

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

May 15, 2025

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Basil Cantu, City of Long Beach Public Works
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Jordan Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Bronson, Republic Services
Brenda Eels, Waste Connections
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dennis Lee, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, 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 11:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 17, 2025, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Wayne Hunter made a motion to approve the March 20, 2025, minutes as amended. Mr. Sam Shammass 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 Violation (NOVs):

- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Forty-Eighth Monthly Update](#), dated May 1, 2025, 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 various regulatory agencies.
- CCL received 8 NOVs in April 2025 related to air quality from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), compared to the 7 NOVs received in March 2025 and the 21 NOVs received in April 2024.
- CCL entered into a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) with AQMD on September 2, 2023, that was last modified on [April 16, 2025](#), to address and abate the odors resulting from the reaction at CCL through continuous implementation of mitigation measures in the SOA.
- The next SOA status hearing is on June 4, 2025.
- On April 1, 2025, AQMD issued CCL a NOV alleging that the landfill failed to:
 - install a liner under the leachate tank farms within 120 days of the AQMD Order;
 - maintain and properly record pressure readings of tanks from December 2024 to February 2025;
 - monitor and record daily gas temperatures of the Landfill Gas Treatment System onsite; and
 - report landfill gas temperatures in the monthly report for December 2024.
- On April 1, 2025, AQMD issued CCL a NOV alleging that the landfill failed to obtain a permit to construct from AQMD prior to installing a new thermal oxidizer onsite. CCL is currently investigating the alleged violations and will provide a detailed explanation and corrective actions in their next monthly update.
- On April 1, 2025, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) issued a [Summary of Violations](#) to CCL for alleged violations of the State's hazardous waste control laws and their implementing regulations.

- The DTSC also issued CCL an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order to CCL that alleges release and potential future releases of hazardous substances that may present imminent and substantial danger to public health or the environment, requiring response actions to abate public nuisance and/or to protect the public health and safety of the environment. CCL is currently investigating the alleged violations and issued Order from DTSC and will provide a detailed explanation and corrective actions in their next monthly update.

Mr. Hunter asked if any of the numerous NOV's issued to CCL have been settled, especially with leachate. Mr. Manalo responded that CCL is working with the DTSC to comply with the order and to address the violations. Mr. Hunter asked if there were any more violations issued recently to CCL regarding disposal of leachate. Mr. Manalo was unaware of any additional violations.

Mr. Larry Israel with AQMD provided the following update on CCL:

- For the month of May 2025, thus far, AQMD received 320 odor complaints.
- As of May 15, 2025, AQMD issued 5 nuisance violations to CCL. Additional violations include:
 - Since January 2023, AQMD issued more than 300 nuisance violations.
 - In addition, there have been 6 NOV's for violating the SOA.
 - Prior to violating the SOA, there were violations for variance conditions dating back to early 2023.
 - AQMD issued at least 4 NOV's for track-out dust.
- AQMD is receiving more odor complaints in the evening hours.
- As indicated at the CCL-Technical Advisory Committee meeting on May 13, 2025, CCL is developing an area, Cell 7, in which they will install a permanent leachate treatment facility.
- Sink holes were reported outside of the reaction area. AQMD will investigate next week during their Title V inspection.
- There are a number of surface frac tanks in Tank Farm 9 at the top of the landfill.
- CCL installed a thermal oxidation system that is in operation without a permit, which will result in another NOV.
- One of CCL's carbon absorbers overheated last week that could have caught on fire. CCL did not provide AQMD an explanation, which they are required to do when equipment malfunctions. Therefore, another NOV will be issued within the next day or two.

Ms. Thompson asked if this is in addition to the DTSC violations. Mr. Israel explained that AQMD violations are different than what the DTSC is observing. He indicated he is not aware of leachate seepages, but there are leachate odors, most

of which come from the reaction area. There are also many spills due to contractors mishandling transfers which mainly happen late at night.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided a brief update on the [odor complaints from AQMD for April 2025](#) at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL). As of today, AQMD has not yet published their report.

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

- At the May 8, 2025, SCL-Community Advisory Committee meeting, it was reported that approximately 216 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline for the month of April 2025.
- AQMD issued 6 NOVs related to odor for the month of April 2025.

Mr. Israel provided the following update on SCL:

- For the month of April 2025, there have been 216 odor complaints and 6 public nuisance violations.
- For the month of May 2025, thus far, AQMD received 76 odor complaints and has issued 2 NOVs.
- There are many more odor complaints reported in the evening hours, especially after 7 p.m. or 8 p.m. after the landfill is closed.
- History shows that in May, June, July, and August, there are less odor complaints reported. However, this month is unusual because it is the first time in five years that AQMD has issued 2 NOVs for the month of May and that odor complaints are getting close to exceeding the typical number.
- SCL is under an order for abatement and is accepting fire debris. The fire debris is being carefully controlled in the bowl area, located at the northwest side of the working face. Therefore, there is no comingling with other trash.

Mr. Hunter asked how many working faces are at SCL. Mr. Israel responded that there are two working faces that AQMD has observed. Mr. Hunter asked what the size of the working faces are. Mr. Israel did not know. Mr. Hunter asked if the County was checking the size of the working faces because in the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) there is a limit to the size of the working faces which are to be kept to a minimum. Mr. Harmon confirmed that the County is monitoring the landfill in conjunction with other regulatory agencies and a monthly inspection is done which includes the activities in the working faces for compliance with the CUP. Mr. Hunter asked if there was a report on their monthly inspections noting what is seen. Mr. Harmon responded since that information is not typically on the report, staff

could work with the Landfill Operator to get an update. Mr. Hunter shared his concerns about the odors getting worse and requested the report.

Mr. Israel commented that AQMD is up to about 32 nuisance violations this year which is about half of what they had last year. In addition, AQMD has received about 1,050 odor complaints this year and last year, there were twice as much. A concern noted was that a lot of the Posi-Shell has weathered away in areas known for surface emissions, which is why that type of alternative cover was applied. Mr. Hunter's understanding was that SCL would be reapplying the Posi-Shell to seal up the surface emissions areas, as well as using ClosureTurf because of the increasing odors. Mr. Israel explained that ClosureTurf is permanent, where Posi-Shell is temporary and lasts about six months. Ms. Sharon Bronson of Republic Services offered to take back Mr. Hunter's questions about the working faces back to her administration.

Mr. Sisson's understanding is that the increase of odors is weather-related. Mr. Israel explained that typically for odors to impact the community, adverse wind conditions are less than 5 mph from the north and northwest. He noted that in previous years, there was a lot more May gray/June gloom, onshore flow so winds are blowing from the south. The next AQMD status hearing is September 3, 2025. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Sisson asked, as a courtesy, if Republic Services could provide an update of potential changes in rate at SCL post CCL closure and post fire-related debris.

V. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Dennis Lee, as staff to the Task Force, provided a [staff report](#) on the Finding of Conformance Quarterly Reports and Waste Characterization Studies for various landfills.

Mr. Sisson noticed a nearly 20 percent increase of organics at Calabasas Landfill (CL) and asked if a reduction is anticipated. Mr. Lee indicated that staff reached out to CL about the increase in organics and decrease in other waste and was informed that the changes likely reflected normal week-to-week variability and random sampling with possible influences from recent wind and fire events, as well as fluctuations in local construction activity. Mr. Sisson asked when the last Waste Characterization Study was conducted for CL. Mr. Lee informed that the last study was conducted in Fall of 2024 and that the organics percentage was about 37 percent, which decreased by about 10 percent from Spring 2024. Mr. Shammass advised that there has been some variability within the last three

years with food waste at about 8 to 20 percent and that yard waste tends to vary quite a bit. Yard waste may also be attributed to cleanup from non-burnt properties.

Mr. Sisson also noticed about a 10 percent increase at SCL and asked if all the landfills are experiencing the same increase. Mr. Lee responded that there have been some increases, with Antelope Valley Landfill at 3 percent and Lancaster Landfill at 6 percent. Ms. Thompson added that increases may possibly be due to the Emergency Waiver to bring in material from the January 2025 wind and fire event, causing additional green waste at the landfills. Mr. Shammass concurred that the winds caused the increase of green waste.

Mr. Sisson asked if in the next Waste Characterization will include Scholl Canyon Landfill. Mr. Shammass responded that there is no Finding of Conformance for Scholl Canyon Landfill as they have never had a permit change, and the landfill is within the city of Glendale. Therefore, there is no requirement.

Mr. Hunter wondered why fire-related debris is not noted under ashes, asbestos, other shredded waste, and other specific waste in the Waste Characterization since nothing is mentioned about the fire-related debris. He mentioned that SCL is receiving ash and that he has not seen any debris such as trees. Ms. Thompson explained that Public Works Road Maintenance crews picked up a lot of down branches and green waste in general due to January's wind event, which is not fire debris, and may have caused the increase of green waste. Discussion ensued.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sisson informed staff that the link to CCL's SOA on last month's minutes was for SCL.

As a follow-up to last month's meeting, Mr. Sisson indicated it would be great to receive further clarification on the Waste by Rail Request for Proposal (RFP). For example, what the status of the RFP was, when it would be released, additional ideas about what components may be included, and whether the RFP would be an open bid or restrictive, and any other information that may be made available. Mr. Shammass responded the RFP may be released within the next month or two as details are still being discussed with Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' management.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m. There is no Subcommittee meeting in June due to observance of Juneteenth holiday on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 17, 2025, at 11 a.m.