

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

February 18, 2021

WEB CONFERENCE

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, rep by Dorcas (Dee) Lugo, County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Health
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works
Chris Coyle, Republic Services
Gabriel Esparza, Los Angeles County Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Omid Mazdiasni, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sarah Solomon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Vu Truong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Daniel Wibisono, Los Angeles County Public Works
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Betsey Landis called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 21, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the Minutes, as corrected, from the January 21, 2021 Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, and seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the month of January 2021 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of January 2021, 7 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 4 were classified as Trash, 2 were listed as No Field Response, and the rest were listed as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to December 2020, the number of complaints received in January 2021 decreased from 22 to 7 complaints.
- Compared to January 2020, the number of complaints for January 2021 decreased from 29 to 7 complaints.
- As of February 9, 2021, AQMD issued no Notice of Violations (NOVs) related to odor for the month of January 2021.
- According to the AQMD report, the total number of complaints received during 2021 is 7.

Vegetation Report

Ms. Sarah Solomon, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the vegetation for SCL.

At last month's Subcommittee meeting, Republic Services' (Republic) Environmental Manager, Mr. Tuong-Phu Ngo, provided an update on the vegetation activities occurring at SCL. He informed the Subcommittee that Deck B is being designed on the south slope and that Republic will continue to look at options pertaining to the pH and boron in the soil for the County Mitigation area in order to grow vegetation on that slope.

As requested by the Subcommittee, staff followed up with Mr. Ngo and provided the Subcommittee's comments that were discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Ngo informed staff that Republic has plans for the County Mitigation area and is looking at California Native Species that are appropriate for the existing soil conditions. The species palette will be a variation of the Venturan Coastal Sage Shrub. Mr. Ngo stated that they have noted the Subcommittee's previous comments and are open to suggestions and ideas for revegetating the County Mitigation area.

Staff also reminded Mr. Ngo of the Subcommittee's request for a response on items that were listed on the vegetation report as "recommendation will be considered at a later date" and for that information to be reflected on the next quarterly report. Mr. Ngo confirmed that details would be provided in the Fourth Quarter 2020 Vegetation Report, which has not been submitted due to pending updates from Republic's biologist and botanist.

Ms. Landis stated that she provided comments to Republic at the last FPRS meeting on what Republic could do to get plants to start growing.

Mr. Chris Coyle of Republic responded that Decks A, B, and C have mitigation plans and that Republic is in compliance with the mitigation measure. He also stated that Republic is waiting for the 4th Quarter Vegetation Report from the consultant to see what needs to be done next and if they miss the planting season this year, they can plant next year. Ms. Landis commented that if the landfill adopts this approach, no native plants will establish this year. Discussion ensued.

Soil Importation

Ms. Solomon provided an update on the soil importation activities at SCL.

At last month's Subcommittee meeting, staff provided an update regarding the proposed soil importation at SCL. Additionally, it was mentioned that Republic had submitted a soil importation request to Public Works on December 23, 2020, in response to Public Works' letter dated November 10, 2020. As requested at last month's meeting, a copy of Republic's letter to Public Works was disseminated via e-mail to the Subcommittee.

Public Works continues to work with Republic regarding their soil importation request and met with them to discuss the information. Republic will submit an updated request. To date, Public Works is awaiting Republic's resubmittal.

Mr. Mohajer asked if Public Works has responded to the letter from Republic's attorney, which was an attachment to Republic's December 22, 2020 Soil importation request letter. Mr. Ruiz responded that staff has had discussions with Republic and that they will be resubmitting their request. Upon receipt,

Public Works, in consultation with County Counsel, will review the request and respond to Republic accordingly.

Mr. Mohajer and Ms. Landis recommended that the County seek input from the community before responding to Republic. Mr. Ruiz stated that Public Works would take the Subcommittee's recommendations into consideration.

Mr. Ruiz further stated that the tonnage limitations in the Land Use Permit is very clear at 12,100 tons per day and that Public Works has some authority to authorize some soil importation to the extent that it is technically necessary for the operation of the landfill. However, he stated there are limitations on what Public Works can do.

Mr. Mohajer requested a link to the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and to the Finding of Conformance (FOC) for SCL.

IV. DISCUSSION ON FOC REPORTS

Mr. Daniel Wibisono, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on SCL FOC reports.

Staff received the 4th Quarter 2020 Monitoring Report for SCL dated January 15, 2021, and reported the following:

- SCL disposed of 630,000 tons in the fourth quarter of 2020. Compared to the third quarter of 2020, the disposal tonnage decreased by 6 percent.
- The beneficial reuse material total for the fourth quarter of 2020 was 27,000 tons. Compared to the third quarter of 2020, the beneficial reuse tonnage increased by 3 percent.

Staff received the 4th Quarter 2020 Monitoring Report for Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) dated January 15, 2021, and reported the following:

- CCL disposed of 530,000 tons in the fourth quarter of 2020. Compared to the third quarter of 2020, the disposal tonnage increased by 10 percent.
- The beneficial reuse material total for the fourth quarter of 2020 was 97,000 tons. Compared to the third quarter of 2020, the beneficial reuse tonnage decreased by 33 percent.

Mr. Mohajer requested that a copy of the staff report be provided at the same time the FPRS Agenda is disseminated so that the members have sufficient time to review the report before the meeting. Mr. Ruiz indicated that staff would comply with the request going forward.

V. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Omid Mazdiyasni, staff to the Task Force, gave an update on CCL.

Odor Complaints

AQMD agreed to provide odor complaint data on a quarterly basis. The next quarterly odor complaint update will be presented in April 2021.

Lawsuits Updates

CCL filed two separate lawsuits against the County:

- The first lawsuit was filed on October 20, 2017, challenging operational conditions, and fee conditions of the CUP. In July 2020, the trial court issued a decision finding in the County's favor on some conditions and in CCL's favor on other conditions. The parties are currently engaged in settlement discussions.
- The second lawsuit was filed on April 13, 2018, challenging a decision by the hearing officer that upheld an NOV issued by Regional Planning on December 11, 2017, for failure to pay Bridge and Thoroughfare Fee, accepting prohibited auto shredder waste, and failure to pay out-of-area fees. The trial is scheduled for the Fall 2021.

Environmental and Community Groups filed a lawsuit on August 24, 2017, against the Los Angeles County and CCL.

- The third lawsuit alleges that the project Environmental Impact Report was inadequate and not in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act. The court issued a decision on October 10, 2019, in favor of the County and CCL. The Community filed an appeal and the hearing was held on November 18, 2020. On February 10, 2021, the Court of Appeal affirmed the trial court's decision.

NOVs for Non-Compliance with the CUP

- The Department of Regional Planning issued four NOVs issued for CUP Condition 68, 77, 79, and 113 to Waste Connections on June 11, 2020, at the request of Public Works.
- CCL filed its appeal on August 6, 2020. The hearing was postponed and rescheduled for March 2021.

Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of the CUP and FOC for CCL. He also asked if any of the NOVs issued by Regional Planning at the request of Public Works were in violation to the conditions in the FOC.

Mr. Ruiz responded that in general, any lack of compliance with federal, state, or local regulatory agencies' requirements, will cause the operators to be in violation of the FOC but that he needs to double check.

Mr. Mohajer asked if staff can be very specific on the various conditions as it relates to the FOC. He also requested a separate sheet to identify the conditions that the County found the landfill operator was in violation of. Ms. Landis asked that staff disseminate the documents to everyone in the Subcommittee.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter commented since the Republic letter was only disseminated yesterday, he did not have a chance to read it thoroughly to comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled remotely for Thursday, March 18, 2021, at 11 a.m.