

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

July 20, 2023

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Kate Downey, Republic Services
Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
Nicole Ward, Waste Connections
Edgar De La Torre, Los Angeles County Regional Planning
Alex Garcia, Los Angeles County Regional Planning
Ai-Viet Huynh, Los Angeles County Regional Planning
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works
Henry Kong, Los Angeles County Public Works
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works
Gladys Rietze, Los Angeles County Public Works
Trishena Robinson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mike Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 15, 2023, MEETING

Ms. Genevieve Osmena made a motion to approve the June 15, 2023, minutes and Mr. Sam Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. DISPOSAL TONNAGE REPORTING

This overview is postponed until the August Subcommittee meeting to include requested updates: waste quantities disposed by jurisdiction within Los Angeles County (County) at in-County and out-of-County facilities, the County's total disposal tonnages for the entire year, and the overall commercial and residential disposal tonnages for some of the major jurisdictions, such as the City of Los Angeles, and their respective districts and facilities.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens commented on the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (SCL) report, stating the approximate amount of waste coming out of the City of Los Angeles is 4,000 tons a day, plus those jurisdictions in Los Angeles County, and approximately less than one percent is disposed by Marin and Ventura Counties, which would be a violation of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP). The CUP is only limited to the County, and they cannot accept any waste from anywhere else. Discussion ensued.

IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Karlo Manalo, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

Odor Complaints and Notice of Violations (NOV)

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) agreed to provide odor complaint and NOV data on a quarterly basis. The Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) received 46 odor complaints and no NOVs in April, 109 odor complaints and 2 NOVs in May, and 138 odor complaints and 5 NOVs in June. As of July 19, 2023, 11 NOVs were received for the month of July, all of which are air quality related.

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

- CCL submitted their [Twenty-Seventh Monthly Update](#) dated June 30, 2023. The update addressed the Task Force's April 19, 2021, letter's requirements,

- and 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 received four NOVs from the AQMD dated June 25, 27, 28, and 29, 2023, for discharging such quantities of air contaminants to cause odor nuisance to a considerable number of people.
 - To date, CCL received a total of 18 NOVs related to air quality issues this calendar year. As required by Condition 69 of the CUP, the permittee shall submit a response to Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) within 30 calendar days of the fourth NOV received with an explanation of each respective NOV and steps taken to mitigate them. The Landfill Operator must also provide a report with this information within 30 calendar days for each subsequent NOV within the same calendar year. Staff is expected to receive a report on July 27, 2023, from the Landfill Operator.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Landfill Operator, Public Works, and Los Angeles County Regional Planning (Regional Planning) had done anything to try to mitigate the odors. Mr. Manalo responded that after receiving the fourth NOV from the AQMD, Public Works informed the Landfill Operator to provide a report for each NOV they received with steps taken to address the NOVs, as required by Condition 69 of the CCL's CUP. Ms. Osmena further reiterated this report may include information to indicate to Public Works and Regional Planning what CCL has done to address the issue. She further informed that respective County departments are aware and are working on addressing the odors with the Landfill Operator.

Mr. Mohajer shared concerns regarding the lack of information on the monthly update from CCL on mitigation measures CCL has implemented to address the odor issue and requested for future reports from staff to include more information on steps taken by Public Works and CCL to address the recent odor issue.

Mr. Mohajer spoke about a report submitted by the Landfill Operator for the Community Air Monitoring Program and stated that the Task Force should be informed about such reports. He added that the Finding of Conformance (FOC) incorporated all requirements of the CUP, and therefore, any CUP-related reports should also be shared to the Task Force.

Mr. Nguyen indicated that the report is available on Regional Planning's website as well as on the Landfill's website, but that moving forward, staff could add the requested information on the monthly reports to the Subcommittee.

Status Update on CUP Modification

Ms. Anna Gov, staff to the Task Force, provided an [update](#) on the CUP modification. Mr. Mohajer discussed his concern about disclosure of private information when he visited CCL's website. He requested that staff inquire with County Counsel on whether CCL's Privacy Notice on their website is legal because the only way for the public, members of the Task Force, FPRS, and regulatory agencies to access CCL's online reports is by hitting the accept tab and agreeing to the terms of the Privacy Notice, which includes personal information such as social security number. Mr. Mohajer further explained that he was unable to view any reports from CCL because he did not feel comfortable with accepting the terms of the Privacy Notice. He also requested the issue be addressed by County Counsel at the next Subcommittee meeting.

V. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints and Notice of Violations

Ms. Gladys Rietze, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the odor complaints from the AQMD for the month of June 2023 at SCL:

- During the month of June 2023, 23 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 20 were listed as No Field Response, 2 were classified as Landfill Gas, and 1 was classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to May 2023, the number of complaints received in June 2023, decreased from 32 to 23 complaints.
- Compared to June 2022, the number of complaints for June 2023 increased from 40 to 23 complaints.
- AQMD issued no NOVs related to odor for the month of June 2023, and a total of 29 NOVs for the year of 2023.
- Compared to the previous year, the number of NOVs increased from 12 to 30.
- As of June 2023, the total number of odor complaints received during 2023 is 803.

Odor Mitigation Measures

Ms. Rietze provided a [staff report](#) on AQMD's June 1, 2023, letter regarding the District's recommended odor mitigation measures at SCL and the inputs that staff have received from the community on these measures. Staff further recommend that the Task Force forward the input received from the community to AQMD for further consideration.

Mr. Nguyen suggested that instead of sending a formal Task Force letter to AQMD transmitting the community's inputs, staff could e-mail these comments to AQMD.

Mr. Mohajer commented that he had read the staff report, reviewed AQMD requirements, and participated in the SCL-CAC, and based on his technical knowledge, agreed with staff's recommendation. He also recommended that staff copy Mr. Hunter on the e-mail to AQMD so to keep the SCL-CAC informed.

Vegetation Update

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided a [staff report](#) regarding vegetation at SCL.

Mr. Hunter asked if there had been a replacement on the vegetation committee for Ms. Betsey Landis who recently retired. Mr. Harmon mentioned that there has been no replacement to date. However, a County Biologist is on the vegetation committee who reviews and comments on quarterly reports.

Update related to Drainage Issues

Mr. Harmon, provided the SCL 2023 stormwater damages and corrective actions [staff report](#). Staff mentioned that most of the repair will be done by August 17, 2023. Mr. Mohajer commented that the drainage system at SCL must also be approved by Public Works and for Public Works staff to follow up. He requested that a standing item for this topic be on the agenda.

Permitted Tonnage

Mr. Edgar De La Torre with Regional Planning provided an update on permitted tonnages and elevations at SCL. He informed that Regional Planning issued a NOV for exceedance of tonnage which was subsequently appealed by the Landfill Operator. There was an appeal hearing on June 27, 2023. However, due to a request for extension from the Operator, the hearing was rescheduled to November 7, 2023.

Regarding elevations noted in the CUP and Joint Technical Document, Mr. De La Torre commented that Regional Planning has not been notified of any recent submittals. Therefore, there has been no action taken by Regional Planning or the Local Enforcement Agency on the Joint Technical Document application.

Mr. Mohajer expressed his concerns about the hearing delay, especially with the rain season approaching in October. He suggested the decision should be expedited.

Mr. De La Torre noted that Regional Planning suggested an earlier date, but the Landfill Operator submitted a Public Records Request (PRR), and the Hearing Officer moved the date while PRR documents are being processed. Because the exceedance of tonnage has gone on for over a year, Mr. Mohajer recommended that the Task Force write a letter to Regional Planning requesting that they consider expediting the process. Mr. De La Torre stated he would convey the Subcommittee's concerns to his management.

Mr. Mohajer recommended a motion be made to the Task Force to send a letter to Regional Planning requesting they expedite the process. Motion did not pass with two voting yes and two abstaining.

Although the motion did not pass at the Subcommittee level, Mr. Mohajer commented he would suggest the recommendation to the Task Force, as a member of the Task Force. The Task Force would be made aware of how the FPRS voted.

VI. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS

Due to time constraint. This item was postponed to next month's Subcommittee meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 17, 2023, at 11 a.m.