

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

**Minutes of October 20, 2016, Meeting**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Headquarters Building, Conference Room D  
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  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Nam Doan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gabriel Esparza, 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  
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Vu Truong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m.

## **II. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2016, MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes of the September 15, 2016 meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Christopher Salomon, and unanimously approved.

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

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Gabriel Esparza provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [odor complaints](#) at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) for the month of September 2016.

During the month of September 2016, 206 complaints were made to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) hotline. In comparison with August 2016, the number of complaints received in September 2016, increased by 142 percent (from 85 to 206 complaints). Compared to September of last year, the number of complaints received this September decreased by 39 percent (from 337 to 206 complaints). The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 9,515, and the total number of complaints received this year is 1,101.

Mr. Esparza reported that out of the 206 complaints received in June, 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.

As of October 20, 2016, AQMD has issued two Notices of Violation (NOV) to the Landfill in the month of September 2016. The total number of NOVs issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 185.

Ms. Betsey Landis commented that she was interested in why there were no complaints made from nearby schools in August and September. Mr. Wayne Hunter commented that although the odor complaint charts prepared by the AQMD do not specifically say that complaints were made from the Van Gogh Elementary School on Van Gogh Street, it is likely there were complaints made from the school since many of the complaint calls came from individuals on Van

Gogh Street where the school is located. Also, many of the complaint calls were made in the morning when school would be in session.

Discussion ensued, and Ms. Landis asked for better information that would show the actual number of complaints and the type of complaints made. Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa commented that staff can only provide the information that AQMD provides to Public Works. Mr. Ruiz commented that staff will make a request to the AQMD to provide additional information.

#### Status on the New Access Road and Tree Planting

Mr. Esparza provided the Subcommittee with the status of the new access road and tree-planting project at the Landfill.

As previously reported, the hydroseeding necessary for completion of Phase 1 of the access road project cannot take place until construction of the Liner CC-3B Part 1 Berm is completed. Staff was informed by Republic Services, Inc. (Republic Services) that the CC-3B Part 1 Berm was completed at the end of September and that hydroseeding will likely be done in late October or early November.

Mr. Mohajer asked whether the access road has been approved by the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works). Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa answered that the access road project has not been approved by Public Works; however, the access road is one of the issues being discussed with Republic Services. Mr. Mohajer stated that access road is a requirement of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and requested that staff provide a written status at the next Subcommittee meeting as to why the County is not enforcing the CUP requirements in reference to the access road. Mr. Carlos Ruiz commented that Public Works is enforcing CUP requirements and has conveyed the requirements to Republic Services. He added that if the requirements are not complied with by Republic Services, then the County will take enforcement actions.

Ms. Landis asked whether Public Works staff has been on site to inspect the Landfill, and Mr. Ruiz confirmed that this has been done.

#### Update on the Use of ADC

Mr. Daniel Paez provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project at the Landfill.

Staff received the ADC Pilot Project monthly report for the month of September 2016 from Republic Services on October 17, 2016. Republic Services reported that site operations personnel are ensuring additional ballast material is placed along the edges of ADC as noted on the daily inspection reports.

The amount of geosynthetic panel product used in September 2016 was 17 rolls, or 1,589,500 square feet. By using the geosynthetic panel product instead of using only soil, there continues to be an estimated 40 percent reduction in soil used for daily cover. No maintenance issues or observations of fire, vector, scavenging, or blowing litter at the working face related to the use of the ADC material were reported in the month.

Republic Services also prepared a report dated September 30, 2016, titled *Alternative Daily Cover Evaluation Report*, which presents Republic Services' findings, conclusions, and recommendations for the ADC Pilot Project. The Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) granted an interim approval via email on October 11, 2016, to Republic Services to continue the use of the geosynthetic panel ADC at the Landfill. Public Works staff is currently reviewing Republic's ADC Evaluation Report.

Mr. Gerardo Villalobos informed the Subcommittee that the SCL-LEA is working on an approval letter to allow Republic Services to continue the use of the ADC. As part of that approval, the SCL-LEA is planning to extend the pilot project for an additional year in order for Republic Services to measure the ADC Pilot Project's effectiveness on gas collection and leachate collection, information the SCL-LEA acknowledges won't be recognized until sometime after the first year of the project due to the time lag between the placement of trash and the landfill gases being collected. At the end of the second year of the project, Republic Services will be required to provide information, such as the number of wells installed, impacts associated from liquids in those wells, and identification of potential side slope leaching. The report will be used to determine if gas collection efficiency went up, leachate collection went down, and that there are no surface emissions.

Mr. Mohajer asked if odor would be one of the factors that will be considered. Mr. Villalobos answered the Republic Services would have to continue to operate under the same protocols for the approval of the pilot project, which includes odor control for fresh trash. Mr. Mohajer asked if the SCL-LEA issued any NOV's for odor violation during the past year. Mr. Villalobos answered no because CalRecycle has made it clear that odor is enforced through the California Air

Resources Board or its local districts. Mr. Mohajer asked if Mr. Villalobos could provide him the written instruction and Mr. Villalobos agreed to do that.

Mr. Hunter stated that the community was adamant that if the ADC Pilot Project caused additional odor problems, they would request that the project be halted. Mr. Hunter further commented that the community feels the odors have gone up since the commencement of the ADC Pilot Project. Mr. Hunter also asked if the daily placement of fresh trash on top of the cover material can puncture the tarp material, and if the release of gas and odors from the punctures have been measured.

Mr. Villalobos stated the SCL-LEA has looked at the number of odor complaints made to the AQMD, including the description of odors associated with those complaints, and based on its analysis, the increase in odor complaints is not a direct result of the ADC Pilot Project. Mr. Villalobos commented that it would be very hard to differentiate between odors coming from the trash buried previously and the fresh trash. Mr. Villalobos added that since the start of the ADC Pilot Project, the number of odor complaints associated with trash has gone down; therefore, the SCL-LEA believes the ADC is working to reduce odors as intended.

Mr. Hunter asked Mr. Villalobos if the SCL-LEA has prepared any written documents with the determination that the ADC Pilot Project is in effect reducing odors at the Landfill. Mr. Villalobos answered that they have presented graphs and data to the Interagency Working Group, and that he will share that information with the Task Force and Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC).

#### **IV. UPDATE ON THE INTERMEDIATE COVER ENHANCEMENT PROJECT AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

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

Mr. Paez informed the Subcommittee that the SCL-LEA amended its approval of this project and required Republic Services to secure approval from the necessary regulatory agencies. On August 11, 2016, Republic Services submitted the project proposal to Public Works for review. Public Works is reviewing the subject proposal and is awaiting Republic Services to provide evidence of complying with CUP Condition 79. CUP Condition 79 requires Republic Services to solicit comments from the surrounding neighborhood and

other interested parties on the Project. In reference to this, Mr. Hunter informed the Subcommittee that Rob Sherman, of Republic Services, has already made a presentation on the ICE project to the SCL-CAC and the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council (GHNNC); however, Mr. Sherman still needs to make a presentation to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee of the GHNNC. Since the ICE project has not been approved, the Subcommittee decided to postpone further discussion until the approval has been granted.

On a side note, Mr. Mohajer requested that staff add a vegetation update, as it pertains to the CUP, to the Subcommittee agenda on a monthly basis. Additionally, Ms. Landis stated that at the last Subcommittee meeting, the Subcommittee requested that Mr. Hunter provide personal documentation that he has on the closure and revegetation requirements of the Old City Landfill. Mr. Hunter said that he didn't have the information to share at this time; however, he will provide what he has at the next Subcommittee meeting.

## **V. LAND APPLICATION OF COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS**

Mr. Wu Tan discussed the [September 20, 2016](#), response letter by CalRecycle to a letter sent by the Task Force on [August 15, 2016](#), regarding recent regulations adopted by CalRecycle and the State Water Resources Control Board on the Land Application of Compostable Materials.

Mr. Tan stated that the Task Force requested clarification as to why unprocessed and/or processed compostable materials (green material and/or food waste) used for land application would be exempt from time and temperature requirements of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 17868.3. CalRecycle responded by saying that the regulations do not require a demonstration that material has been subject to time and temperature requirement if it has been processed at a chip and grind facility or is unprocessed. However, all material applied to land will need to be below the maximum metal and pathogen levels found in Title 14 CCR Section 17852 (a) (24.5) (A) (2) and (3).

In its letter of August 15, 2016, the Task Force also commented that recently adopted legislation (AB 1594 and AB 1826) have aimed to reduce disposal of compostable materials/waste in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Task Force is concerned that the land application of compostable materials could result in the increase in greenhouse gas emissions that could emanate from unprocessed compostable materials, and that there may be impacts on surface water. Therefore, the Task Force recommended that additional language within

land application regulations be included to ensure land application of processed and unprocessed compostable materials do not adversely affect the intentions of AB 32, Federal Clean Water Act, and public health due to odor and negative effects of pathogens. CalRecycle responded by saying that prior to the new regulations, there were no limits imposed by CalRecycle on the amount of materials applied to land. The current regulations establish measures for quality, thickness, and application frequency to be used to determine when material is being disposed. In addition, they stated that the regulations do not limit the authority of the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to address potential water quality issues. Local requirements can be more stringent than the regulations.

Additionally, the Task Force requested an explanation from the agencies on how they intend to enforce the Physical Contaminant Requirement for Land Application (Section 17868.3 – CCR, Title 14). As it stands, the recently adopted regulations state that physical contaminants greater than 4 mm cannot exceed 0.5 percent by dry weight of the total material being land applied, with no more than 20 percent of these contaminants being composed of film plastic. CalRecycle responded by saying that their staff is developing a sampling and analysis methodology to determine the percentage of physical contaminants in compostable material. The methodology will be provided to local enforcement agencies to utilize when evaluating compliance with the requirements.

Mr. Tan stated Staff recommends that a follow up letter be sent to CalRecycle requesting the agency to directly address the issues stated in the first two comments of the August 15, 2016, letter. Discussion ensued, and Mr. Mohajer added that as a result of the letter, CalRecycle will be training local enforcement agency staff and working with the California State Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) on addressing the issues discussed in the letter. Ms. Landis then made a motion for the Task Force to send a letter to CalRecycle requesting that the land application regulations for compostable, mulch, or chip and grind materials must be consistent with regulations enforced by the CDFA. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mohajer and passed with Mr. Villalobos and Mr. Salomon abstaining.

#### **UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL AND LANCASTER LANDFILL**

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan informed the Subcommittee that there are no updates to present on Lancaster Landfill. Staff will continue to monitor and provide status updates when they become available.

In discussion of the Lancaster Landfill, Mr. Mohajer inquired about the status of the Reclaimable Anaerobic Composter, which was a research pilot program designed to investigate the technology and processing procedures, and feasibility of implementing a full-scale composting operation at Lancaster Landfill. Mr. Aiyetiwa informed the Subcommittee that Waste Management decided the project is not feasible since the compost produced did not meet health standards. The Subcommittee also discussed the proposed Lancaster Advanced Recycling for Green Waste and Organics Project, to which Mr. Villalobos stated that California Environmental Quality Act documentation needs to be prepared for this project to move forward.

Mr. Shirzadegan informed the Subcommittee that the operator of Chiquita Canyon Landfill is currently working with the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning) to revise its Draft Environmental Impact Report, which will be recirculated to the public early next year. Staff will continue to monitor the progress of the report and provide status updates when they become available.

Mr. Mohajer asked for an overview at the next Subcommittee meeting regarding the Board Motion made by Supervisor Michael Antonovich on October 4, 2016, requesting Regional Planning and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health to address the ongoing odor nuisance problems impacting the community surrounding Sunshine Canyon Landfill; and a similar motion made by Councilmember Mitchell Englander in the City of Los Angeles. Mr. Ruiz stated that the Board has continued the item until November 1, 2016, when Mr. Ruiz anticipates additional motions on the matter and the odor issues at Chiquita Canyon Landfill. Mr. Aiyetiwa briefly stated that the City of Los Angeles City Council adopted a motion to support Supervisor Antonovich's motion.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ON FOC REPORTS**

Mr. Nam Doan informed the Subcommittee that Finding of Conformance (FOC) reports were submitted by landfill operators which include monitoring and process reports for various landfills.

### Lancaster Landfill

Staff disseminated the 2016 Semi Annual Fall Waste Characterization for the Lancaster Landfill on October 13, 2016. This report provides a breakdown of specific material types and categories for the incoming waste stream such as paper, plastics, glass, metals and yard waste during the reporting week. These materials were listed for each residential, commercial, and industrial source. In



comparison to the previous waste characterization report, about 13 percent less paper-waste and 38 percent more plastics-waste were received at the Lancaster Landfill for this reporting period.

#### Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility

Staff disseminated the 2016 Semi Annual Fall Waste Characterization for the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility on October 13, 2016. This report provides a breakdown of specific material types and categories for the incoming waste stream such as paper, plastics, glass, metals and yard waste during the reporting week. These materials were listed for each residential, commercial, and industrial source. In comparison to the previous waste characterization report, about 63 percent less paper-waste and 73 percent less plastics-waste were received at the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility for this reporting period.

#### Chiquita Canyon Landfill

Staff disseminated the Third Quarter 2016 Monitoring Report for the Chiquita Canyon Landfill on October 17, 2016. This report provides detailed information of incoming disposal tonnages broken down by various sources as well as material types during the third quarter of 2016. Based on the report, the Chiquita Canyon Landfill received 802,242 tons in the third quarter of 2016. This amount was about 17 percent more than the second quarter of 2016, during which the total tonnage received was 684,669 tons.

The total tonnage of MRF fines diverted from disposal during the third quarter of 2016 was 61,108 tons, which was about 7 percent more compared to the second quarter of 2016, during which approximately 57,000 tons of MRF fines were diverted.

In looking at the incident logs from the third quarter monitoring report, it is stated in the logs that there were reports of unacceptable items received, such as electronics, white goods, and paint, which were taken away to a “proper disposal area.” Staff contacted Chiquita Canyon Landfill to inquire about the locations of the proper disposal areas. Chiquita Canyon Landfill stated that all E-waste goes to Paramount Resource Recycling in Paramount, CA; household hazardous waste is sent to Clean Harbors Environmental Services in Kimball, NE; and all appliances go to Express Metal Recycling in Sun Valley, CA.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments made from the public.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.