

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

**April 20, 2023**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts  
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jonathan Brazile, County Counsel  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Kate Downey, Republic Services  
Michael Stewart, Republic Services  
Nicole Ward, Waste Connections  
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dennis Lee, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Robel Mesfin, Los Angeles County Public Works  
David Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Gladys Rietze, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Mike Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:03 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 16, 2023 MEETING**

Mr. Sam Shammass made a motion to approve the March 16, 2023, minutes as amended, and Mr. Christopher Sheppard seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. COUNTY COUNSEL UPDATE**

Mr. Jonathan Brazile of County Counsel confirmed that the vote by the FPRS on February 16, 2023, was invalid. However, since the FPRS is an advisory body to the Task Force and the Task Force is the main legislative body and voted properly, the vote the Task Force approved on February 16, 2023, to send the Joint Technical Document letter to various agencies stands.

Mr. Mohajer reiterated Mr. Brazile's findings in that the 2 yes votes and the 3 abstentions under the County Code, did not pass because the abstentions are considered a no vote.

**IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Dennis Lee, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

Odor Complaints and Notice of Violations (NOV)

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) received 8 odor complaints in January, 6 odor complaints in February, and 14 odor complaints in March. No NOVs were issued for odor complaints in the first quarter of 2023.

Task Force Request for Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) to Submit a Report regarding NOVs Received

- CCL submitted their [Twenty-Fourth Monthly Update](#) to the Task Force on March 31, 2023. The update addressed the April 19, 2021, letter's requirements and updates on implementation of Conditions 68 (status of air quality monitoring for surrounding communities), 77 (relocation of the site entrance from Henry Mayo Drive to Wolcott Drive), and 79 (schedule of the Street Improvement project), as well as the Stipulated Order for Abatement from AQMD.
- CCL reported one NOV from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) dated March 24, 2023, for failing to develop a complete

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (Prevention Plan). However, this NOV was withdrawn by the Water Board on April 5, 2023, after the Water Board determined that there are no Prevention Plan deficiencies that need to be addressed by CCL.

- On April 17, 2023, CCL reported an NOV from the AQMD issued on April 14, 2023. The Landfill Operator indicated that they have submitted the requested data to AQMD.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the NOVs relating to the Land Use Permit or Conditional Use Permit (CUP) would be lifted once the modified CUP is approved by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors or Regional Planning. Mr. Dave Nguyen responded that once the modified CUP is approved, the NOVs will be withdrawn.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the only NOV received by CCL for the month of March was from the Water Board for failing to develop a Prevention Plan. Mr. Mohajer was surprised that the items noted in the NOV were never implemented. Mr. Nguyen stated that the NOV from the Water Board was rescinded since the Water Board determined that CCL has submitted adequate documentation and complied with the NOV.

## **V. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Robel Mesfin, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from the AQMD](#) for the month of March 2023 at SCL.

- During the month of March 2023, 146 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 65 were classified as Trash, 25 were listed as No Field Response or resolved by telephone, 9 were listed as Landfill Gas Odors, and 47 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to February 2023, the number of complaints received in March 2023, decreased from 191 to 146 complaints.
- Compared to March 2022, the number of complaints for March 2023 increased from 58 to 146 complaints.
- AQMD issued 5 NOVs related to odor for the month of March 2023 and a total of 18 NOVs for the year 2023. There were 12 NOVs in 2022.
- The total number of odor complaints received during 2023 is 563.

Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens commented that he had been receiving many complaints from the community pertaining to the ongoing odors at SCL, and that SCL is not operating the way they should.

Mr. Mohajer responded that in reference to odors, the Task Force has sent letters to AQMD requesting issuing a notice of abatement, and also to the City of Los Angeles Public Health to review the odors. The Subcommittee has done all that they can do at this time. The Subcommittee has to wait until it receives responses from the Agencies.

#### First Quarter Vegetation Report

Mr. Alexander Castro, staff to the Task Force, provided an update regarding the Vegetation at SCL. At last month's Subcommittee meeting, the following items were requested regarding the 2022 Fourth Quarter Vegetation Report:

- Request from the Landfill Operator a scheduled timeframe of implementation of recommended work by consultant to Decks A and B. Staff requested the Landfill Operator to reflect this information on the First Quarter 2023 Vegetation Report due at the end of April.
- Request an update for recommended erosion controls as well as a current Oak Tree Report. Staff Consulted with the County Biologist regarding if the Consultant's recommendations for erosion control at the County Sage Mitigation Deck are to be enforced. The Biologist will review the report and provide a recommendation.

Mr. Mohajer asked if staff had noted the concerns regarding erosion and the removal of the nonnative plants, which would make things worse. Mr. Michael Harmon responded that staff has contacted the County Biologist who requested time to review the report. Mr. Harmon also mentioned that staff had reached out to the Landfill Operator about this issue.

#### Implementation Measures for Erosion Control

Ms. Kate Downey, representing Republic Services (Republic), presented on the status of the implementation measures for erosion control at the SCL. She stated that SCL addressed each rain event by covering and track walking all areas of the slopes that had significant erosion rills and areas of exposed trash. She informed that Republic Services was granted permission from the SCL-LEA to work on Sundays to expedite the repairs on dry weather days.

Ms. Downey also provided a presentation showing photos of erosion which were identified by the SCL-LEA as areas of concern or violation from the SCL-LEA. The areas where erosion rills had been corrected were located in cell CC4-Part 4 and CC4-Part 3. She confirmed all areas of exposed trash have been covered and they are back to maintaining as normal operations proceed.

Mr. Mohajer asked Public Works (PW) if corrective actions performed by the operator were satisfactory. Mr. Nguyen shared that PW has recently sent a letter to Republic on April 20, 2023, regarding the status of implementation measures to correct the damages due to the rain event. PW would have to wait for the status report to determine if the repairs were satisfactory. Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of the letter be sent to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Mohajer asked about the Water Board's involvement regarding the waste leaving the premises. Ms. Downey stated that the Water Board conducted an inspection onsite and based on the conversations with the Water Board staff, the Water Board did not have any questions, nor did the Water Board issue any corrective measures or require subsequent action at the time of the inspection. She further stated that it is Republic's understanding that the Water Board was satisfied with the measures taken by SCL.

Mr. Mohajer inquired if the Water Board completed their review of the situation. Ms. Downey clarified that it was Republic's understanding at the conclusion of the inspection, no further action was requested.

Mr. Hunter asked Ms. Downey if any notifications were made to the Water Board 24-hours after a drainage issue was encountered. Ms. Downey stated SCL explained the situation as it happened to the Water Board and the Water Board had no issue with how the notification was made. Ms. Downey further clarified that the Water Board did ask questions at the on-site inspection but did not pursue any enforcement actions.

#### Update on Permitted Tonnage

Ms. Gladys Rietze, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the permitted tonnages at SCL that the Subcommittee requested at last month's meeting.

On November 15, 2022, PW sent a letter to Republic notifying them that SCL had exceeded the daily tonnage capacity and was out of compliance with Condition 21.A of SCL's CUP. In the letter, PW requested SCL to come into compliance immediately or the matter would be referred to Regional Planning.

On January 26, 2023, PW referred the matter to Regional Planning for further enforcement action for exceedances that occurred between July 2022 to December 2022. At the time of the Subcommittee meeting, Regional Planning was still determining the matter. Going forward, PW will continue to monitor for compliance and provide support to Regional Planning in its enforcement role.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the daily tonnage capacity included the soil used for the daily cover and if the referral to Regional Planning was regarding exceedances of the daily tonnage capacity. Ms. Rietze confirmed his statement was correct.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Landfill has exceeded the daily tonnage capacity since PW's letter. Mr. Nguyen stated that as of the day of this Subcommittee meeting, the Landfill was still exceeding the daily tonnage capacity based on the Landfill's Monthly Tonnage Reports and PW has provided Regional Planning with updates on the exceedances.

Discussion ensued and Mr. Mohajer proposed a motion for staff to send an e-mail to Regional Planning stating the issue that was discussed, expressing the Subcommittee's concern with the lack of action, requesting the process to be expedited since the exceedances are continuing, and requesting a response to the Task Force. Motion passed with one abstention.

#### Proposed Joint Technical Document Amendment

Mr. Michael Harmon, as staff to the Task Force, provided an update on SCL's proposed Joint Technical Document (JTD) Amendment Application submitted to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA).

On January 31, 2023, Republic submitted a JTD Amendment Application Package to the SCL – LEA as part of their five-year routine review process. In accordance with the Subcommittee's request on February 16, 2023, Task Force staff prepared a Staff Report providing a review of the submittal and provided items for the Subcommittee's attention including final fill contours, maximum elevations, and Landfill termination date provided in the Submittal.

The Subcommittee received a memorandum from Republic dated March 28, 2023, regarding the Proposed JTD Amendment Package. Staff reviewed the memorandum and disseminated a Staff Report for the members of the Subcommittee on April 17, 2023. With respect to the maximum elevations in the City and County Jurisdictions, the Subcommittee requested County Regional Planning investigate Republic's statement regarding the maximum elevations and provide findings or confirmation to the Task Force for further discussion.

Mr. Mohajer added Finding Number 47. F. of the Findings of the Board of Supervisors for Conditional Use Permit Number 00-194-(5) which states "If a discrepancy arises between a City condition and a County condition regarding Landfill operations, the applicant shall be required to incorporate into the County permit the condition that results in the greater protection to the surrounding community".

**VI. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS**

Due to time constraints, the update on the FOC reports was postponed to next month's meeting.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented on the lack of transparency for material received and categorized as "special waste" at SCL. Discussion ensued regarding the types of materials requiring special handling such as controlled substances such as marijuana.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2023, at 11 a.m.