

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

Minutes of June 15, 2017, Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Martin Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dorcas Hanson-Lugo, representing Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department
of Public Health
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Shammas, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

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
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory
Committee
Dave Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, 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 11:09 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 20, 2017, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the May 18, 2017, meeting as corrected was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Sam Shammass and unanimously approved.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong provided the Subcommittee with an update on the [odor complaints](#) at Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill) for the month of May 2017.

Updated information reported on the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) website indicates there were 116 complaints and 2 Notices of Violation (NOVs) reported in April not 117 complaints and 1 NOV. The figures below reflect that change.

During the month of May 2017, 19 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. In comparison with April 2017, the number of complaints received in April 2017 decreased by 84 percent (from 116 to 19 complaints). Compared to May of last year, the number of complaints received this May decreased by 37 percent (from 30 to 19 complaints). The total number of complaints made to the AQMD hotline since 2009 is 10,836 and the total number of complaints received this year is 863.

As of May 18, 2017, AQMD has issued no NOVs to the Landfill in the month of May 2017. The total number of NOVs issued to the Landfill by AQMD since 2009 is 215.

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that with all of the odor mitigation measures being implemented at the Landfill, there should be a decrease in odor complaints. In order to determine if there is a downward trend in the number of complaints, we will need to see if odor complaints are still low in September and October, the months where odor complaints traditionally begin to increase.

Updates on the Use of Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) and Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Projects

Mr. Michael Harmon reported that the May 2017 reports for both of the ADC and ICE projects have not been submitted by Republic Services, Inc. (Republic Services) to Public Works. Republic Services informed Public Works that the reports will be available later in June. Once the reports are received, staff will review the reports for the month of May and present the findings at the next Subcommittee meeting.

In a related matter, Mr. Mohajer referred to the May 23, 2017, e-mail from staff to Republic Services requesting information on the mitigation measures and protocols implemented to address the “instantaneous and integrated monitoring exceedances” discussed in the April 2017 Intermediate Cover Enhancement Pilot Project Monthly Report. Republic Services responded to the May 23 e-mail in an email dated, June 5, 2017, in which they stated that “We intend to fully cooperate with the Task Force in matters within its purview as previously communicated, however, the Landfill will not respond to information and report requests that involve matters not within the Task Force’s authority.” Mr. Mohajer took exception to the e-mail and made a motion to request staff to resend the Task Force’s request for information, attaching County Counsel’s October 28, 2016, letter to Thomas M. Bruen, counsel to Republic Services, in which it is stated in the letter that the Task Force has authority to request such information requested in the May 23 e-mail. The motion was seconded by Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa and was unanimously passed.

Update on the NOV Issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) on November 9, 2016

Ms. Dorcas Hanson-Lugo reported that DPH sent the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (DRP) a letter on May 30, 2017, requesting DRP to issue an NOV to the Landfill based on non-compliance with the Notice of Abatement issued by DPH on November 9, 2016. Currently, DRP has not responded.

Vegetation Report

Mr. Russell Bukoff provided the Subcommittee with an update on the First Quarter 2017 Sunshine Canyon Landfill Vegetation Report and the June 6, 2017, meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill vegetation meeting group. Mr. Bukoff reported

that saltbush is dominant and thriving, as well as native species in the City Side Deck C Pilot Sage Mitigation Area. Non-native grasses are present and work crews are weeding to reduce the number of weeds.

Restoration improvement plans are currently under development for the City Side Deck B Sage Mitigation Area and planting may not begin until Winter 2018.

A trial hydroseeding project was initiated in April 2017 utilizing a new hydroseed mix approved by the County and City of Los Angeles in February 2017. The purpose of the trial project is to determine the appropriate application of soil amendments needed to improve the soil conditions for the germination of the hydroseed mix in the interim areas of the Landfill. Location of the trial project is on a slope adjacent to Republic Service's administrative trailers. Test Areas 1, 2, and 3 utilize soil amendments, including potassium sulfate, triple superphosphate, and calcium carbonate/limestone at various levels. Test Area 4 contains imported topsoil with no soil amendments added. All 4 test areas are being irrigated, approximately 4 times a day and seedling are germinating best in Test Area 4.

Mr. Bukoff also reported that Republic Services has begun installing closure turf on 21 acres of intermediate slopes at the Landfill. Installation should be completed by August 2017.

Ms. Landis commented that the irrigation seems to be making the greatest difference in the success of germination in the test areas. She also said that although this is not the best time of year to hydroseed, the seeds are germinating and doing well.

Mr. Wayne Hunter commented that he questioned why reclaimed water could not be applied to the oak trees along the ridge between the Landfill and the neighborhoods of Granada Hills to the South. Ms. Landis stated that due to drought and borer infestation, the oaks have not been doing well. However, with the winter rains, the oaks have been growing and are showing signs of improvement. She mentioned that it is not appropriate to water oaks in the summer, but with more rain in the fall and monitoring of the borers by the consulting biologists the oaks should make a comeback.

IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Chiquita Canyon Landfill Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). As previously reported, Mr. Shirzadegan reported that on April 19, 2017, the County of Los Angeles Regional Planning Commission certified the FEIR and approved the new Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for Chiquita Canyon Landfill. However, there have been 5 appeals from the Landfill's operator and surrounding communities regarding this approval. The appeals will be discussed at the Board of Supervisor's meeting on June 27, 2017. Staff will monitor the meeting and provide the Subcommittee with an update at the next Subcommittee meeting.

V. CONSIDERATION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE (FOC) FOR THE CALABASAS LANDFILL

Mr. Harmon provided an update on the proposed FOC for Calabasas Landfill. At the May 2017 Subcommittee meeting, the Subcommittee requested staff work with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (CSD) to obtain additional information and clarification on information provided.

Staff has discussed the pending items with CSD and is currently awaiting their submittal of additional information. Staff will continue to work with the CSD to address all updated information and inquiries. Upon receipt, staff will review and provide updated information to the Task Force and Subcommittee for review and consideration at a subsequent Subcommittee meeting.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Mohajer stated that consideration of the FOC has been worked on for over a year and a half and would like the review process to end. After more discussion, Mr. Mohajer suggested that staff should look at the previously approved FOC (i.e. Sunshine Canyon Landfill) for sample and work with the operator to obtain the necessary information as required from the Siting Element, Chapter 10, to allow the members to make the appropriate finding. Some of the information that are needed are full size plans showing the surrounding land uses (residences, schools, and business), Landfill's gas collection/monitoring system, etc. The objective is to ensure the surrounding community is being protected from the operation (such gas migration) of the landfill.

Mr. Mohajer also requested that staff prepare a binder of documents that are required for approval of the FOC. He would also like the binder delivered 1-week prior to the next Subcommittee meeting.

VI. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS

Mr. Shirzadegan provided the Subcommittee with information regarding FOC reports submitted by landfill operators which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills.

First Quarter 2017 FOC Monitoring Report for the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility

The First Quarter 2017 Monitoring Report states the number of loads and tonnages of refuse received for combustion, the amount of energy produced, and the treated ash tonnages during the first quarter of 2017. Based on the report, the Commerce Refuse-to-Energy Facility received approximately 28,548 tons during the first quarter of 2017, which was about 19 percent less compared to the first quarter of 2016 (35,138 tons).

Also during the first quarter of 2017, the facility produced a total of approximately 17,158 Megawatt-hours of energy, which was about 26 percent less compared to the first quarter of 2016 (23,032 Megawatt-hours).

Additionally, the facility produced about 4,012 tons of ash in the first quarter of 2017, which was about 35 percent less compared to the first quarter of 2016 (6,206 tons)

2017 Semi Annual Spring Waste Characterization for the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility

The waste characterization report dated April 26, 2017, provides a breakdown of specific material types and categories for the incoming waste stream, such as paper, plastics, glass, metals, and yard waste disposed during the reporting week of March 13 through March 17, 2017. These materials were listed for each residential, commercial, and industrial source. In comparison to the previous waste characterization report, about 128 percent more paper-waste (from 30.16 to 68.88 tons) and 54 percent more plastic-waste (from 28.86 to 44.38 tons) were

received at the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility for this reporting period.

Ms. Landis commented that material types are only broken down by percentage, not tonnage, and that the Landfill operator should be requested to provide tonnage data to compare it to other facilities.

Conversion Technology Facility at Lancaster Landfill

Staff received the 2017 Final Conversion Technology Update dated April 4, 2017. Waste Management LLRC (Waste Management) is no longer pursuing a conversion technology facility at Lancaster Landfill. Instead, Waste Management is currently considering developing a composting facility located at Lancaster Landfill and is planning to update Public Works and the Task Force with all appropriate details regarding project development.

Mr. Mohajer asked if there was a requirement for the Landfill to develop a conversion technology facility at the Landfill. Mr. Aiyetiwa responded by stating that the CUP for the Landfill requires that a conversion technology facility be developed within 5 years. There was a financial incentive written into the CUP if a conversion technology facility had been constructed during this time period. As the 5-year time period passed, Waste Management is no longer eligible for the financial incentive.

2017 Semi Annual Spring Waste Characterization for the Lancaster Landfill

Mr. Shirzadegan reported that the waste characterization study dated May 2, 2017, like the report submitted by Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility, did not provide breakdowns of materials in tonnages. He will have to request that information and bring the waste characterization study back to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Subcommittee could be updated on Southeast Recovery Reuse Facility in Long Beach as its contract with Southern California Edison expires in 2018, and it will impact the solid waste management system in Los Angeles County.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no additional comments made from the public.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.