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

September 17, 2026
Los Angeles County Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:
David Fahrion, California Waste and Recycling Association
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Barbara Moore, City of Long Beach Energy and Environmental Services Department
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Felicia Truong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health

OTHERS PRESENT:
George Diggs, City of Long Beach
Ryan Hillman, WSP USA, Inc.
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Jayna Morgan, WM Consultant
Gerardo Vergara, South Coast Air Quality Management District
John Mendieta, Waste Management
Kevin Vaugn, Waste Management
Eugene Tseng, Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency
Siya Araumi, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Alexander Fitchmun, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Cameron Jones, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angels County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Emiko Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 20, 2026, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Sam Shammas made a motion to approve August 20, 2026, Subcommittee meeting minutes, and Mr. Wayde Hunter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. ANTELOPE VALLEY PUBLIC LANDFILL FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Mr. Alexander Castro, staff to the Task Force, provided a presentation for the consideration of Waste Management's Antelope Valley Public Landfill (AVPL) Finding of Conformance (FOC).

Mr. Hunter noted his support for staff review and recommendation despite not receiving hard copies of the 530+ page document. He requested that moving forward hard copies of all relevant documents and maps regardless of page count be provided to him. Ms. Thomspon confirmed there were a lot of attachments with detail, citing the lengthy documentation are linked to the agenda.

Given the volume of information, Ms. Thompson asked Mr. Castro to confirm her understanding that AVPL has been operating for a long time, and the Task Force last acted on it in 2018 by issuing a FOC. However, because AVPL is now expanding both its property boundary and footprint, it constitutes a substantial expansion that requires a new FOC. Mr. Castro confirmed Ms. Thompson's understanding of the FOC. Ms. Thompson also understood that because the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has determined that a new waste discharge requirement permit is necessary, the FOC will remain technically ineffective until the Water Board issues a new watershed-side requirement (WDR). Mr. Castro confirmed that the FOC is ineffective until staff receives the WDR and verifies its consistency with the current project.

Mr. David Fahrion asked if Waste Management had requested a permit for an increase in tonnage acceptance. Mr. Castro responded that the tonnage and rate remain the same, and that they only requested a permit to increase the acreage at AVPL.

Ms. Thompson asked if the acreage increase at AVPL would extend its lifespan by an estimated 12 years. Mr. Castro confirmed the 12-year estimate.

Mr. Fahrion made a motion to recommend that the Task Force find that the AVPL is in conformance with the Countywide Siting Element, subject to the conditions of approval in the staff report, which includes the updated WDR. Mr. Hunter seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention.

IV. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL (CCL)

Mr. Cameron Jones, staff to the Task Force, reported on CCL's Notices of Violation (NOVs):

Odor Complaints and NOVs

- The Landfill Operator submitted their Sixty-Fourth Monthly Update, dated September 1, 2026, which included updates from 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 10 Rule 402 NOVs in August 2026 from South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), compared to the 26 NOVs received in July 2026 and the 11 NOVs received in August 2025.
- CCL entered into a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) with AQMD on September 2, 2023, that was last modified on June 3, 2026, to address and abate the odors resulting from the reaction at CCL. The Subcommittee will receive the latest SOA once available.
- The SOA status hearing that was scheduled for September 16, 2026, was rescheduled for October 21, 2026, at the request of CCL and with AQMD's approval.
- On August 4, 2026, CCL received a NOV from AQMD for a violation cited on May 20, 2026, alleging that CCL failed to operate the carbon absorber vessels according to manufacturer specifications, regulatory requirements, and permit terms.
- On August 5, 2026, CCL received a NOV from AQMD for a violation cited on March 27, 2026, alleging that CCL failed to promptly collect leachate and causing it to be exposed to the atmosphere.
- CCL is in discussions with AQMD regarding the issued NOVs to better understand the alleged violations while continuing to evaluate them.
- On August 14, 2026, the Department of Toxic Substances Control issued a Summary of Violations to CCL alleging that CCL failed to minimize the possibility of a release of hazardous waste or its constituents into the air, soil or surface water; properly label tanks and a container accumulating hazardous waste; and properly close a container used for accumulating hazardous waste. CCL is continuing to evaluate the alleged violations.

Mr. Larry Israel, with AQMD Office of Compliance and Enforcement provided the most recent information to date:

- There were 10 nuisance violations issued by AQMD for the month of August 2026, which includes approximately 488 odor complaints that were logged.
- The rescheduled SOA status hearing on October 21, 2026, may be postponed for another week or so.
- To date in September 2026, there were approximately 121 odor complaints that AQMD logged.
- AQMD verified a nuisance odor violation in the community of Val Verde on the morning of September 11, 2026.
- On September 11, 2026, AQMD issued another NOV for unfulfilled conditions in the SOA, which marks approximately the 17th NOV issue for SOA non-compliance since the order took effect in 2023.

Mr. Hunter recently noticed the section facing Val Verde looks far more extensive and asked how many acres of tarps CCL has over the surface area. Mr. Israel confirmed CCL has at least 80 acres and has until the end of the year to reach 100 acres. CCL also has another community meeting scheduled for this evening to provide the latest update. Mr. Israel further noted that odors have decreased, although it may be weather-related, as people tend to stay home in 100-degree heat. Discussion ensued.

V. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL (SCL)

Mr. Israel provided an update on the odor complaints from AQMD for August 2026 at SCL:

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

- During the month of August 2026, there were approximately 79 complaints that AQMD logged.
- There have been no nuisance violations issued to SCL since late April 2026.
- To date in September 2026, AQMD there were approximately 151 odor complaints that AQMD logged.
- AQMD issued back-to-back nuisance violations on September 8 and 9, 2026, after inspectors verified odors impacting Granada Hills residents, El Oro Way Elementary, and Van Gogh Charter School.
- During the 2026 calendar year, there were approximately 2,170 odor complaints and 46 nuisance violations.

Mr. Israel noted that most odor complaints AQMD received in September 2026 received during the morning hours and that less than 30 percent were received after hours. He added that following the recent rainfall, inspectors primarily detected sour trash odors rather than landfill gas odors. He also reported that no status hearings were scheduled for the abatement order this year.

Mr. Hunter's understanding at the recent SCL Community Advisory Committee he attended was that the rain, wet trash, and the holiday weekend likely contributed to the spiking in odor reports. Mr. Israel confirmed this was likely a contributing factor, noting that the landfill also attributed the situation due to holding trash over the weekend and delayed trash pickup.

Alternative Daily Cover Program

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update on the SCL Alternative Daily Cover Pilot Project using geosynthetic panel products:

In 2019, Public Works (PW) and SCL-Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) approved Envirocover (geosynthetic panel product) for daily waste coverage at SCL's working face. However, a conventional six-inch soil cover was used over the weekend from Saturday night until reopening on Monday morning.

In August 2024, PW approved the alternative daily cover (ADC) Weekend Pilot Program to determine if the ADC performs as effectively as conventional soil cover during weekend closures.

During the Pilot Project, PW required Republic Services (Republic) to evaluate the efficiency of using weekend ADC, which includes compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 27 (§ 20690), alongside positive operational impacts on landfill gas control and leachate removal systems. PW analyzed two years of Pilot Project data from Republic, including their evaluation report, operational observations, environmental monitoring information, and community odor complaint information. Public Works specifically considered the odor complaint information in its evaluation. The odor complaint data did not show a consistent pattern indicating that weekend ADC performance was less effective than conventional soil cover.

PW incorporated feedback from regulatory agencies (SCL-LEA, County and City Planning, and AQMD) and analyzed Pilot Project data. PW determined that the ADC performed comparably to conventional soil in meeting performance requirements and no evidence was found that weekend ADC use caused adverse operational or environmental impacts compared to conventional soil. Therefore, on

September 9, 2026, PW approved the continued use of the ADC at SCL, consistent with the conditions of approval identified in SCL's Joint Technical Document and other applicable regulatory requirements.

Mr. Hunter reviewed Republic's ADC Report and supporting charts but remained unconvinced by the Report. Mr. Hunter noted that the baseline was already very poor and therefore questioned whether the submission adequately evaluated the actual impact of the ADC.

Mr. Hunter asked Mr. Eugene Tseng with the SCL-LEA to comment. Mr. Tseng explained that the ADC was implemented in 2015 to address odor issues caused by a non-traditional regulatory requirement in 2010 that mandated a nine-inch compacted daily soil cover to be left permanently in place, while traditional industry practice uses six-inch soil cover that is peeled off the next day. Removing the cover soil allows landfill gas to flow more freely and facilitates downward movement of leachate.

Mr. Tseng further explained that data collected since 2010 has shown that the thicker soil cover contributed to perched liquids. Additionally, the ADC was meant to replace the cover soil practice, as approved by the SCL Technical Advisory Committee and incorporated into the October 2016 Odor for Abatement Order.

Mr. Tseng noted that the SCL-LEA is monitoring SCL's ADC. He continued with the technical explanation of how the ADC is used. Mr. Hunter understood that both PW staff and the LEA support the use of the ADC at SCL.

Vegetation Update

Mr. Alex Fitchmun, staff to the Task Force provided the following SCL Vegetation Update, which includes the PW Staff Report and Second Quarter 2026 Vegetation Project Status received from Republic on July 31, 2026:

City Side South Sage Mitigation Area – Deck C / Lower Deck C:

- Native shrub and plant species cover an estimated 75 percent of the lower deck with California buckwheat, California sunflower, big saltbush, and black sage being the most prominent. Vegetation on this deck was observed to be in either their vegetative or flowering state.

- Non-native vegetation cover on this deck remains generally low and with little change since the First Quarter of 2026. The most abundant species observed on the deck were Short Podded Mustard, Russian Thistle, and Foxtail Barley.
- Quarterly weed control took place during the Second Quarter of 2026 which decreased non-native cover. Some areas of native creeping rye grass were scalped. Landscaping crews have been notified and educated to distinguish between native and non-native species.

City Side South Area – Deck B / Middle Deck B:

- Native cover on the Middle Deck is greater than on the Upper and Lower Decks, with most of the native species observed to be in their vegetative state. The most prominent native vegetation observed includes the brittlebush, coastal goldenbush, California Sagebrush, and Deerweed.
- Non-native vegetation was observed to be in its vegetative state and remains low in abundance throughout the deck and has decreased due to the weed abatement efforts.
- California Pepper Trees and Saltcedar have again been recommended for removal to prevent overturn and cap damage during high winds.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck A:

- The vegetation on the southern center of the deck is currently in its vegetative state and continues to be in higher abundance than in other areas of the deck with native and non-native herbaceous plant species.
- The regraded areas of Deck A continue to see improved drainage from the rain events during the First Quarter of 2026. These areas will be included in the upcoming revegetation efforts which are expected to begin in the Fall of 2026.

Big Cone Douglas Fir and Oak Tree Mitigation Area:

- Plans to replenish the Douglas Fir and Canyon Oak Tree mitigation banks are currently underway. Seeds were potted in the Fourth Quarter of 2025 and germinated during the First Quarter of 2026. Once the saplings are viable, they will be transplanted to the mitigation site, with planting anticipated for Fall 2026.

Mr. Hunter asked if the California Pepper Trees and Saltcedar that are recommended for removal on the City Side South Area are considered native vegetation, citing that the community was promised that the area would be restored. Discussion ensued.

Lastly, Mr. Hunter stated that SCL's vegetation report is extensive and noted that SCL utilizes a consultant for the work and its recommendations. He asked if staff reviews the recommendations to establish an implementation timeline.

Mr. Fitchmun confirmed that staff attends monthly site visits alongside Regional Planning and UltraSystems, the City/County environmental consultant. The monthly inspections include vegetation monitoring. Additionally, staff also emailed Republic that morning requesting updates on the proposed implementation of the recommendations. The update will be provided to the Subcommittee in the Third Quarter 2026 report.

VI. UPDATE ON TRANSITION TO PAPERLESS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Siya Araumi, staff to the Task Force, provided an update to last month's meeting discussion regarding the paperless transition at Subcommittee meetings. During this transition period, there will be no changes to the current format for the remainder of this year. However, beginning January 2027, meeting materials will be provided in an electronic format. A binder containing all meeting materials will be made available at the check-in table for attendee review.

While the Brown Act mandates that meeting materials be accessible to commissioners and the public, there is no requirement to provide paper documents. Mr. Araumi cited California Government Code, § 54954.1, noting that anyone wishing to receive hard copies of meeting materials, such as agendas, must submit a written request to staff. Requests are valid for one calendar year in which they are made and must be renewed after January 1 of each year. A fee may be applicable for providing mailed copies consistent with the cost of service.

Mr. Hunter pointed out his previous objections to the paperless format, noting that while a process now exists to obtain hard copies, technical infrastructure remains an issue. He noted a lack of adequate power outlets for attendees, sharing that his own laptop battery had died earlier. Mr. Hunter asked if provisions would be made to ensure sufficient power for attendees rather than relying on a single outlet. Mr. Araumi informed Mr. Hunter that staff would follow up with Facilities Management.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 15, 2026, at 11 a.m.