

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

**May 18, 2023**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Karen Gork, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections  
Edgar De La Torre, Los Angeles County Regional Planning  
Alex Garcia, Los Angeles County Regional Planning  
Ai-Viet Huynh, Los Angeles County Regional Planning  
Rachelle Huber, Republic Services  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
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  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dennis Lee, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Robel Mesfin, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Gladys Rietze, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Mike Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 20, 2023 MEETING**

Mr. Sam Shammam made a motion to approve the April 20, 2023 minutes and Ms. Genevieve Osmena seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

Odor Complaints and Notice of Violations (NOV)

The next quarterly update from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) will be provided in July 2023.

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

- CCL submitted their [Twenty-Fifth 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.
- On April 17, 2023, CCL reported a NOV from the AQMD issued on April 14, 2023, for failing to provide lab analysis and data from landfill gas sampling from the past 12 months. The Landfill Operator indicated that they corrected the problem and submitted the required data to AQMD. AQMD confirmed receipt of the data but has not sent a formal response to CCL.

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

Landfill Representative Introduction and Update

Ms. Rachelle Huber, Environmental Manager for Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL), provided the following update:

- SCL submitted their response regarding the tonnage exceedance NOV to Los Angeles County Regional Planning (Regional Planning) and are awaiting their review.
- SCL has been working with AQMD regarding odor complaints and NOVs.
- SCL submitted their First Quarter Vegetation Report to Public Works (PW) staff, and it is under review.
- SCL submitted their erosion control measures workplan to both the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) and SCL-Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), which both approved.

Mr. Mohajer requested that SCL's appeal to Regional Planning dated May 17, 2023, regarding the tonnage exceedance NOV be submitted to PW staff for dissemination to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Mohajer asked if SCL prepared a response to the Water Board for the NOV received on May 17, 2023. Ms. Huber confirmed receipt of the May 17, 2023, NOV for an event in January 2023, but SCL has not yet responded because SCL is developing a workplan. Mr. Mohajer requested a copy of the workplan be provided to PW staff when it becomes available.

#### Odor Complaints

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

- During the month of April 2023, 185 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 37 were classified as Trash, 26 were listed as No Field Response, 2 were classified as resolved by telephone, 74 were classified as Landfill Gas Odors, and 46 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to March 2023, the number of complaints received in April 2023, increased from 146 to 185 complaints.
- Compared to April 2022, the number of complaints for April 2023 increased from 38 to 185 complaints.
- AQMD issued 11 NOVs related to odor for the month of April 2023 and a total of 29 NOVs for the year 2023. Compared to 2022, the number of NOVs for 2023 increased from 12 to 29.
- The total number of odor complaints received during 2023 is 748.

Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens asked specifically what SCL was working on with AQMD to mitigate the numerous odor complaints and NOVs.

In response to Mr. Hunter's request, Mr. Mohajer requested PW staff to prepare a one-page summary of the activities between Republic Services (Republic) and AQMD regarding odor control at SCL to be discussed at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

#### NOV Update and Joint Technical Document (JTD) Inconsistencies

Mr. Edgar De La Torre, with Regional Planning, provided an update on the inconsistencies with the JTD as it pertains to the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Regional Planning met with the SCL-LEA and is aware of the inconsistencies with the original JTD submittal that has since been rescinded by Republic. Regional Planning is awaiting the new submittal from Republic in relation to the elevation at SCL and will work with the City of Los Angeles and the County on any potential inconsistencies with the JTD and CUP. Discussion ensued.

Mr. De La Torre provided an update on the NOV issued by Regional Planning to Republic on May 2, 2023, for tonnage exceedances, in relation to Condition 21 of the CUP. Regional Planning received the Appeal dated May 17, 2023, from Republic and will schedule a hearing. Mr. Mohajer requested copies of the NOV and the Appeal to be submitted to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Hunter asked if they were aware of the exceedances that occurred for the month of April. Mr. De La Torre responded that Regional Planning was aware of the April exceedances, but the NOV was drafted before receiving the report. He also indicated that the operator has 30 days to resolve the issue or 15 days to appeal. Regional Planning will continue to monitor the violation and track those dates.

#### First Quarter Vegetation Report

Mr. Alexander Castro, staff to the Task Force, provided an [update](#) regarding the vegetation at SCL. Republic provided the First Quarter 2023 Vegetation Report on April 30, 2023. PW staff addressed the Subcommittee's concern regarding removal of exotic species in the City Side Sage Area. PW staff recommended that vegetation removal does not increase soil erosion in the area and that the boundaries of the area do not contain any slopes.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the report noted when the 149 Big Cone Douglas Fir trees will be planted to meet mitigation requirements. Mr. Castro responded that the report did not include that information. Mr. Mohajer suggested to staff not to accept any report without concrete data and milestone dates.

Mr. Michael Harmon clarified that when PW staff identified that there were additional trees required, they reached out to Republic regarding mitigation plans

for the replacement of the trees. PW staff received an updated report from SCL on May 18, 2023, the morning of the Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Hunter referred to the City South Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A where it mentioned the replacement of booster pump and power connections previously destroyed by the wildfire for irrigation. He asked when this would be completed since the wildfire was a few years ago.

Mr. Mohajer mentioned from the previous Subcommittee meeting that SCL was planning on removing some of the non-native plants and questioned the removal due to erosion issues. Mr. Mohajer requested PW staff to provide an update at the June 15, 2023, Subcommittee meeting regarding the response from the County Biologist regarding the removal of non-native plants.

#### Erosion Control Measures Update

Ms. Gladys Rietze, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

On April 20, 2023, PW staff sent a letter to Republic regarding their monthly activity reports and additional corrective measures at the Landfill to address the impacts sustained from heavy rainstorm events that occurred in the First Quarter of 2023, as noted in SCL-LEA's recent drainage and erosion violations, and requested the following:

- A detailed report providing the current status and milestones identifying how the Landfill is addressing drainage and erosion issues, in addition to providing a monthly status report.
- An updated litter control and recovery program.
- A copy of the wet weather preparedness report and winter operations plan for 2023.

On May 4, 2023, Republic provided a response with an Erosion and Drainage Control Progress and Action Plan that is currently under review by PW staff. For the month of April 2023, the SCL-LEA noted that the violation issued for Draining and Erosion Control was corrected.

PW and Ultrasystems inspected the site on May 16, 2023, to verify the corrective measures as identified in the Progress and Action Plan. PW staff will continue to review and monitor the drainage and erosion issues monthly.

At last month's Subcommittee meeting, the Subcommittee requested the status of the Water Board's action regarding the sediment and trash exiting the site and discharging onto San Fernando Road and Bull Creek. The Water Board issued a

NOV of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater permit to the Landfill on May 17, 2023.

Mr. Mohajer indicated that he was unclear about PW's involvement regarding the issue. Ms. Rietze responded that the corrective measures at the Landfill to address the impacts sustained from the heavy rainstorm events, are ongoing. She further stated that it is PW's goal to ensure the Landfill remains on their schedule to address these impacts.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the damaged riser at the Landfill had been repaired. Mr. Harmon responded that the riser has not yet been repaired. He stated that PW staff has provided updates to various agencies and partnering Divisions within PW regarding this issue.

## **V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS**

Mr. Dennis Lee, staff to the Task Force provided an [update](#) on the Finding of Conformance (FOC) Semi-Annual Waste Characterization studies and Quarterly Monitoring Reports for various landfills.

Mr. Mohajer asked where the SCL Waste Characterization was. Mr. Lee responded that PW staff received it on May 11, 2023, and that the delay was due to the rainstorms earlier this year, which prevented SCL access to the main working deck until early April. Mr. Lee further added that SCL's Waste Characterization will be presented at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Mohajer added that specific notations, including any delays in the FOC reports/studies, should be noted in the Staff Report.

Mr. Mohajer asked what tonnage amount was sampled for SCL during the six-day period study. Mr. Karlo Manalo responded that SCL sampled approximately 46,000 tons of incoming waste for this study.

Mr. Mohajer asked why the Antelope Valley and Lancaster Landfills' tonnages were significantly lower. Mr. Lee responded that the Landfills' operators stated that evaluating every load would be time-consuming and cumbersome to the landfills' operations.

Discussion ensued about the requirements of the FOC for waste characterization accounting for the total waste stream on a semi-annual basis for the six-day period. Mr. Mohajer suggested for the operators to come up with and substantiate a sufficient sample size for the waste characterization study.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 15, 2023, at 11 a.m.