

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

**June 20, 2024**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Basil Cantu, Long Beach Public Works  
Erin Rowland, Long Beach Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Cameron Jones, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Omar Carrillo Maldonado, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Emiko Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

## II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 16, 2024, MEETING

Mr. Sam Shammass made a motion to approve the May 16, 2024, minutes, and Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Karlo Manalo, staff to the Task Force, reported on Chiquita Canyon Landfill's (CCL) Notices of Violations (NOVs) and status update on environmental mitigation measures:

- CCL received 19 NOVs in May 2024, all of which were air quality-related from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).
- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Thirty-Eighth Monthly Update](#), dated May 31, 2024, in accordance with the [April 19, 2021, Task Force letter](#) requirements and subsequent request for additional updates on NOVs issued and mitigation measures imposed by regulatory agencies.
- CCL reported that the source of odors from the Landfill is from a large and unexpected increase in production of landfill gas and liquids due to a reaction within an older portion of the Landfill's waste mass.
- An initial [Stipulated Order for Abatement](#) (SOA) was adopted by AQMD on September 6, 2023, to address the odors, and was modified on April 24, 2024.
- The Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), with recommendations from CalRecycle, provided mitigation measures in letters dated [October 17, 2023](#), and [November 21, 2023](#), for CCL to implement to address odors.
- CCL continues to implement the measures required by AQMD and the LEA, and providing periodic reports to various regulatory agencies that can be found on their website.
- On [June 4, 2024](#), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued a NOV to CCL for violations related to Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations related to air emissions and Title V permit related to CCL's landfill gas collection and control system.

### Odor mitigation efforts by various regulatory agencies:

- AQMD continues to receive and respond to odor complaints through their hotline. AQMD receive and reviews periodic reports submitted by CCL as required by the SOA and its modifications.

- A modification hearing on the SOA will be scheduled before the AQMD Hearing Board in August 2024. Staff will notify the Subcommittee once it is scheduled.
- The LEA continues to review various reports submitted by CCL and monitor mitigation measures set by the LEA and CalRecycle. The LEA receives and responds to calls pertaining to health complaints through the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health's hotline.
- Public Works (PW) continues to work with the Landfill Operator to expedite necessary approvals and permits for a new flare and is also assisting with the processing permit requirements for proposed modifications to existing offsite air monitoring stations, as required by regulatory agencies.
- Regional Planning continues to expand and update their [webpage](#) to post information and resources for the odor incident.
- CalRecycle continues to assist the LEA with reviewing various reports submitted CCL.
- The USEPA continues to monitor the progress on the implementation of mitigation measures set forth in the Unilateral Administrative Order, aimed to assist with addressing and abating the odors at the CCL.
- The Multi-Agency Coordination Group (MAC), led by the USEPA, California, Environmental Protection Agency, and Los Angeles County Health Hazardous Materials Division was established to oversee immediate mitigation plans related to the leachate at CCL. On June 11, 2024, MAC released a new website, [www.cclresponse.com](http://www.cclresponse.com), to provide updated information on the current odor incident at CCL.

Ms. Thompson asked how the number of NOVs issued in May compared to the number of NOVs issued in April. Mr. Manalo informed Ms. Thompson that the number of NOVs issued to CCL in April is 21.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens asked where the odors reports are coming and why AQMD would not provide monthly odor complaints as they do for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) community. Ms. Thompson commented that although PW does not oversee complaint details, PW does participate in the monthly community advisory committee meetings for Castaic in which AQMD provides an update on odor observances. She stated it appears that many of the odor complaints are coming from the north, northeast, and southeast communities.

Mr. Hunter asked if Mr. Eugene Tseng was working with the LEA and PW to produce a report on CCL, as he did for SCL. Ms. Thompson's recollection was that Mr. Tseng is working but to a much lesser extent involving advisement to CCL and does not know the depth of Mr. Tseng's involvement.

#### **IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

##### Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided an [update on the odor complaints from AQMD for May 2024](#) at SCL:

- During the month of May 2024, 18 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 6 were classified as Trash, 9 were listed as No Field Response, 0 Landfill Gas Odors were listed, and 3 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to April 2024, the number of complaints received for May 2024, decreased from 266 to 18 complaints.
- Compared to May 2023, the number of complaints for May 2024 decreased from 32 to 18 complaints.
- AQMD issued 0 NOVs related to odor for the month of May 2024.
- The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 41.

Mr. Shammass asked if SCL had done anything different to help the significant reduction in odors. Mr. Hunter commented that SCL is doing improvements, but the reduction of odors is due to the weather. He stated that odors in the area start in September and continue until May; and in June, July, and August when the weather is hot, odors complaints are less frequent.

##### Vegetation Update

Mr. Alexander Castro, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the SCL/County landfill Vegetation Report.

On May 14, 2024, Republic Services provided the First Quarter 2024 Vegetation Project Status Report:

##### City Side South Sage Pilot Area – Deck C/Lower Deck

- Exotic annual plant species germination increased in the fourth quarter of 2023 due to increased water availability in the summer and fall months, and intensive weeding efforts reduced plant cover through the lower deck.
- Non-native plant cover slightly decreased between the fourth quarter of 2023 and first quarter of 2024.

City Side South Area – Deck B/Middle Deck

- On Deck B, there has been vigorous growth with good species diversity, and native vegetation such as California Buckwheat fills most of the area.
- Downslopes of the deck are covered with exotic species and has been recommended for remediation to prevent further spread across the deck.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A/Upper Deck

- Mitigation plans to the deck are expected to start late 2024, which includes filling low spots of the deck with revegetation once the seasonal rainfall is properly leached.

Mr. Hunter asked if anyone had replaced Ms. Betsey Landis, who had a vegetation background, to attend vegetation meetings at the Landfill. Mr. Harmon responded that a County biologist from the Department of Regional Planning reviews the Vegetations Reports and makes comments or recommendations. Mr. Hunter asked if the County biologist attends the monthly meetings so to review the site in person. Mr. Harmon responded that the County biologist does not attend every inspection of the vegetation area; however, UltraSystems, consultant to the City and County Planning Departments, provides an in-house biologist that regularly attends site visits. Discussion ensued.

**V. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS**

Mr. Manalo informed the Subcommittee that staff did not receive any Finding of Conformance Reports. A staff report would be provided at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 18, 2024, at 11 a.m.