

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

**May 16, 2019**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, rep by Dorcus Hanson-Lugo, 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:

Maria Carlson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Brenda Eels, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Josh Mills, Republic Services  
Dennis Montano, Republic Services  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
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 APRIL 18, 2019 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes from the April 18, 2019, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Mohajer and seconded by Mr. Ruiz.

**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 April 2019 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of April, a total of 12 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline and 3 of them were listed as “No Field Response”.
- In comparison to March 2019, the number of complaints received in April decreased from 76 to 12 complaints.
- Compared to April 2018, the number of complaints this April increased from 9 to 12 complaints.
- The total number of complaints received this year is 122.
- As of May 8, 2019, AQMD has issued zero Odor Complaint Notice of Violation (NOV) to SCL for the month of April 2019.

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

Mr. Mohajer stated for the record that there was an Order of Abatement (OA) issued by the South Coast Hearing Board and that it will expire on June 30, 2019, unless the South Coast Hearing Board extends it. They were scheduled to have a hearing on May 21, 2019, but postponed the hearing to June 6, 2019, at which time they will determine the odor abatement. Mr. Mohajer wants an update on next month's agenda.

1st Quarter 2019 Independent Monitoring Report

Ms. Carlson provided an update on the 1st Quarter 2019 Independent Monitoring Report for SCL. UltraSystems prepared the 1st Quarter 2019 Independent Monitor Quarterly Site Monitoring Status Report dated April 29, 2019, for SCL. The Status

Report covers the monitoring period from January 1, 2019, through March 31, 2019.

#### Grading

- Throughout the 1st quarter, Cell CC-4 Part 3 buttress grading and construction was ongoing.
- Grading in the 1st quarter included maintaining Cell CC-4 Parts 1 and 2, removal of stockpile soil from Cell CC-3A and the buttress stockpile areas, and grading of Cell CC-3A western slopes.

#### Landfill Gas Collection

- The quantity of landfill gas being recovered during the 1st quarter averaged 17,930 standard cubic feet per minute, with the gas-to-energy plant using an average of 7,615 standard cubic feet per minute.
- A gas collection and horizontal collection system was being installed under the liner of the westside drainage channel near the County sage mitigation area.

#### Odor/Air Quality

The independent consultant did not detect any landfill related odors in the Granada Hills community during this rating period.

Ms. Landis commented that according to the report, they only went out twice during the entire quarter with no mention of the problems in March with the power surge causing the flares to go out, nor mention of the vehicle that knocked down the power pole, causing electricity loss and more gas being emitted. Ms. Landis continued that the report is not accurately describing the two emergencies or Republic Service's (Republic) response to the emergency occurring at the landfill. In April, Ms. Landis requested that a Republic representative give a report on what happened this quarter and what measures were being taken.

#### Erosion and Dust Control

- Stockpile soils were covered with jute netting, straw wattles were installed on various slopes of Landfill, and dirt slopes adjacent to the westside inlet channel into the terminal basin were graded and repaired as necessary.
- In March, during heavy rain events, jute netting and straw wattles performed well with only moderate erosion
- The only major erosion occurred at the northern area of the CC-4 Part 3 buttress. The temporary basin built at CC-4 Part 3 filled with water. Repairs were underway.

- Access roads were surfaced with recycled aggregate, and there was an increase in the use of water trucks on these roads. Untreated dirt roads were not being used and road-generated dust was not an issue.

#### Drainage

- During the 1st quarter's heavy rain events, temporary drainage systems and V-ditches were effective at intercepting and diverting rainwater away from landfill cells.
- Minimal water was leaving Basin A and in late March, the drainage outlet was closed due to construction activities and water was pumped into trucks for site use.
- Basin B was dry with minimal sediment in late March.
- The outlet channel in Basin D had stormwater go under the channel liner and uplift the drainage pipe and concrete channel transition. In mid-February, the pipe was replaced and the liner that began blocking the water flow was removed.
- In mid-January, the Terminal Basin had six to seven feet of sediment at the gabion wall and the water level was approximately two feet below the riser's top.
- Water leaving the outlet channel appeared to be free of sediment.
- In early March, the alluvial groundwater pump system was not working, and water was observed seeping into the basin from the inlet.
- In late March in the Terminal Basin, some sediment was moved near the entrance of the basin in piles to be de-watered, the outlet channel contained no sediment and flowing water appeared to be sediment free, and the alluvial groundwater pump was operating controlling water to the terminal basin.

Ms. Carlson concluded that UltraSystems' Report determined that the landfill is actively working toward being fully compliant with conditions and mitigation measures, with no non-compliant conditions observed.

#### Monitoring Probe 205R

Mr. Mohajer commented that in April, he commented on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) requirements for re-abandoning wells that have not been properly abandoned and asked for a response from Public Works at the next Subcommittee Meeting. Mr. Nguyen indicated that Mr. Josh Mills with Republic, was also present to answer questions from the Subcommittee.

Mr. Mills introduced himself as one of the Environmental Managers at SCL and discussed the following:

Over the last year and a half, the probe 205R has been in compliance with no readings over five percent methane by volume but has exhibited some elevated methane concentrations. What Republic is currently evaluating are some old oil wells in the vicinity, which are owned by Chevron, and that were abandoned per the State's Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) requirements. He continued that Republic was detecting some methane coming either from the abandoned oil wells or just a perched layer of natural gas or oil in that area at that perimeter probe, so they are going through the process of speciating the gas.

Ms. Landis asked if Republic knows what Chevron's requirements are for abandoning wells. Mr. Mills responded they comply with DOGGR standards which is a state standard. Ms. Landis asked if Mr. Mills had a copy of the DOGGR standards and Mr. Mills said he did not but could look on their website and provide a copy to the Subcommittee. Mr. Mills clarified that SCS's report speculated that the methane concentrations were coming from one of the old oil wells and they have not been able to differentiate between natural gas occurring outside the landfill footprint and landfill gas.

Mr. Mills made it clear that it is illegal for Republic to touch Chevron's old oil wells in accordance with DOGGR requirements. Ms. Landis asked if Chevron checks their old wells. Mr. Mills answered they are obligated to and believes they check them every 10 years. Mr. Ruiz commented that staff looked into the requirements of the CUP and the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and there is no specific condition in the County-issued CUP that refers to the oil gas wells, but in the EIR mitigation measures, if the operator encounters gas that is emanating from one of the oil wells, the plan is to evacuate an area of about 500 feet around the oil well. If that is the case, then the well needs to be re-abandoned in accordance with DOGGR standards.

Mr. Ruiz stated there needs to be communication between Republic and Chevron. Mr. Mills agreed with Mr. Ruiz, but stated Republic has not encountered these oil wells and that they are outside of the landfill footprint. Republic has also not encountered the oil wells leaking, but they continue to investigate.

Mr. Mills clarified that there are also two oil wells at the Buttress Project. These are oils wells that Republic owns and that were recently re-abandoned in accordance with DOGGR standards and they are not related to perimeter probe 205R. He added that these were never oil producing wells, but rather dry wells. Mr. Wayne Hunter with the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens commented that the 205R consultant said they were getting higher readings and believed it was gas coming from these Republic-owned oil wells. Then they asked for an exception from the Local Enforcement Agency, which triggered the issue.

Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Mills if he can provide staff with DOGGR certifications of the two wells Republic re-abandoned. Mr. Mills responded that Republic just re-abandoned the two wells last week and once they receive the certification from DOGGR, he will forward to Public Works. Ms. Landis also asked for Republic to provide a report to staff explaining ownership of oil wells and actions that need to be done pertaining to Chevron's ownership of oil wells. Mr. Mills responded Republic would.

#### Power Surge Update

Mr. Mills stated that, according to Southern California Edison (SCE), the power surge that occurred in March was from a substation in Sylmar that is owned by the Department of Water and Power. There was a catastrophic failure of the lightning arrester that sends 85 megawatts of electricity through SCE grid. Mr. Mills stated the surge hit their grid and the magnitude damaged the operating system, which included the programmable logic controller (PLC) and the programming that runs the flares, as well as DTE's (SCL gas producers) equipment that runs their turbines. Mr. Mills confirmed they were both down for an extended period, but they did not lose power, but rather experienced the surge. They worked through the night and restored flare and turbine function ability the next day; after replacing quite a bit of components, re-uploading all the operating software for the flares, and going through the entire startup process. Mr. Mills noted they do have surge protectors, but because of the magnitude of the surge, they were not effective. They added extra surge protectors in front of the existing ones.

#### Backup Generators

Ms. Landis asked Republic to verify they have sufficient generators to handle the loss of power. Mr. Mills stated in this case generators would not have been sufficient. However, with the April power outage where they did not receive any complaints, and they did have backup power on site. Mr. Mills stated they have a 500-horsepower generator semi-trailer CAT generator that powers the landfill gas turbines and the landfill air combustion blowers. It is permitted with a Title 5 permit and they did not run it during the April outage because they received notice from SCE that the power would be returned to the area before hookup of the generator could be completed. Ms. Landis commented that the generator is not connected to their system unless needed. Mr. Mills confirmed. He also mentioned that they are looking into upgrades on an automated system so if the power goes down, not a power surge, then perhaps an automated system on site can switch over to generated on site power rather than hardline power.

Ms. Landis asked that an update report be sent to staff. Mr. Mills agreed. Ms. Landis concluded that staff needs to know how Republic handled this issue and what their response is for future power pole type incidents.

#### 1st Quarter 2019 Vegetation Report

Ms. Carlson provided an update on the 1st Quarter 2019 SCL Vegetation Report (Report). Republic submitted the Report on April 30, 2019. The meeting with the Vegetation group at SCL is scheduled for May 22, 2019, at 11 a.m., and an update from the meeting will be presented at a subsequent Subcommittee Meeting. The following is the progress of the landfill's efforts related to revegetation during the 1st Quarter of 2019.

#### *City Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area - Deck C/Lower Deck*

- The saltbush cover is thriving on Deck C of the City Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area
- Other native species such as Encelia Californica, Artemisia Californica, and Salcia are co-dominant throughout Deck C.
- Wildlife observed include the side-blotched lizard, white crowned sparrow, and the California towhee.
- The growth of weeds such as brome grass and mustard has increased, and there is no evidence that weeding has been conducted prior to the monitoring period.

#### *City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B/Middle Deck*

- Deck B on the City Side currently consists of sage scrub plantings and seedlings, non-native grasses, and vegetation planted in the 4th Quarter in 2018.
- There is moderate weed coverage on Deck B.

#### *City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A/Upper Deck*

- Deck A of the City Side continues to be sparsely covered with native vegetation, due to heavily compacted and gravelly soils.
- Buckwheat is the dominant native plant and appears to be more densely covered because of recent rains.
- Weeds are especially problematic on Deck A: Wild oats, brome grasses, and mustard dominate the non-native cover throughout Deck A.

*Hydroseeding Trial Project*

- The 15 acres of interim slopes that were hydroseeded as a part of the Hydroseed Trial Project at the end of the 4th Quarter have shown successful vegetation growth after the recent rains.

*County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area (Pilot Project Area)*

- Conditions in the County Side Sage Mitigation area remain relatively unchanged.
- The southern portion of the “county slope” has a greater density of vegetation consisting of mostly the California buckwheat and California sunflower species. The northern portion of the slope contains minimal plant growth due to steep slopes, soil erosion, and toxic soils. Soil samples indicate low pH, high salinity, and Boron present in native soils.
- The native plant coverage is assumed to be the result of hydroseeding in combination with natural recruitment.

Ms. Landis stated that hydroseeding is not generally useful. It has very low level of success but is in the requirements. She mentioned that the mitigation consultant is open to doing other types of seed planting. With tests done, it was determined that handfeeding or sheet rollers were the best ways to plant seeds and they are still viable under the conditions of mitigations and environmental reports. Ms. Landis added that California buckwheat is a pioneer type plant that is very hardy and is a good slope stabilizer, as well as the California sunflower that is growing all over this year. They act as nurse plants, essential for other seeds to come up later. Annuals and perennials are a little harder to get started. Ms. Landis commented that there needs to be a weeding program put in place and not just once a quarter to get the weeds out before they seed. Mr. Ruiz responded that staff will follow up with Republic. Ms. Landis suggested weekly weeding before everything seeds.

**IV. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Ms. Carlson provided an update on the Conversion Technologies (CT) efforts at landfills in the Los Angeles County area. The landfill operators at Lancaster Canyon Landfill (LCL), SCL, and Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL), provided staff quarterly updates on current and future plans for CT and other efforts related to CT.

Waste Management, Inc. (LCL)

On May 8, 2019, Waste Management shared the following updates:



- Waste Management has entered into agreement with Agromin to provide feedstock to their planned Anaerobic Digester project in Rialto. Waste Management had meetings with Anaerobic Digester technology firms regarding facilities in Palmdale and Lancaster but have not yet found the right fit.
- Waste Management has been addressing SB 1383 and its requirements.

#### Republic (SCL)

On April 8, 2019, as an active member of the Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas (CRNG), Republic shared the following updates:

- Actively engaged in Rulemaking to Adopt Biomethane Standards and requirements, Pipeline Open Access Rules, and other Related Enforcement provisions.
- Republic is also working with CARB staff to promote renewable natural gas (RNG) as a bridge fuel including funding allocations for the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program (ARFVT) program for heavy duty trucks.
- Republic is currently working on their position on two legislative concepts that will continue to incentivize the use of renewables and expand reasonable and cost-effective conversion technologies:
  - *AB 1143 - A Fuels, Technology, and Equipment for Clean Heating (TECH) Initiative:*
  - *AB 491 - A Public Utilities Code Related to Energy:*

Mr. Mohajer requested that staff note on the report that Republic has also actively engaged in AB 144 and AB 1236 and would like little one-line descriptions of what those bills are.

#### Waste Connection, Inc. (CCL)

Waste Connections informed staff that they do not have any updates for the 1st Quarter 2019 with respect to the regulation of waste and alternative technologies in California. Mr. Mohajer thanked staff for a good report.

Mr. Wibisono provided an update regarding the Finding of Conformance (FOC) reports submitted by landfill operators which include monitoring and progress reports for various landfills.

### Antelope Valley Landfill (AVL) Waste Characterization Report

Staff received the 2019 Semi Annual Spring Waste Characterization for AVL dated April 15, 2019.

- During the study period, organics material composed of approximately 44 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to the previous study period of Fall 2018, the current percentage of organic materials is about 47 percent higher.
- Paper material composed of 24 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to the previous study period of Fall 2018, the current percentage of paper material is 15 percent lower.

### LCL Waste Characterization Report

Staff received the 2019 Semi Annual Spring Waste Characterization for LCL dated April 15, 2019.

- During this study period, plastics composed of approximately 50 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to the previous study period of Fall 2018, the current percentage of plastics is about 29 percent higher.
- Organic materials composed of approximately 25 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to the previous study period of Fall 2018, the current percentage of organics is about 1.6 percent lower.

### SCL Waste Characterization Report

On April 26, 2019, staff received the 2019 Semi Annual Spring Waste Characterization for SCL dated April 15, 2019.

- During this study period, organic materials composed of approximately 42 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to the previous study period of Fall 2018, the current percentage of organics is about 28 percent lower.
- Paper material composed of approximately 18 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to the previous study period of Fall 2018, the current percentage of paper material is about 109 percent higher.
- Other waste such as, inert solids and household hazardous waste composed of approximate 16 percent of the total waste stream. Compared to the previous study period of Fall 2018, the current percentage of these wastes is about 82 percent higher.

#### FOC update for SCL

On April 26, 2019, staff received the 1st Quarter 2019 Monitoring Report for SCL dated April 15, 2019.

- Based on the report, SCL disposed of 511,000 tons in the 1st Quarter of 2019. Compared to the 4th Quarter of 2018, the disposal tonnage decreased by 2.3 percent. Compared to the 1st Quarter of 2018, disposal tonnage decreased by 1.3 percent.
- The beneficial reuse material, including diversion and soil, total for the 1st Quarter of 2019 was 23,800 tons. Compared to the 4th Quarter of 2018, the beneficial reuse tonnage increases by 1.6 percent. Compared to the 1st Quarter of 2018, the beneficial reuse tonnage decreased by 22 percent.

#### FOC update for CCL

On April 15, 2019, staff received the 1st Quarter 2019 Monitoring Report for CCL dated April 15, 2019.

- Based on the report, CCL disposed of 394,000 tons in the 1st Quarter of 2019. Compared to the 4th Quarter of 2018, the disposal tonnage decreased by 5 percent. Compared to the 1st Quarter of 2018, disposal tonnage increased by 12 percent.
- The beneficial reuse material total for the 1st Quarter of 2019 was 144,400 tons. Compared to the 4th Quarter of 2018, the beneficial reuse tonnage decreased by 19 percent. Compared to the 1st Quarter of 2018, the beneficial reuse tonnage decreased by 12 percent.

Mr. Mohajer commented that CCL is required to submit a Waste Characterization Study for a one-week period in March and asked where it was. Mr. Wibisono responded that staff does not have the report and had only received the latest update on tonnage. Mr. Nguyen stated staff would follow up with CCL. Mr. Mohajer stated how critical the report is because it will build the foundation for needed infrastructure.

Mr. Mohajer questioned staff about the definition of organic waste as it was referred to in FOC update. He requested staff to use the terminology of organic waste as described in the SB 1383 regulations and must substantiate it on reports and tables provided.

Mr. Mohajer recommended staff to reanalyze all Waste Characterization Reports for all municipal solid waste landfills located in Los Angeles County due to the large amount of waste disposed. The review should be in light of SB 1383 and

Mr. Mohajer requested that an article about how landfills are managing compliance with SB 1383 be written and published in the next summer issue of Inside Solid Waste Newsletter. This will be done to explain the definition of organics and support SB 1383 goal to reduce the amounts of organics.

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

Mr. Hunter mentioned Public Works had sent a letter to Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council a couple of days ago regarding the Woolsey Fire Canyon Cleanup and that they do not plan to extend the May 30, 2019 cutoff date, for accepting debris at SCL.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2019, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room B of Public Works Headquarters.