



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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January 14, 2020

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

Project plans for the landfill gas (LFG) extraction system were approved for construction. The Board letter seeking approval to advertise the project for construction bids is scheduled to be on the February 4, 2020, Board agenda.

Additional Mitigation

Landscape enhancements, traffic improvements, and road repair were identified as items that would benefit the project. Public Works is obtaining cost proposals to evaluate the road conditions and identify the scope of the road repairs for the nearby Sheriff Road and to develop a landscape plan for the immediate area next to the LFG extraction system.

A work plan to address fissure conditions at the site until the landfill gas extraction system is installed was approved by the Local Enforcement Agency on December 18, 2019. In addition, the Agency requested a Postclosure Maintenance Plan be submitted by February 18, 2020, identifying permanent measures that will be taken to prevent landfill gas emissions and maintenance of the repairs at the site, including Sheriff Road. Public Works will prepare and submit the Postclosure Maintenance Plan by the requested date. A Notice to Proceed has been issued to the consultant team to carry out the fissure repair work plan. Work will not commence until after the next public meeting occurs on January 28, 2020, to inform the community of the fissure repair work plan.

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.

On November 18, 2019, Public Health requested that Public Works develop 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

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- 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 review and approval.

Community Engagement

Community meetings continue to be a key component of the public outreach effort and will continue into the next phases of the project. The next community meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2020, at City Terrace Park to discuss the upcoming fissure repair work, the February 4, 2020, Board letter recommendations, and the status of the comprehensive health risk assessment. Members of the First Supervisorial District, Chief Executive Office, Public Works, and Public Health will be present to answer questions. Community meetings will also be presented with language translation.

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

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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

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SOLIS _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

BARGER _____

HAHN _____

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 HillCogen 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 HillCogen 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