. Landis was concerned that it is shown on the map and it extends into the area behind the dam. Mr. Villalobos said that it is 302 acres and everything is within the permitted boundaries of the existing land and not behind the dam. Mr. Villalobos mentioned there have been no changes to how the site currently operates with regard to the sump pumps, and that the Landfill has been staying within regulations.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the CEQA Guidelines that an addendum need not be made available for public comment is irrelevant to the question of whether State law requires the addendum be made public. A guideline is not the law, but just a guideline. Mr. Mohajer said that the major responsibility of the LEA is to protect public health and safety and that gives a huge opening to what a regulator wants to do under that specific language.

The Subcommittee also asked for a map outlining and detailing the various material type zones as it would be helpful in their review of the permit revision. Mr. Villalobos indicated that they would be able to provide an 8½ X 11 map with zones and additional information.

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

### Odor Complaints

Ms. Gov provided the Subcommittee with an update on odor complaints at the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill. During the month of May, a total of 52 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. In comparison with April, the number of complaints received in May decreased by 57 percent (from 122 to 52 complaints). Compared to May of 2013, the number of complaints this May increased by 13 percent (from 46 to 52 complaints).

For the month of June, a total of 28 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. In comparison with May, the number of complaints received in June decreased by 46 percent (from 52 to 28 complaints). Compared to June of 2013, the number of complaints this June decreased by 55 percent (from 62 to 28 complaints).

Ms. Gov informed the Subcommittee that for both May and June, AQMD did not provide staff with information regarding whether or not the complaints were verified by their inspector.

Ms. Gov stated that at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee meeting on July 10, 2014, Mr. Mohajer made a comment regarding the need to consider differential settlement in the design and construction of the concrete drainage channel at the Landfill. Mr. Mohajer also commented at the meeting that the Landfill's new concrete channel should not be placed at the Landfill's fill area without consulting a Professional Engineer with experience in construction in landfill areas. Mr. Wayne Hunter added that the Landfill drainage channel should be of high priority to Public Works as a representative agency of the Los Angeles County Flood Control Districts and would like Public Works to keep the Subcommittee informed of progress on the drainage channel.

Mr. Mohajer informed the Subcommittee that complaints historically go down during this time of the year. Mr. Hunter added that in March and April there were significant numbers of complaints received from the nearby Van Gogh Elementary School resulting in health issues. The SCL-CAC is drafting a letter to the Los Angeles Unified School District, with copies to the Subcommittee and Emiko Thompson, on this matter.

In addition, Mr. Mohajer commented that certain portions of the Landfill are within six feet of the Landfill's final approved elevation level and suggested the issue be discussed at the next Subcommittee Meeting. This part of the Landfill is essentially closed due to the fact that six feet of cover needs to be placed on top of the fill upon closure. Additionally, Mr. Hunter requested Public Works follow up on the elevation status of this portion of Landfill.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion for staff to review and clarify whether the County side of the Landfill has reached maximum permitted elevation levels for MSW as reported at the June 2014 Subcommittee meeting. Ms. Biehler seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Landis inquired into the status of the construction of the Landfill's sewer line. Ms. Gov informed the Subcommittee that construction on the sewer has commenced, but due to delays reported by the Landfill operator the project has not been completed.

**VIII. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE QUARTERLY REPORTS**

Due to time constraints, this item was postponed to a future Subcommittee meeting.

**IX. OPEN DISCUSSION PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no discussion/public comment.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.