

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

**March 17, 2022**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Patrick Holland, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Joe Bartolata, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Tim Fargo, City of Los Angeles  
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Omid Mazdidasni, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Gladys Rietze, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Chris Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carlos Slythe, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Thompson, Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency  
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Mike Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:11 a.m. as Ms. Betsey Landis, Chair, had technical difficulty logging into meeting.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 17, 2022 MEETING**

Mr. Patrick Holland made a motion to approve the February 17, 2022 Minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Sam Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 25, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING**

Mr. Holland made a motion to approve the February 25, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes, as corrected, and Mr. Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. CONSIDERATION OF CONCURRENCE WITH THE FINAL DRAFT REVISED LOS ANGELES COUNTY COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT**

Mr. Joe Bartolata, staff to the Task Force, provided an overview of the Final Draft Revised Los Angeles County Countywide Siting Element (CSE).

On December 22, 2021, the Task Force sent a letter to Public Works (PW) transmitting Task Force's comments on the Preliminary Draft Revised CSE.

On February 25, 2022, the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee held a Special Meeting to discuss PW draft responses to comments received and the proposed revisions to the Draft Revised CSE and its environmental document. PW staff reviewed all comments received, including those made at the Special Meeting and made appropriate changes to the documents. The proposed revisions to the document were provided to this Subcommittee for consideration. In addition, staff notified the Subcommittee and the Task Force of the following updates:

- Chapter 3, Table 3-1 (Summary of Existing Class III Landfills, Permitted Inert Waste Landfill, and Transformation Facilities in Los Angeles County) to address comments submitted by Mr. Steve Cassulo, and
- Chapter 7, Table 7-3 (Proposed Potential Locations for Alternative Technology Facilities in Los Angeles County) to remove two sites in the City of Carson as requested by the City and facility owner, and to add a new potential location as requested by a developer in the unincorporated area near Sylmar.

Staff requested this Subcommittee consider the responses to comments received and the proposed revisions to the Draft Revised CSE and recommended forwarding this item to the main Task Force for their consideration. Upon Task Force consideration, the next step is to prepare the Final Draft Revised CSE and its

environmental documents, which will include in the appendix, the responses to all written and oral comments received during the public review period and the proposed revisions to the documents. PW will then place an item on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors' (Board) agenda requesting certification of the Environmental Impact Report, and authorization to release the Final Draft Revised CSE to the cities for local adoption. A copy of the Final Draft Revised CSE will be sent to the Task Force, each incorporated city in the county, each Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) in the county, applicable associations of governments, and the Los Angeles Regional Agency (LARA). Staff will continue to provide updates to the Subcommittee and the Task Force as progress is moved forward.

Mr. Mohajer asked if LARA had provided any comments to the CSE. Mr. Bartolata responded that they had not provided any comments. Mr. Mohajer commented that LARA should be aware that once the CSE goes to the Board, they will not have another chance to comment on the CSE. Mr. Mohajer also extended his appreciation to PW staff on their hard work on the CSE because it is a very complicated issue. Mr. Holland responded with gratitude on behalf of PW staff, recognizing their tireless efforts on the revision of the document over the years. Mr. Mohajer shared the following comments on the document, as a follow-up to his comments from the Special Meeting:

- Page 12: permitted inert waste landfill should be defined in the glossary.
- Page 13: crossed out "waste to energy" on the photo to make politically safer since some may consider as incineration.
- Page 38: under Policy 7.1, inserted the word "introduce" before support and promote.
- Page 43: under Goal No. 1, Policy 1.3, change Task Force logo from A to S.
- Page 47: under Goal 6.2, insert the word "introduce, support" and change logo from S to L.
- Page 51: at the end of the first sentence after CSE, insert "as well as providing for the Task Force staffing."
  - Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Holland if there was a reason to note tipping fee surcharges. Mr. Holland responded that he did not know the history of it being included. Mr. Mohajer stated if the plan was to raise the existing solid waste management fees, then it could be done by the Board. However, if the monthly waste collections are going to be raised, then it will be very difficult to do because of the 17 franchises in the City of Los Angeles and residents paying different amounts and having to gain approval from City Council. Mr. Holland responded that PW staff will review.
- Page 63: the map shows SCL as an existing minor Class III landfill and must be changed to existing major landfill.
- Page 87: on map of Scholl Canyon landfill, the freeway needs to be changed from 136 to 134.

Mr. Aric Rodriguez commented the confusion may be due to the original document that Mr. Mohajer was looking at did not reflect the changes yet. The revisions that were made were in draft form, which is why staff pulled out those segments so that the Subcommittee could review those sections pertaining to the Subcommittee's comments. Mr. Rodriguez also noted that staff had addressed most of the comments.

Mr. Holland made a motion to have the Task Force consider the next steps for the CSE, which would be to have the Board certify the Environmental Impact Report and have it released to the cities. Before the vote on the motion, Mr. Mohajer commented on how the cover page that shows corrections on Attachment A will be addressed, which were referenced in the December 22, 2021, letter to PW from the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer suggested a draft letter and made reference to the December 22, 2021, letter as an attachment and indicating that PW and the Task Force met on February 17, February 25, and March 17, 2022, and that all issues were addressed and that the Task Force had no further comments or concerns with the document and concurred with the Final Draft Revised CSE. Mr. Holland agreed and added the detail to his motion. Mr. Shammas seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **V. UPDATE ON SITING CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES**

Due to time constraint of the meeting and the fact that this item was requested by Ms. Landis, Mr. Holland suggested to the Subcommittee to postpone this item until next month so Ms. Landis may be present. All Subcommittee members concurred with the suggestion.

#### **VI. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Omid Mazdidasni, as staff to the Task Force, provided an update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) odor complaints, lawsuits and Notice of Violations (NOVs).

##### Odor Complaints and NOVs

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) agreed to provide odor complaint data on a quarterly basis. The next update will be available in April 2022.

##### Update on Lawsuits

CCL filed two different lawsuits against the County.

- The first lawsuit was filed on October 20, 2017, challenging operational conditions and fee conditions of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The parties are currently engaged in settlement discussions.

- The second lawsuit was filed on April 13, 2018, challenging a decision by the hearing officer that upheld an NOV issued by Regional Planning on December 11, 2017, for failure to pay Bridge and Thoroughfare Fees, accepting prohibited auto shredder waste, and failure to pay out-of-area fees. The trial date was rescheduled to June 2022.

#### Task Force Request for CCL to Submit a Report regarding NOVs Received

- CCL submitted their Eleventh Monthly Update on March 1, 2022, which was disseminated to the Task Force on March 8, 2022. The update addressed the April 19, 2021 letter's requirements, which encouraged the Landfill to work with regulatory agencies to get back into compliance with the Landfill's respective permits and for the Landfill to submit monthly updates on the status of the NOVs. The Eleventh Monthly Update also included updates on implementation of Conditions 68 (status of air quality monitoring for surrounding communities), 77 (relocation of the site entrance from Henry Mayo Drive to Wolcott Drive), and 79 (schedule of the Street Improvement project), as well as the Stipulated Order for Abatement from AQMD.
- CCL did not receive any NOVs for February 2022.

## **VII. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

### Odor Complaints

Mr. Vu Truong, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from the AQMD](#) for the month of February 2022.

- During the month of February 2022, 84 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 9 were classified as Trash, 19 were listed as Landfill Gas, and the rest were listed as No Field Response and None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to January 2022, the number of complaints received in February 2022 decreased from 158 to 84 complaints.
- Compared to February 2021, the number of complaints for February 2022 increased from 10 to 84 complaints.
- As of March 4, 2022, AQMD issued 1 NOV related to odor for the month of February 2022.
- According to the AQMD report, the total number of complaints received during 2022 is 242.

Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens shared his concern regarding Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) claiming a shortage of cover soil and that SCL had not been applying soil on the weekends. He stated that PW should monitor SCL's compliance. He asked if SCL was applying soil.

Mr. David Nguyen responded that PW has been monitoring SCL weekly since February 2022 and the Landfill has not been able to comply. He stated that PW is working with other regulatory agencies and will be taking appropriate action, as needed. PW will have more updated information to provide at the following meeting.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the conditions were put into the permit because of the Landfill being located so close to the community. From a private citizen's standpoint and as a member of the Task Force, he thinks that SCL is violating their permit and should be given an NOV with a penalty imposed.

#### Permitted Tonnage Capacity

Ms. Gladys Rietze, staff to the Task Force, provided a report on the permitted tonnage capacity of SCL. The Subcommittee requested at last month's February 17, 2022 meeting, for staff to report on the Landfill's allowable tonnages and to confirm the tonnage data for January 2022.

#### *Conditional Use Permit*

Under Condition 21.A of the Joint SCL CUP, the Landfill is allowed a daily tonnage capacity of 12,100 tons for all materials received at the Landfill, or more specifically, a maximum weekly tonnage capacity of 66,000 tons of Solid Waste and a maximum of 6,600 tons of Inert Debris and Beneficial Use Materials. There is no provision in the CUP for a daily capacity of either material type, only the permitted daily tonnage capacity.

#### *Republic's Tonnage Report*

Based on the January 2022 Monthly Tonnage Report prepared by Republic Services:

- On January 19, 2022, SCL reported the total inbound material received for the day was approximately 11,184 tons, which did not exceed the daily capacity of 12,100 tons per day as stated in CUP.
- The week of January 17 to January 22, 2022, SCL reported the total inbound material received was approximately 52,375 tons, which did not exceed the weekly capacity of 72,600 tons per week as stated in the CUP. The total municipal solid waste (MSW) received was approximately 43,148 tons, which did not exceed the 66,000 tons per week as stated in the CUP. The total Beneficial Use received was approximately 645 tons, which did not exceed the 6,600 tons per week as stated in CUP.
- On January 31, 2022, SCL reported the total inbound material received for the day was approximately 11,270 tons, which did not exceed the daily capacity of 12,100 tons per day as stated in the CUP.
- The week of January 31 to February 5, 2022, SCL reported the total inbound material received was approximately 56,205 tons, which did not exceed the

weekly capacity of 72,600 tons per day as stated in the CUP. The total MSW received was approximately 45,280 tons, which did not exceed the 66,000 tons per week as stated in the CUP. The total Beneficial Use received was approximately 1,062 tons, which did not exceed the 6,600 tons per week as stated in CUP.

PW reviews SCL's tonnage data on a monthly basis. Based on reported tonnages for the month of January 2022, SCL did not exceed the allowable daily and weekly tonnage limits during noted dates. PW also monitors other landfill tonnages to ensure they are in compliance with their respective permitted tonnages under their CUP.

Mr. Mohajer requested that the staff report Ms. Rietze provided be forwarded to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Hunter commented that the monthly SCL report provided to the LEA does not include a breakdown of the soil and trash. He also questioned if the soil was considered Beneficial Reuse or trash. Ms. Rietze responded that soil material may be classified by the facility as MSW or Beneficial Use based on the materials usage onsite. The Landfill Operator is responsible for appropriately categorizing the material as used or disposed. Mr. Mohajer requested the Landfill Operator's report to be included with staff's report.

Mr. Hunter commented that the LEA's report lists imported soil as trash, and stated Mr. Chris Coyle, of Republic Services, showed him another report that itemized the soil usage. Mr. Hunter asked staff if they receive that report as well. Mr. Nguyen confirmed that staff also received and monitored the SCL reports.

In addition to the CUP tonnage limits for SCL on the staff report, Mr. Mohajer also requested staff to identify the tonnage limits established in the Finding of Conformance.

#### **VIII. DISCUSSION OF FOC REPORTS**

Due to time constraints, the update on FOC reports was postponed to next month.

#### **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

#### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 21, 2022, at 11 a.m.