



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
<http://dpw.lacounty.gov>

MARK PESTRELLA, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:
P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

November 19, 2019

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **PJ-2**
10145-1-3

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Mark Pestrella
Director of Public Works

BOARD MOTION OF OCTOBER 29, 2019, AGENDA ITEM 62-C ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR COMMUNITY NEAR COGEN LANDFILL WEEKLY REPORT

This is the third progress report in response to the Board's motion of October 29, 2019, Agenda Item 62-C, which directed Public Works in coordination with the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel to:

- Expedite implementation of any mitigation required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD);
- Explore implementation of other mitigation above requirements by SCAQMD;
- Schedule a series of community meetings with relevant State and local agencies that are conducted in a culturally competent and linguistically sensitive manner to provide regular updates to the community members living, working, or attending school in the area surrounding the Cogen Landfill; and
- Report back weekly on the above directives until implementation is complete.

Mitigation Required by SCAQMD

SCAQMD's public meeting was conducted on November 14, 2019, at City Terrace Park. Notice of the event was issued by SCAQMD to properties located within 1,000 feet of the project site and was provided in both English and Spanish languages. SCAQMD presented detailed information on the design of the County's proposed landfill gas extraction system and SCAQMD's criteria for approval of the system. Questions were responded to by SCAQMD, Public Health, Public Works, and representatives from the First Supervisorial District. SCAQMD indicated its intent to approve the County's

application for permit within a week, pending no information was submitted that would alter its decision on the appropriateness of the system and its installation. Issuance of the SCAQMD permit will allow Public Works to obtain final approval, thus concluding the jurisdictional approval process for the project.

Additional Mitigation

Potential items of improvement to the nearby landscape, slope stabilization, and additional extraction wells were identified through a discussion among SCAQMD, Public Health, Public Works, and the design consultant for the landfill gas extraction system. Those items are being assessed for cost and potential jurisdictional review impacts.

Community Engagement

Public Health, Public Works, and the Chief Executive Office continue to provide multiple communication resources for the convenience of the community and include information on both the Cogen and the Blanchard former landfills on Eastern Hill. Communication resources include the following:

- Dedicated project information phone number at (626) 300-2605;
- Dedicated project information e-mail addresses at cogenlandfill@pw.lacounty.gov and easternhilllandfill@pw.lacounty.gov; and
- Dedicated project website that will contain project information, including any material from community meetings at pw.lacounty.gov/pmd1/easternhilllandfill.

Community meetings continue to be a key component to the public outreach effort and include the recent and future meetings noted below:

- Focus meeting with City Terrace United for Environmental Economic and Social Justice – November 13, 2019: Members of Public Health, Public Works, and First Supervisorial District met with organization members to address inquiries on the proposed system as well as history on the landfill projects at the Blanchard and Cogen sites.
- Parent meeting held at City Terrace Elementary School - November 14, 2019: Members of Public Health and Public Works were present to answer questions.
- Community Information Open House Event at City Terrace Park - November 21, 2019; November 23, 2019; and December 7, 2019: Public Health, Public Works, and First Supervisorial District to be present along with community information

Each Supervisor
November 19, 2019
Page 3

vehicles from Public Health and Public Works on site to answer community questions. Notice of these events was mailed to residents within 1,000 feet of the project site and to parents/guardians of students attending City Terrace Elementary School.

Public Works continues to explore procurement of a facilitator familiar with the surrounding communities to assist in organizing and managing the public outreach effort.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Rossana D'Antonio at (626) 458-4004 or rdanton@pw.lacounty.gov.

FG:rp

u:\secstaff\cmgwork\cogenlandfill\boardmotion\wklyrpt\11-19-19

cc: Chief Executive Office (Sachi A. Hamai, Amir Alam, Matthew Diaz, David Howard)
Executive Office
Department of Public Health (Barbara Ferrer, Liza Frias, Cyrus Rangan)

bc: Shari Afshari
Rossana D'Antonio
Massood Eftekhari
Environmental Programs (Skye)
Project Management I (Moey, Perez, Ramos)

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 29, 2019

Environmental Justice for the Community Near Cogen Landfill

Landfills have plagued the First District of Los Angeles County (County) for decades. These environmental hazards raise legitimate concerns about the health and safety of residents—and require complete and immediate mitigation and remediation. Remediation should accompany revitalization of the former landfill if safe and appropriate, such as the recreational opportunities and open space being created through the La Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project.

Cogen Landfill, owned in part by the County, is in unincorporated City Terrace of the First District. Although Cogen Landfill has been out of commission since the late 1950s, the County must take immediate and appropriate action to protect the community near Cogen Landfill, where there are residents, grade school students, and a workforce essential to the County’s safety net programs.

Robust community engagement is the linchpin to this work. The County must apprise residents and other individuals to ensure they are aware and help inform the County’s remediation plan, which must be complete, transparent, and swift.

MOTION

SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

The public health and well-being of our residents is of utmost importance – and that priority extends to addressing environmental justice issues regardless of cost or convenience.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel, to:

1. Expedite implementation of any mitigation required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District;
2. Explore implementation of other mitigation above what is required by the South Coast Air Quality Management District;
3. Schedule a series of community meetings with relevant state and local agencies, that are conducted in a culturally-competent and linguistically-sensitive manner, to provide regular updates to the community members living, working, or attending school in the area surrounding Cogen Landfill; and
4. Report back weekly on the above directives until implementation is complete.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Health, in coordination with the Department of Public Works, Chief Executive Office, and County Counsel, to:

1. Review data to determine potential human health risks to residents living in the community surrounding Cogen Landfill;
2. Conduct outreach and provide any necessary services through Public Health Nurses and promotores;
3. Identify internal or external sources of funding for this work;

4. Report back in 90 days regarding the above directives.

I, **FURTHER, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to evaluate legal and administrative options against the other current owners of the Cogen Landfill, and the former owners and operators of the Cogen Landfill.

#

HLS:ew