

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

**April 18, 2019**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Reyna Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Saeid Shirzadegan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Dennis Montano, Republic Services  
Margarita Quiroz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Vu Truong, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Daniel Wibisono, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Landis called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MARCH 21, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes from the March 21, 2019, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Ms. Landis, as amended, and seconded by Mr. Mohajer.

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

Odor Complaints

Mr. Truong provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the month of March 2019 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of March, a total of 76 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 29 of them were listed as “No Field Response”.
- In comparison to February 2019, the number of complaints received in March increased from 21 to 76 complaints.
- Compared to March 2018, the number of complaints this March increased from 21 to 76 complaints.
- The total number of complaints received this year is 110.
- As of April 9, 2019, AQMD has issued one Odor Complaint Notice of Violation (NOV) to SCL for the month of March 2019. The odors were the result of a power surge that impacted SCL’s landfill gas abatement devices. According to the operator, the landfill experienced a massive power surge that damaged the systems that control the landfill gas collection and control infrastructure, including the on-site flare and landfill gas-to-energy plant. The surge originated from an off-site source on the Southern California Edison (SCE) power grid. The operator informed that the landfill and the gas-to-energy plant operators are currently filing claims with SCE.

Copies of the latest odor complaint charts were made available to Subcommittee Members.

Ms. Landis asked if the source of odor was due to failure of gas collection system for the flare. Mr. Montano of Republic Services (Republic) stated the power surge shut everything down, including the gas to energy plant.

Mr. Mohajer stated an NOV was issued in December and asked if other NOV’s were issued. Mr. Montano responded there was an NOV for February and March;

one was due to a car crash hitting a pole and shutting all power, and the other was due to a massive power surge. Mr. Shammass asked if blowers went down and if there was no vacuum during the incident. Mr. Montano stated everything shut down and there were damages to the infrastructure of the landfill, but by the next day everything was running back to normal. Mr. Montano continued that the landfill has backup generators that only support the site partially. Discussion ensued, Mr. Montano stated the landfill is investigating the incident, and Ms. Landis requested the Republic representative give a report at next month's FPRS meeting, identifying what happened and what measures they are taking.

Mr. Ruiz commented that Public Works' staff has been communicating with the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) to acquire information on what occurred. Public Works will request the operator to submit an evaluation of the incident and to indicate what measures are being put in place to prevent these problems in the future.

#### P-205R Status Update

Mr. Shirzadegan provided a status update on Well P-205R.

Mr. Shirzadegan stated that at the last subcommittee meeting on March 21, 2019, the subcommittee requested that staff provide monthly updates on the status of methane readings from the perimeter well 205R. He also stated that staff received the SCL – Solid Waste Facility Permit Monthly LEA report dated April 15, 2019, from Republic for the month of March 2019. The report provided the results of various landfill gas monitoring control readings, including perimeter well 205R. According to the report, the reading for this perimeter well was done on March 18, 2019, and the maximum methane reading for this perimeter well was 2.7 percent, which is below the 5 percent Lower Explosive Limit. Mr. Shirzadegan said that staff will continue to monitor and will provide another update at the next subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Mohajer stated that SCS Engineers' position was that the gas at the well is not landfill gas, but from somewhere else. Mr. Mohajer asked for the status of the oil wells in relation to what has been discussed for the last few months. Ms. Nakagawa-Ota mentioned that SCL-LEA continues to monitor well 205R and when there is a reading at about 3 percent, which is not an exceedance, then they will make a note on the inspection report and indicate an area of concern as a precautionary measure. She reiterated that it was not a violation, but they wanted to let the operator know that the emissions could go up and so the Landfill needs to pay attention to the wells. Republic along with a consultant, were looking into where the methane was coming from; whether it is from the landfill or the oil wells.

Mr. Mohajer stated the issue about the odor is still outstanding, and Ms. Nakagawa-Ota responded they are still working on it. Mr. Ruiz stated if readings show there are levels of methane present, and unless Republic demonstrates it is not landfill gas, the assumption is that it is landfill gas.

Discussion ensued. Mr. Mohajer commented that the CUP requires to re-abandon wells that have not been properly abandoned. Mr. Mohajer requested a response from Public Works at the next subcommittee meeting, as to what measures they are taking with Republic to resolve the issue of re-abandoning the abandoned oil well.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Mr. Shirzadegan provided an update regarding the Finding of Conformance (FOC) report submitted for the Calabasas Landfill (CL).

Mr. Shirzadegan stated in accordance with Condition No. 13 of the FOC for the Landfill, the owner/operator is to conduct waste characterizations of the incoming waste stream destined for disposal over a week period during the months of March and September. However, at the November 15, 2018 FPRS meeting, the Sanitation Districts requested they conduct the second Semi-Annual Waste Characterization Report over a one-day period due to the Woolsey Fire emergency at the Landfill.

Mr. Shirzadegan commented that the second 2018-Semi-Annual Waste Characterization Report for Landfill was disseminated to the subcommittee on April 15, 2019. Due to the fact the first 2018-Semi-Annual Waste Characterization for the Landfill was conducted over a one-week period, staff could not provide a meaningful comparison between the two semi-annual reports.

#### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Landis brought up the issue of Scholl Canyon Landfill and complaints from neighbors about landfill odor. She asked if there would be a report since there has been a lot of talk in the news. Mr. Shammass responded that there have been concerns about flares, but the Sanitation Districts have not received any odor complaints. He continued that there are concerns regarding a proposal by the City to build a power plant and that the gas is currently being flared. Mr. Ruiz commented that in 2017, the City was processing a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the power plant and when it went to the City's Planning Commission, the Planning Commission directed them to do an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) instead of MND. Therefore, the City is restarting the process and has circulated the Notice of Preparation and Initial Study for the power plant.

Mr. Shammass noted the plant would be located on a flat area where an existing gas compressor facility is located and will be taken out. The new plant will be capturing the landfill gas and convert it to energy.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the expansion of the landfill is still being considered. Mr. Shammass responded that he had not heard anything from the City of Glendale. Mr. Ruiz commented that the City of Glendale notified the County, in writing, that the site be removed from the Siting Element as a potential expansion. Mr. Ruiz continued that in the current Siting Element, the site was identified as a potential expansion, but there is a specified time period during which the project needs to be brought into full consistency with the City's General Plan. If it is not brought into consistency, then it must be removed from the Siting Element.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room B of Public Works Headquarters.

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