

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

Minutes of September 15, 2016, Meeting

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Headquarters Building, Conference Room A
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Bartolata, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Anna Gov, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
Patrick Kwong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Jalaine Madrid, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Daniel Paez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Trishena Robinson, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carlos Slythe, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
Julia Weissman, County of Los Angeles Office of the County Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 18, 2016, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the August 18, 2016, meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Christopher Salomon, and unanimously approved, subject to the following revision:

- Replace the phrase “A seed mix with more permanent species” with “A list of annual native species often used in restoration” in the second sentence of the third paragraph on page 11 of the Minutes.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Vegetation Requirements for the Closed Portions of the Landfill

Mr. Gerardo Villalobos provided the Subcommittee with a [PowerPoint presentation](#) summarizing a letter he prepared on behalf of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) to the Task Force. The letter was written in response to a request by the Task Force inquiring if there are any closed portions of the Landfill within the City of Los Angeles, and if so, what are their revegetation requirements.

Mr. Villalobos indicated that in general, solid waste landfills that have conducted closure related activities, including but not limited to, the placement of final cover, but have remaining capacity are not considered formally closed. Implementation of closure related activities is allowed per Title 27, of the California Code of Regulations, and the operator is required to maintain those areas throughout the operational and post closure maintenance period of the landfill.

The only portions of Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Landfill) that are officially closed are the “Old City North” and “Old City South” portions (Unit 1) of the Landfill. In these areas, Republic Services, Inc. (Republic), the Landfill operator, is working on implementing revegetation activities in the sage mitigation areas in the “Old City South” area. The green-shaded areas in Figure 2 of the PowerPoint indicate where no further waste will be deposited. He stated that few slopes outside of the sage mitigation area have been revegetated.

As Republic is working on revegetating areas of Unit 1, the SCL-LEA considers the vegetation requirement for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Unit 1 to be in compliance with applicable state solid waste regulations under its jurisdiction.

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that after the old City Landfill closed in 1991, the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) required that a permanent cover was to be placed over the Landfill and revegetated within 9 months, and it still hasn't been revegetated. As such, he would like the SCL-LEA to require Republic to revegetate the closed City Landfill, which he believes is in their authority to do. Mr. Mohajer added that since the "Old City Landfill" is now part of the joint City/County Landfill, the closure plans from the Old landfill do not apply. It is now considered a part of the joint landfill and its preliminary closure and post-closure plans. Mr. Salomon asked if there are any partial closure plans for these closed areas. Mr. Villalobos answered by saying no but added that the Regional Water Quality Control Board has certified these areas as closed. Mr. Salomon asked if CalRecycle has certified these areas as closed; Mr. Villalobos indicated that he will have to research the answer to this question, as well as find out the date that the Water Board certified the closure of these areas. Ms. Landis then asked Mr. Villalobos if these areas are certified as closed, then do they have to comply with the mitigation measures set forth in the CUP, and he said yes. Mr. Mohajer added that unless the CUP or the City's Land Use Permit requires the revegetation of these areas, then revegetation of these areas is under the permits for the City/County Project. After further discussion, the Subcommittee requested that Mr. Hunter provide documentation that he has on the closure and revegetation of the Old City Landfill to staff for review and to report on to the Subcommittee next month.

Odor Complaints

Mr. Daniel Paez provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [odor complaints](#) at the Landfill for the month of August 2016.

During the month of August 2016, 85 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with the prior month, July 2016, the number of complaints received in August 2016, increased by 63 percent (from 52 to 85 complaints). Compared to August of last year, the number of complaints received this August decreased by 33 percent (from 126 to 85 complaints). Mr. Paez reported that out of the 85 complaints received in August, none of the complaints were called in from nearby schools or from complainants whom identified themselves as parents of students attending one of the nearby schools. Mr. Paez added that schools in the area commenced their Fall terms on August 16, 2016.

The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 9,309 and the total number of complaints received this year is 895. The total number of Notices of Violation (NOV) issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 183. As of September 15, 2016, AQMD has issued one NOV to the Landfill in the month of August 2016.

Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Mr. Paez provided an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) project at the Landfill.

The SCL-LEA amended its approval of the ICE project and required Republic to secure approval from the appropriate regulatory agencies. As staff reported at the last Subcommittee meeting, Republic submitted a project proposal to the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) for review on August 11, 2016.

Public Works has been unable to complete its review of the proposal because Republic needs to submit evidence of complying with CUP Condition No. 79. This condition requires Republic to notify any interested community groups in the immediate vicinity of the Landfill of any operational changes at the Landfill that were not fully analyzed in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation for the project. The same condition also requires that the Republic provide such entities or groups an adequate opportunity to comment on and, if necessary, to request hearings and CEQA findings for these operational changes. Staff will continue to monitor the status and provide updates at future meetings.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the ICE project had been approved by Public Works. Mr. Paez answered that it has not been approved. Ms. Landis inquired if any public hearings will be held. Mr. Villalobos answered that at the September 15, 2016, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) meeting, Mr. Rob Sherman, Sunshine Canyon Landfill’s General Manager, offered to share their proposal that was sent to Public Works with the SCL-CAC. Early in the week, Mr. Sherman sent out the proposal and welcomed comments from the SCL-CAC. Mr. Villalobos stated that he believed Mr. Sherman will be reaching out to the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council and provide them with the same proposal. Mr. Wayne Hunter acknowledged that he did receive the proposal from Mr. Sherman.

Mr. Aiyetiwa added that CUP Condition No. 79 requires Republic to solicit comments from the surrounding neighborhood and other interested parties. Republic needs to provide Public Works with evidence that they have shared their proposal with the interested parties in the local community and evidence that they have addressed the comments from these interested parties. Mr. Mohajer stated for the record that the Task Force is an interested party and would like to receive and comment on the proposal. Mr. Villalobos stated he would reach out to Mr. Sherman on sharing the documentation with the Task Force, and request him to provide a list of other interested parties that were provided the documentation for review and comment.

Ms. Landis asked if there were any deadlines for the providing comments. Mr. Aiyetiwa stated that Republic will submit the proposal to Public Works upon its completions. After receiving the proposal, Public Works will review it once it is received.

Update on the Use of ADC

Ms. Anna Gov provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project at the Landfill. Republic's July 2016, ADC Pilot Project monthly report was received by staff on August 15, 2016. Staff has not yet received the monthly report for August 2016.

At the July 21, 2016, Subcommittee meeting, staff was asked to look into the history of the use of ADC at the Landfill, the authorizations granted to Republic for the use of ADC, and a list of the agencies responsible for the implementation of the ADC at the Landfill. As requested, Ms. Gov provided the Subcommittee with the following history and information on the approving authorities for the use of ADC.

- The November 1994 Solid Waste Facility Permit granted by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, Extension No. 19-AA-0853, states that, "refuse will be compacted ... and then covered daily with nine inches of loose, clean on-site soil..."
- On June 17, 1997, there was a Notice of Exemption issued by the SCL-LEA for an ADC demonstration project implemented by Republic at the Landfill.
- In a letter dated June 30, 1997, the SCL-LEA approved a synthetic tarp and shredded green waste material for an ADC project at the Landfill. Thereafter, the Landfill changed its practice to using tarps as ADC.

- In December 1999, the City of Los Angeles adopted a Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (FSEIR) and a General Plan Amendment and Zone Change allowing Browning-Ferris Industries, now Republic, to operate and maintain a separate City Landfill and eventually a joint City/County Landfill.
- In 2007, the County approved an addendum to the FSEIR in connection with its approval of the CUP. Although the Landfill was currently using tarps as ADC, the addendum calls for the application of 6 inches of daily cover, or the use of an approved ADC. In addition, Mitigation Measure No. 7.06 of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Summary adopted by the County also, provides that if an odor problem develops, appropriate control measures shall be implemented, which include the application of daily cover material or more frequent application of cover material to seal the landfill surface, or adjustments to the wells, equipment and operation of the landfill gas collection and recovery system.
- Additionally, among the odor control measures contained in the Mitigation Reporting and Monitoring Program (MRMP) adopted by the City, Mitigation Measure No. 33 provides that when an odor problem develops, appropriate control measures shall be implemented, which include the application of additional dirt daily cover material, or more frequent application of the cover material to seal the landfill surface, or adjustments to the wells, equipment and operation of the landfill gas collection and recovery system.
- Moreover, soil cover is also consistent with current State and Federal regulations, which require a minimum of 6 inches of cover by default. Prior to ADC regulations becoming effective in 1998, all permitted landfills in the State were required to use at least 6 inches of compacted soil.
- Due to significant odor problems, on September 27, 2010, Public Works relied on the default mitigation measure to combat odor problem as prescribed in the City's MRMP and the Certified Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for this Landfill and issued a letter to Republic terminating the use of any alternative materials as daily cover other than compacted soil and required the Landfill to cover disposed solid waste with a minimum of nine inches of compacted soil at the end of every operating day.

- On January 25, 2011, AQMD issued a modification of an existing order for abatement, which incorporated Public Work's requirement on the "use of nine inches of compacted soil, which is sufficient to control odors and vectors during hours when the landfill is not in operation."
- On November 5, 2014, the SCL-LEA received a proposal to conduct an ADC pilot project at the Landfill using a geosynthetic panel product. The proposal was approved on November 26, 2014. In its approval, the SCL-LEA determined that the pilot project meets the ADC requirements pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, Title 27 Section 20690, the Landfill's solid waste facility permit and the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)'s ADC guidelines.
- Subsequently, Republic required an approval for the ADC Pilot Project and a modification to the 9 inch soil requirement to allow the ADC Pilot Project. Based on Public Works' evaluation of the ADC Pilot Project, and consistent with the adopted environmental documentation for Landfill, on October 27, 2015, Public Works modified the 9 inch soil daily cover requirement, that was imposed in accordance with Landfill's CUP Condition No. 45N, to permit Republic to implement its proposed ADC Pilot Project with conditions for a period of 1 year from the implementation date.
- At the last month's Subcommittee meeting, staff was asked to provide information regarding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Technical Advisory Committee (SCL-TAC)'s authority in approving this project. In the October 27, 2015 approval letter, Public Work clarified that the SCL-TAC's role is an advisory role and that Republic is required to comply with the County's CUP. As requested at last month's Subcommittee meeting, a copy of this letter was made available to the Subcommittee, which also elaborated on Public Works' approval authority.

Mr. Mohajer asked if County Counsel has made the determination that further analysis under CEQA is necessary to approve the use of an ADC in the 1-year Pilot Project, and he requested that he would like written documentation on the matter. Ms. Julia Weissman, of County Counsel, indicated that County Counsel has reviewed that issue and made the determination that no additional CEQA analysis is required for the approval on the use of alternative daily cover for the Pilot Project.

After further discussion ensued, it was deemed by the Subcommittee that the Meeting Minutes would be sufficient in documenting, for the record, that County

Counsel has reviewed the issue and made the determination that no additional CEQA analysis is required for the ADC Pilot Project.

Update on the Landfill Gas Collection System in the Closed City Portion of the Landfill

Ms. Gov provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Landfill's gas collection system in the closed City portion of the Landfill.

As stated previously, the closed City Landfill is located on the Old City South and City North sides. Flare No. 1 is located in this area adjacent to deck B, 2nd level deck, near the previously named southern berm ridgeline of the old City Landfill.

Mr. Villalobos commented that Flare No. 1 is the primary flare in the closed City portion of the Landfill.

IV. DRAFT REGIONAL/COUNTYWIDE ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ms. Trishena Robinson provided the Subcommittee with a [PowerPoint Presentation](#) on the draft of the Regional/Countywide Organic Waste Management Plan (Organic Waste Management Plan) prepared by Public Works.

The Organic Waste Management Plan is meant to provide regional leadership and a possible framework for other jurisdictions to follow. It is also designed to meet the goals of Los Angeles County's Road Map to a Sustainable Waste Management Future, Senate Bill 605 (Short-lived climate pollutants), Assembly Bill 1826 (mandatory organics recycling), and Assembly Bill 876 (compostable organics).

The Organic Waste Management Plan is primarily driven by AB 876, which was signed into law on October 8, 2015. It requires that commencing August 1, 2017, a county or regional agency shall include, in the annual report to CalRecycle the following information:

1. The amount of organic waste that will be generated over a 15-year period.
2. The organic waste recycling facility capacity needed to process the amount of organic waste.
3. Areas identified as locations for new or expanded organic waste recycling facilities.

For the purposes of this Organic Waste Management Plan, “organic waste” is defined as food waste, green waste, wood waste, and food-soiled paper waste. An in-depth, lengthy analysis was performed using information provided in surveys by facility operators along with data already available.

Sources for the data include:

1. CalRecycle’s State of Disposal in California report, updated in 2016
2. CalRecycle’s 2014 Disposal-Facility Based Characterization of Waste Report
3. The Los Angeles County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, 2014 Annual Report

Over 300 facility operators, in and out of Los Angeles County, were surveyed through phone calls and emails asking them various questions to determine their available capacity to process organic materials generated within Los Angeles County.

The total amount of solid waste generated statewide in year 2014 is estimated to be approximately 88 million tons. Of this amount, it is estimated that approximately 26 percent or 22.7 million tons was organic waste. 12.4 million tons of that organic waste was disposed statewide, and an estimated 10.3 million tons is assumed to have been diverted.

The total amount of solid waste generated countywide in year 2014 is estimated to be approximately 22 million tons. This number comes directly from the 2014 Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Annual Report, released by Public Works in December 2015. Of that 22 million tons, it is estimated that approximately 5.6 million tons was organic waste. Of the 5.6 million tons of organic waste generated, 3.5 million tons was disposed countywide, and an estimated 2.1 million tons was diverted.

Public Works surveyed a number of organic waste processing facilities located within Los Angeles County. For the purposes of this analysis: 37 transfer/processing, 19 chipping and grinding, 10 composting, and 2 anaerobic digestion facilities were analyzed within the County.

Ms. Landis asked if the chipping and grinding material was further processed at a compost facility or anaerobic digestion facility, would it have been counted twice.

Ms. Robinson stated that this is a possibility.

Ms. Robinson continued with her presentation on the Organic Waste Management Plan. For out-of-County facilities, a total of 6 chipping and grinding, 48 composting, and 1 anaerobic digestion facilities were analyzed for their organic waste processing capacity. These facilities are located in Kern, Kings, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura counties.

Out-of-county transfer/processing facilities were not included in the analysis since Public Works made the assumption that the majority of the transferring, storing, and handling of the organic waste would be done in-County. Public Works' analysis also assumed that by the time the materials are transferred out of the County, they are on their way to a composting, chipping and grinding, anaerobic digestion, or other organic waste recycling/diversion facility.

The analysis includes nine different scenarios. The first three scenarios are similar in that they all maintain the base year organic waste diversion rate of 37 percent throughout the entire planning period. Scenarios four through six are similar in that the diversion rate gradually increases to 75 percent by 2020 and remains at that rate throughout the remainder of the planning period. The remaining three scenarios are similar in that the diversion rate increases to 75 percent by year 2020 and continues to increase throughout the planning period up to 90 percent by year 2025 and thereafter. In addition to the diversion rates, the scenarios analyze the capacity for existing in-county organic waste transfer/processing capacity, existing in-county organic waste diversion capacity, and a combination of both in and out-of-county organic waste diversion capacity for each.

A sample scenario analysis conducted for Scenarios 1, 4, and 7 (See Table A, In-County Organic Transfer/Processing Capacity, on page 10 of the PowerPoint), shows that the tonnage of organic waste diverted during the base year was 6,775 tons per day. Additionally, the transfer/processing capacity for organic waste that is currently available in the County is calculated to be 9,540 tons per day. Therefore, Public Works does not expect to see a shortfall in organic waste processing capacity at in-County transfer/processing facilities during the base year. However, in order to satisfy the goals of AB 876, which requires that counties or regional agencies plan for the amount of organic waste generated over 15 years, Los Angeles County must divert and process an additional 11,311 tons per day of organic waste to meet that diversion goal.

Ms. Landis commented that the plan should show diverse ways of handling organic waste, how to handle organic waste in emergency conditions, such as a

drought, and the treatment for handling quarantined green waste materials that must be processed in Los Angeles County since they can't be transferred out of County.

Mr. Mohajer commented that although CalRecycle allows for organic waste to be processed at chipping and grinding facilities, it gives an inaccurate impression of the processing capacity of green waste to the public and elected officials. The State still needs significantly more composting facilities in order to achieve the 50 percent organic waste reduction from 2014 disposal levels by the year 2020. He further suggests that the plan should include a statement up front all the problems the County will have in achieving the State organic waste mandates. Mr. Salomon added that the scenarios clearly indicate that there is insufficient processing capacity to handle organic waste materials in the County.

Mr. Mohajer also suggested that Public Works should discuss SB 1383, which requires 75 percent organic waste reduction by 2025 utilizing 2014 as a base year.

Mr. Ruiz commented that the intent of the plan is to evaluate and present an accurate picture of current organic waste processing infrastructure, provide an evaluation for its needs, and a resource for jurisdictions to aid them in their organic waste reduction planning efforts.

Ms. Robinson stated that Public Works is asking for comments from the Subcommittee on the Organic Waste Management Plan. Public Works will provide members with a link to an electronic version before the end of the day. Public Works is requesting comments within the next month. A presentation will also be given to the Task Force, at a later time, along with an opportunity to comment on the plan. Public Works expects to release the Organic Waste Management Plan to the public and cities in early 2017 for review and comment.

V. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL AND LANCASTER LANDFILL

Ms. Gov informed the Subcommittee that there were no updates to present on Lancaster Landfill. Staff will continue to monitor and provide status updates when they become available.

On Chiquita Canyon Landfill (Chiquita), Ms. Gov informed the Subcommittee that as staff reported at the last Subcommittee meeting, Chiquita reached its fill capacity in June 2016, at which time its CUP expired. The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) issued a Clean Hands Waiver to Chiquita's operator, Waste Connections, Inc. (Waste Connections), on

March 17, 2016, which allows Chiquita to continue its operation while processing its new CUP application.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors received a letter dated September 1, 2016, from the Citizens for Chiquita Canyon Landfill Compliance (Citizens) in regards to the Waiver. The letter asked the Board to investigate the granting of the waiver, hold a public hearing, and direct Waste Connections to provide a closure plan for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill.

At this time, Waste Connections is currently working with Regional Planning to revise its Draft Environmental Impact Report, which will be recirculated to the public early next year. Staff will continue to monitor and report the progress.

Mr. Mohajer requested that staff forward a copy of the Citizen's letter to the Subcommittee members.

VI. DISCUSSION ON FOC REPORTS

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

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Salomon informed the Subcommittee that, after the October Subcommittee meeting, he will no longer be representing the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County at these proceedings as he is set to retire in November 2016. Ms. Landis expressed her appreciation for his contributions to the Subcommittee and said he will be missed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.