



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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December 24, 2019

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE:

PJ-2  
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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 EASTERN HILL LANDFILLS WEEKLY REPORT**

This is the weekly 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 Eastern Hill Landfills; and
- Report back weekly on the above directives until implementation is complete.

#### **Mitigation Required by SCAQMD**

Updated plans for the landfill gas extraction system indicating SCAQMD's approval of December 10, 2019, were submitted to Public Works for final review and approval. A Board letter seeking approval to adopt the plans and specifications is targeted for the January 14, 2020, agenda.

### **Additional Mitigation**

In the previous report landscape, traffic review, and road repair were identified as items that would benefit the project. Currently, Public Works is reviewing on-call contract capacity to procure investigative and design services to perform these measures. The cost to procure landscape services, traffic, and road repair investigations will be presented in the coming weeks.

A work plan to address fissure conditions at the site until the landfill gas extraction system is installed was submitted to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) under Public Health on November 22, 2019. The work plan was subsequently approved by LEA on December 18, 2019, and Public Works will obtain a contractor to implement the interim fissure repair work on site. In addition, LEA requested a Postclosure Maintenance Plan, identifying permanent measures that will be taken to prevent landfill gas emissions and maintenance of the repairs at the site, including Sheriff Road, be submitted by February 18, 2020. Public Works will prepare and submit the Postclosure Maintenance Plan by the requested date.

### **Community Engagement**

Community meetings continue to be a key component to the public outreach effort and will continue into the next phases of the project. A schedule for future meetings is being drafted to include the forthcoming comprehensive health risk assessment activities that will be undertaken once the work plan is approved by Public Health. Future community meetings will also be presented with language translators made available.

### **Coordination with Public Health to Assess Human Health Risks**

The Board's motion of October 29, 2019, directed Public Health in coordination with Public Works, Chief Executive Office, and County Counsel to:

- Review data to determine potential human health risks to residents living in the community surrounding Eastern Hill Landfills;
- Conduct outreach and provide any necessary services through Public Health Nurses and promotores;
- Identify internal or external sources of funding for this work; and
- Report back in 90 days regarding the above directives.

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On November 18, 2019, Public Health requested Public Works' development of a work plan to:

- Review available data and provide a work plan to address the collection of additional data, including, but not limited to, expanded chemical testing of surface and subsurface vapors and routine environmental monitoring in the community surrounding the Cogen Landfill; and
- Conduct a comprehensive health risk assessment of community members living, working, or going to school near the Cogen Landfill.

The initial work plan will be submitted in January 2020 to Public Health for its review and approval.

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](mailto:rdanton@pw.lacounty.gov).

FG:rp

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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)



**Environmental Justice for the Community Near Cogen Landfills on Eastern Hill**

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 landfills if safe and appropriate, such as the recreational opportunities and open space being created through the La Puente Hills Landfill Park Master Plan Project.

Former Cogen and Blanchard Landfills (hereinafter referred as Eastern Hill Landfills), owned in part by the County, is in unincorporated City Terrace of the First District. Although Eastern Hill Cogen Landfills has been out of commission since the late 1950s, the County must take immediate and appropriate action to protect the community near Eastern Hill Cogen Landfills, 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

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

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County's remediation plan, which must be complete, transparent, and swift.

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 Eastern Hill ~~Cogen~~ Landfills; 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 Eastern Hill ~~Cogen~~ Landfills;
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 Eastern HillCogen Landfills, and the former owners and operators of the Eastern HillCogen Landfills.

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HLS:ew