

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

Minutes for November 15, 2018

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Sam Shammas, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative
Reyna Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Maria Carlson, 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
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Dennis Montano, Republic Services
Margarita Quiroz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Carol Oyola, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Isaac Reyes Gomez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Saeid Shirzadegan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Michael Harmon, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:17 a.m. Ms. Landis, Chair, was not in attendance; therefore, Mr. Mohajer served as Chair.

II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 18, 2018, MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes from the October 18, 2018, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Shammass and seconded by Mr. Kaddis. The motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Esparza provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the month of October 2018 ([Link](#)).

- A total of 21 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 16 of them were categorized as No Field Response.
- The number of complaints received in October decreased from 27 to 21 complaints in the past year.
- The total number of complaints received by AQMD since 2009, is 11,171, and the total number of complaints received this year is 170.
- The total number of Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued by AQMD since 2009, was 214. As of November 8, 2018, AQMD issued zero Odor Complaint NOVs to SCL for the month of October 2018.

Mr. Hunter commented that he does not believe that there will be much more improvement beyond what is shown on the odor complaint charts, which was made available to the subcommittee. Mr. Mohajer stated that based on the charts, odor complaints have been reduced, and Republic Services has made significant improvements in addressing the odor issue.

Update on the Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Project

Ms. Carlson provided an update on the Alternative Daily Cover (ADC) Pilot Project at SCL for the month of October 2018. She reported the following:

- SCL Site operations personnel are ensuring additional ballast material is placed along the edges of the ADC, as noted on the daily inspection reports.
- The amount of geosynthetic panel product used for October 2018 was 29.25 rolls.

- There were no maintenance issues, and one minor scavenging incident from birds on a Monday morning where there was soil cover, and one observation of very faint odors on a Wednesday morning.
- No observations of fires, vectors, or blowing litter at the working face related to the use of the ADC material were reported for the month of October 2018.

Ms. Carlson also reported that on September 21, 2018, Republic Services submitted the Evaluation Report for the third year of the ADC Pilot Project and requested for termination of the Pilot Project and approval to use the ADC. Public Works is currently reviewing the report.

Update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project

Ms. Gallardo provided an update on the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE) Project, for the use of Posi-Shell material at the SCL.

On March 2, 2017, Republic Services initiated the 6-month ICE Demonstration Project, which entailed the placement of Posi-Shell on approximately 47.7 acres of pre-approved intermediate slope. Republic Services submitted an ICE Demonstration Project Final Evaluation Report, along with subsequent revisions and clarifications to Public Works for review.

Due to Republic Services' final response presented by Staff during the October 2018 Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee meeting, the Subcommittee passed a motion to write a letter to Republic Services asking for information, including the findings and justification on the use of Posi-Shell.

2nd Quarter Vegetation Update

Mr. Harmon provided update on the 2nd Quarter 2018 SCL Vegetation Report, and the October 17, 2018, meeting of the SCL vegetation meeting group.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area- Deck C

- Saltbush is the dominant cover and entering dormancy, seedlings appear to be regenerating more than other native species.
- The native species including Encelia Californica and Artemisia Californica, are also entering dormancy, except for Russian Thistle, annual weeds and mustards have senesced or aged. Based on number of senesced weeds, it appears that weeding had not been conducted since prior monitoring period.
- Wildlife observed include American Crow, California towhee, ash-throated flycatcher, western fence and side-blotched lizard.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B

- Deck B boulders and straw waddles have been installed.
- Retesting of the soil horizon is to take place prior to seeding, and planting will take place in the 4th Quarter of 2018. Mixture of native species established from previous planting is rich where observed. Weed coverage is low.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A

- The upper deck is covered with native and non-native vegetation. Total vegetation coverage is patchy due to compacted and gravelly soil conditions.
- Russian Thistle dominate the non-native cover with wild oat, brome grass, and mustard and having senesced. Buckwheat is dominant native plant.

County Side Sage Mitigation Area

- California buckwheat species is in highest concentration amongst native species where vegetation is present. Native vegetation density and richness are noted.
- The northern portion exhibits striations of rocky (hydrophobic) soil conditions, soil erosion, and boron toxic soils. Republic Services will be improving erosion control measures on the slope.

Hydroseeding Trial Project

- A trial hydroseeding project was initiated in April 2017 utilizing the new hydroseed mix approved by the County and City of Los Angeles in February 2017. Currently, 57 acres of the intermediate slope area was completed in December 2017.
- Vegetation exhibited moderate native cover which have senesced and exhibit dryness due to recent hot weather.

Mr. Mohajer commented that some of the northern area of the Landfill has toxic soil, causing everything to dry out. Mr. Harmon responded that currently the area is benched, and that there is mostly native soil in the area. Mr. Hunter commented that the revegetation process to this area has not been successful because of the removal of the landslide area.

Mr. Aiyetiwa responded that Republic Services submitted a request to import soil in those areas to improve revegetation. Staff is reviewing the request and it should be approved sometime next week. Mr. Mohajer asked that the status of SCL Vegetation Area be placed on the next meeting Agenda.

IV. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS

Mr. Reyes Gomez gave an update on FOC Reports submitted by the Landfill Operators.

2018 Semi Annual Fall Waste Characterization for the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility dated October 16, 2018

The report provides a breakdown of the specific material types and categories for the incoming waste stream such as paper, plastics, glass, metals and yard waste from a residential, commercial, or industrial source for the reporting week.

Based on the report, there were about 16 percent more paper-waste, 2 percent more plastics-waste, about 6 percent more yard waste, and about 45 percent more of other organics received at the Antelope Valley Recycling and Disposal Facility for this reporting period in comparison to the previous report.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the increase in plastics, green waste and other materials were related to the China Green Sword Policy. Mr. Reyes Gomez responded that the information was not on the report, but that he would follow up on it.

2018 Semi Annual Fall Waste Characterization for the Lancaster Landfill dated October 16, 2018

Mr. Reyes Gomez reported there were about 39 percent more paper-waste, 45 percent less plastics-waste, about 64 percent less yard waste, and about 75 percent less of other organics received at the Lancaster Landfill for this reporting period in comparison to the previous report.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the paper-waste quantity increased because China does not accept paper-waste.

2018 Semi Annual Fall Waste Characterization for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill dated October 15, 2018

Mr. Reyes Gomez reported there were about 10 percent less paper-waste, 15 percent less plastics-waste, about 64 percent less yard waste, and about 6 percent more of other organics received at the SCL for this reporting period in comparison to the previous report.

Mr. Mohajer commented that food waste, due to being classified as other organics, went up at SCL during the week of the Characterization Report. This is contrary to what Republic Services reported at the AQMD hearing board. Mr. Mohajer requested for a status update (milestones) of SCL efforts for organic waste

reduction/diversion program to be provided to him by the end of this month. He stated there are certain requirements that Republic Services must meet to comply with the odor abatement requirements and to report to AQMD Hearing Board. The next hearing is scheduled for December 12, 2018.

3rd Quarter 2018 Monitoring Report for Chiquita Canyon Landfill dated April 13, 2018.

Mr. Reyes Gomez report that Chiquita Canyon Landfill received 564,001 tons in the third quarter of 2018. This amount was less than 1 percent than the second quarter of 2018.

The beneficial reuse material (including diversion and soil) total for the third quarter of 2018 was 183,417 tons. This amount was about 2 percent more than the second quarter of 2018.

Semi Annual Fall 2018 Waste Characterization for the Calabasas Landfill

Mr. Reyes Gomez reported due to the ongoing Woolsey Fire, Calabasas Landfill was unable to process the report. Mr. Shammass commented that the Sanitation Districts were working with CalRecycle on their characterization report. They had one day completed, but the remaining four days could not be completed due to the fire. Mr. Shammass mentioned that if they conduct the Waste Characterization report now, which is only one day, it will not be accurate. They would like to conduct the process in the Spring. Mr. Mohajer stated that subcommittee does not have any problem with adjusting the timeline for Sanitation District to complete the report.

Mr. Mohajer explained that Public Works provides staffing services to the Task Force. The Disposal Reporting System is a report that is submitted to the County of Los Angeles, Public Works, which is a different report than the report they need to submit as part of the FOC requirements. Mr. Mohajer stated the Landfill should provide a copy of report to the Task Force and not comingle the two entities and that this matter has been an issue for years. Mr. Mohajer commented that Public Works is not the same entity as the Task Force and this has caused confusion. For example, Chiquita Canyon Landfill combines their FOC reports and sends to Public Works. However, now the Landfill must comply with requirements of the FOC and address the required FOC reports to Task Force or else the Task Force will issue an NOV. Mr. Mohajer also mentioned that Assembly Bill 901 may impact the disposal reporting process.

V. DECEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Mohajer stated the Subcommittee does not generally meet in December and there is nothing of great importance to justify meeting. However, depending on what the Task Force decides this afternoon, there is nothing urgent pending. Members of the Subcommittee and Staff agreed unanimously not having a meeting in December.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room A.

CSO