

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

Minutes of January 18, 2018, Meeting

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative
Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Maurice Pantoja, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Shammas, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:

David Nguyen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gabriel Esparza, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gladys Gallardo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Joe Vitti, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nam Doan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Nancy Hernandez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition/Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 16, 2017, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes of the November 16, 2017, was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, seconded by Mr. Bahman Hajialiakbar and it was approved.

Mr. Mohajer referred to the update regarding the Alternative Daily Cover Evaluation report from Republic Services, which covered the period from September 1, 2016, to August 31, 2017, that showed the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) verified complaints. He commented that previously, the discussion regarding complaints focused on calls made to AQMD whether they were verified or not, but now verified complaints were revealed in the report and Mr. Mohajer noticed that this is an important factor to determine the accuracy of the numbers.

No changes were required for the approved minutes.

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 December 2017.

During the month of December, a total of 18 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 10 of them were with No Field Response(s).

In comparison with November 2017, the number of complaints received in December decreased by 18 percent (from 22 to 18 complaints).

Compared to December of last year, the number of complaints this December decreased by 69 percent (from 59 to 18 complaints).

The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009 is 11,001 and the total number of complaints received in 2017 was 1,028.

The total number of Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009 is 214. As of January 18, 2018, AQMD had issued 0 NOVs to Sunshine Canyon Landfill for the month of December 2017.

Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Truong if the complaints were verified or not verified. Mr. Truong replied that the report included all odor complaints reported to the AQMD hotline, both verified and not verified complaints. Mr. Hunter added that verified complaints dropped substantially in 2017 because of problems with AQMD staffing, and stated that AQMD is going through changes and will only go out to investigate a complaint if three calls are made within an hour.

Mr. Mohajer requested staff provide clarification on verified and non-verified odor complaints reported. Ms. Landis pointed out that the report did mention 10 complaints without field response(s).

Update on the ADC & Related SCAQMD Activities

Ms. Gallardo provided the Subcommittee with an update on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project Evaluation Report for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and related AQMD Activities.

Republic Services discontinued submitting monthly ADC progress reports for the pilot project because the duration of the pilot project concluded effective October 15, 2017.

On October 26, 2017, Public Works staff received the ADC Evaluation Report from Republic Services which covered the period from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017. Public Works Staff is currently finalizing its review of the report, and an update will be provided at a subsequent FPRS meeting.

On November 8 and 9 2017, the South Coast Air Quality Management District Hearing Board held a hearing on the status of compliance with the conditions of the Stipulated Order for Abatement for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and to hear Republic's petition for Modification of the Order. At the hearing, AQMD reported on the status of compliance, including the use of the ADC. In general, the District concluded the Landfill is in compliance with the Abatement Order. No modifications were made to the Abatement Order at the Hearing, and the Hearing Board passed a motion to continue the discussion at the next scheduled Hearing on June 26, 2018.

Additionally, on December 20, 2017, the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) issued an approval letter to Republic Services providing comments and recommendations on the Landfill’s ADC Evaluation Report.

Subsequently, on January 9, 2018, Staff received a copy of comments provided by Mr. Mike Mohajer, represented as a concerned private citizen, to the SCL-LEA in response to their approval of the ADC Evaluation Report. Based on Mr. Mohajer’s request, staff disseminated the SCL-LEA letter and comment letter to the Subcommittee members via email, and also made copies available at the FPRS meeting.

Ms. Gallardo continued that on January 16, 2018, Staff reached out to the SCL-LEA and subsequently to AQMD for clarification on items, specifically page 9, bullet 3, of the SCL-LEA’s December 20, 2017 ADC approval letter. The letter states “The SCL LEA has determined that there is sufficient technical documentation and based upon field observations of the spoils from the drilling of the gas collection wells and the improved landfill gas collection rates to concur with SCAQMD’s recommendation to the continued practice of partially peeling back the nine inches of compacted daily soil cover when the landfill is not able to use the ADC.” Staff is currently awaiting AQMD’s response.

Mr. Mohajer stated he reviewed the letter from Mr. David Thompson, Program Manager for the SCL-LEA, written to Republic Services approving the ADC and he provided comments to the SCL-LEA as a concerned private citizen. Mr. Mohajer stated because of this he will withhold from participation in discussing the letter.

Mr. Hunter stated and made reference to the letter he sent dated November 13, 2017 from the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens (NVCC) to the SCL-LEA and Public Works, commenting on the ADC program and the fact that the report submitted by Republic Services indicated only 5 verified complaints when there were 46 complaints that should have been included. Mr. Hunter acknowledged that Public Works staff is still working on the review of the ADC program. Mr. Hunter stated that the SCL-LEA forwarded the NVCC letter to Republic Services, and Republic Services said they were not going to respond back. Mr. Hunter asked the SCL-LEA to provide something in writing that acknowledges that Republic’s report was deficient. He stated that the SCL-LEA said they would comply. Mr. Hunter continued to express his concerns regarding

Republic's ADC Evaluation Report and the use of verified odor complaints rather than total odor complaints called-in to the AQMD.

Mr. Hajialiakbar stated that as far as Mr. Hunter's letter is concerned, any information received will be reviewed and considered.

Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Mr. Harmon provided the Subcommittee with a brief update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. On December 8, 2017, Public Works received Republic Services' Final Evaluation Report for the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Demonstration Project. The Final Evaluation Report is currently under review by Public Works.

Staff will provide an update to the subcommittee at a subsequent FPRS meeting.

Update on DPH NOV recommendation based on Order to Abate dated November 9, 2016

Mr. Pantoja reported that the Department of Public Health met with Regional Planning in early December and discussed the status of the request of Notice of Violation based on the low number of odor complaints received by AQMD. Regional Planning will continue to hold off on taking any action at this time but are going to continue to monitor the number of complaints and will re-examine at the end of March, which will mark the one-year date of compliance given to Republic.

Mr. Mohajer stated that he received a copy of a letter dated January 11, 2018, from Katherine Butler of Public Health for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Community Advisory Committee's (SCL-CAC), regarding the Review of the Ninth Annual Report, Ambient Air Quality Monitoring at Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School: A Nine-Year Summary, November 22, 2007 – November 21, 2016, with a few comments regarding health risk assessments. He inquired if this letter has any relation to the SCL-CAC letter to Public Health regarding a health risk assessment, and is asking if they are related.

Mr. Hunter replied saying that the letter does not address the SCL-CAC's question therefore, it is not in relation to his letter. Mr. Mohajer then asked if this letter is a requirement of the land use permits for the City and the County, to do a study of PM10 or if it is something that the SCL-CAC requested. Mr. Hunter replied no. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Mohajer stated that the Task Force is included on the carbon copy (cc) list of the SCL-CAC letter dated November 19, 2017, and inquired if Staff received and disseminated a copy of the letter to the Task Force. Discussion ensued and Mr. Mohajer emphasized Staff's responsibility to disseminate all letters addressed to the Task Force. Mr. Hajialiakbar stated that he will look into the issue.

Mr. Mohajer then stated to the Chair, Ms. Landis, that he would like to make a motion, that requires Staff to review these documents: letter dated November 19, 2017 from the SCL-CAC regarding Contract No. C-125449 Sonoma Technologies Inc., Council File No: 14-1594, and the letter dated January 11, 2018, from Public Health regarding Review of the Ninth Annual Report, Ambient Air Quality Monitoring at Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School, in concert with the land use permits of the City and the County's CUP and bring it back to the FPRS with a presentation of what it's about and whether Task Force should take a position or not and make a decision at the next meeting. Ms. Landis seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion passed.

IV. UPDATE ON DPH'S ANALYSIS OF DR. NORDELLA'S ALISO CANYON/PORTER RANCH HEALTH STUDY PRESENTED ON OCTOBER 13, 2017

Mr. Pantoja reported that he did not have any information to share at this time. He spoke with staff from Dr. Cyrus Rangen's office and they told him they had some concerns with the study and were going to try and get something in writing to him so that he could bring to the FPRS meeting, but he was unable to get the information. He mentioned that as soon as he does receive any information he will forward it to the FPRS. Mr. Pantoja concluded by saying that he hopes to have information from Dr. Rangen's office by the next meeting. Ms. Landis mentioned that she was hoping to discuss the report because it contains interesting information. Mr. Mohajer added that this item will continue on next month's FPRS agenda.

V. ANTELOPE VALLEY LANDFILL PERMIT REVISION APPLICATION

Mr. Saeid Shirzadegan reported that the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility (Landfill) is an existing Class III municipal solid waste landfill located in the northeastern portion of Los Angeles County, in the City of Palmdale. The Landfill receives waste from Palmdale, Lancaster, unincorporated areas of the Antelope Valley, and other areas of Los Angeles County.

The Landfill began accepting waste in the 1950's in the eastern portion of landfill (AKA "Landfill I") and it became inactive in 2006 when the western portion of the site (AKA "Landfill II") began accepting waste, which is currently the active landfill area. In 2011, Landfill I and Landfill II combined under Conditional Use Permit No. 98-12 to take advantage of the 11-acre area located between Landfill I and Landfill II to create a single waste footprint. The combination created a single waste footprint which increased the waste footprint from 114 acres to 125 acres. The landfill's overall facility size would remain at 185 acres.

The CUP 98-12 was approved on June 9, 2011, allowed the maximum permitted daily intake of MSW of 1,800 tpd and 1,764 tpd of recyclable and beneficial use (total of 3,564 tpd).

The Landfill's ancillary activities are permitted between 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., and is currently permitted to open to the public six (6) days per week. The operating hours for receipt of refuse are between 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday for the public.

Proposed Revision to the Solid Waste Facility Permit

On November 29, 2017, the Landfill submitted an application for a permit revision to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) requesting:

- To increase their Maximum Daily Tonnage from 3,564 tpd to 5,548 tpd
 - This will increase waste tonnage for landfill disposal of refuse from 1,800 tpd to 3,600 tpd
- Changes to the JTD including revised tables and sections:
 - Site History
 - CEQA Documents
 - Site Life Projection

Mr. Shirzadegan stated the City of Palmdale, as the lead agency, adopted the 2017 Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA), approved the Conditional Use Permit 98-12 Major Modification, and find that the project will not resulted in any changes to the previously adopted Environmental Impact Report for CUP 98-12 on June 9, 2011. Although the City of Palmdale as lead agency has adopted the TIA, the County is concerned about four jurisdictionally shared intersections between the City and the County as the traffic study might not be done according to the County traffic study standards.

Mr. Shirzadegan informed that according to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), the revised Solid Waste Facility Permit (SWFP) is still under consideration. The LEA has not set a schedule as to when it would be approved.

Mr. Shirzadegan stated that based on Countywide Siting Element, Chapter 10, Finding of Conformance (FOC) requirement, an FOC will be required because this is a permit revision. Consequently, Staff recommends Task Force to send a letter to the City of Palmdale requesting for an FOC application for the Task Force's Consideration. As the SWFP has not been approved by the LEA, staff recommends that the Task Force to not grant the FOC until the SWFP is approved.

Mr. Mohajer commented that, as a private citizen, he spoke to Ms. Janet Gallardo of the local Enforcement Agency, and requested for the City of Palmdale's Supplemental Impact Analysis for the Antelope Valley Landfill expansion dated September 17, 2004, which was subsequently revised September 20, 2005, to evaluate Traffic Impact Analysis for 2007. He indicated that considering all the new residential, commercial, and industrial developments in Antelope Valley, Cities of Lancaster and Palmdale, and County unincorporated areas, since 2007, the subject traffic study needs to be updated or amended to include the impacts due these developments and provide mitigating measures as a part of a consideration of the assurance of the revised solid waste facility permit. The subject traffic impact analysis should be prepared by the City of Palmdale as the lead agency, pursuant to the CEQA, or the "Responsible Agency," for example the LEA. As a follow up, Ms. Janet Gallardo has been communicating with Mr. Mohajer and she forwarded him the latest copy of the City of Palmdale's Traffic Study from 2017, which is very specific in determining traffic analysis due increase in daily tonnage's both beneficial and disposal. As the result, Mr. Mohajer had no more additional comments on the traffic analysis and would like all in attendance to have a copy of this email, which was provided.

Ms. Landis proposed a motion to send a Task Force letter to the Operator, requesting for a FOC Application for Task Force's consideration. The motion was approved with Mr. Shammass' abstain.

VI. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) submitted the FOC application on October 26, 2017. Staff reviewed the FOC application and found that the FOC package is

incomplete.

Consequently, on December 6, 2017, the Task Force sent a comment letter to the CCL and requested the Landfill to revise and resubmit the Application for Staff's review by January 15, 2018, based on the comments provided to them.

On January 17, 2018, CCL informed Staff that they will provide a revised FOC application on or before January 31, 2018 because they need more time.

Staff will provide updates on this matter in the next FPRS meeting once the application received.

Ms. Landis suggested Mr. Shirzadegan send them reminder emails to request a response by February 1, 2018.

VII. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS

Mr. Doan stated there were no updates to report at this time and Staff should have a report for the month of February.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Mohajer stated that since he withheld making any comments during the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Alternative Daily Cover and related AQMD activities update he would provide comments as a public representative. He referred to the ADC Report that Republic Services filed in mid-October 2017, and inquired to the review time for Public Works and other agencies. Mr. Mohajer asked Staff if there is an estimated time on completing the review. Ms. Gallardo replied by saying that Public Works staff has contacted Republic Services and are planning to meet with them to discuss the subject matter, but no date has been set. Mr. Hajialiakbar reiterated that Public Works staff has tried scheduling a meeting but some key personnel are not available or the meeting dates get postponed. He assured the subcommittee that this is an issue considered with a high priority.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.