

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

August 17, 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
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Maintenance District
Steve Cassulo, Waste Connections
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
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mike Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JULY 20, 2023, MEETING

Ms. Genevieve Osmena made a motion to approve the July 20, 2023, minutes as corrected, and Mr. Sam Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Website Privacy Policy

Ms. Carol Saucillo, staff to the Task Force, indicated reaching out to Mr. Jonathan Brazile, Public Works County Counsel, regarding the Privacy Notice on Chiquita Canyon Landfill's (CCL) website. Mr. Brazile informed the matter would be reviewed by the attorney that focuses on the enforcement of the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Conditions. Staff will update the FPRS once the information becomes available.

Mr. Mohajer commented that he will not open any information on CCL's website if he must agree to the Privacy Policy Notice and provide personal information.

IV. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

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

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation (NOV)

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) agreed to provide odor complaint and NOV data on a quarterly basis. CCL received 550 odor complaints for the month of July, which adds up to 871 odor complaints for the calendar year as of July 31, 2023. CCL also received 22 NOVs in July 2023, from AQMD, which were air-quality related. The total number of NOVs for this calendar year is 29 as of July 31, 2023.

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

- CCL submitted their [Twenty-Eighth Monthly Update](#) dated August 1, 2023. The update addressed the 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 22 NOVs from the AQMD between July 2 and 31, 2023, for discharging such quantities of air contaminants to cause odor nuisance to a considerable number of people. CCL also received one Public Health notice from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Public Health) on July 26, 2023.
 - On July 27, 2023, CCL submitted a [report](#) to Los Angeles County Public Works (Public Works) pursuant to Condition 69 of the landfill's CUP after being issued their fourth NOV from AQMD related to air quality. The Landfill Operator believes if the landfill is the source of the alleged odors, then the odors are most likely due to a large and unexpected increase in the production of landfill gas at the landfill. The report also indicated various odor mitigation efforts to address both landfill gas and trash odors.
 - Public Works activated Condition 69 of the landfill's CUP to require the Landfill Operator to submit a report after the fourth NOV from AQMD. Public Works reviewed the July 27, 2023, report from CCL, and provided a [comment letter](#) dated August 3, 2023, to the Landfill Operator. Staff is awaiting response.
 - Public Works is collaborating with other regulatory agencies to work with the Landfill Operator to obtain additional information from their Condition 69 report to understand the odor issue and possibly recommend additional mitigation measures.
 - Public Works executed an agreement with the Landfill Operator to provide purifiers to the communities.
 - On August 8, 2023, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a motion directing the County Office of Emergency Management, in collaboration with Public Health, Public Works, and the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning (Regional Planning), in consultation with AQMD and the California Department of Resources and Recovery (CalRecycle), to report back to the Board in writing within 30 days of identifying the underlying cause of odors.

Mr. Mohajer requested a few items from staff: 1) links to be embedded in meeting documents to the Subcommittee with staff written communication to respective regulatory agencies, 2) odor control at CCL to become a standing item on the agenda, and 3) a copy of the motion that the Board passed.

Mr. Mohajer asked for details of the Board motion. Mr. Manalo responded that the Board requested a report from the County Office of Emergency Management, which includes four directives; 1) identifying the underlying cause of odors at the landfill, 2) a summary of the County's review of the odor mitigation provided by the

Landfill Operator in conjunction with State regulatory agencies, 3) a summary of resources deployed by the Landfill Operator and the County to address ongoing impacts to residents, and 4) a report on independent actions to ensure appropriate oversight of the landfill mitigation plan to eliminate the generation of odors.

Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Steve Cassulo of Waste Connections if the odors are continuing at CCL and if any NOVs were issued to CCL since August 1, 2023. Mr. Cassulo responded that they continue to receive NOVs daily and that the landfill is having odor issue.

Mr. Mohajer asked when CCL submitted a request for a permit to construct a new flare to AQMD, on which Mr. Cassulo responded September 2020. Mr. Mohajer went on to comment that it had taken AQMD three years to consider issuance of a permit to construct as indicated in CCL's August 1, 2023, report, and that AQMD still must get the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) approval and asked how long that would take. Mr. Cassulo responded it was a 45-day process.

Mr. Cassulo added that the 18 wells that CCL is drilling are not only gas extractions but are also liquids extractions to get the water out. When asked by Mr. Mohajer where the water would be discharged, Mr. Cassulo informed that the leachate will be sent to a wastewater treatment plant in Orange County.

Mr. Mohajer asked for the hours of operation with receiving tractor trailer waste, and Mr. Cassulo replied they start receiving waste at 4 a.m. Mr. Mohajer suggested, perhaps, the landfill should start later in the day since receiving waste is a main source of odor. Mr. Cassulo responded that the tonnage has not significantly increased at the landfill and before 2017, they always took in at least 6,000 tons per day, and now they are only taking in 7,000 tons per day. They also have a permit to significantly increase the waste received but have not done so. He further added that the reported odor complaints since 2014 were about 200 per year, which is much less than the 800 to 1,000 odor complaints CCL has received this year thus far. Mr. Cassulo also indicated these odor complaints are a different issue due to a reaction in the older part of the landfill that is producing more landfill gas that cannot be handled. He believes they took care of the issue at the working face over the last three years by working with AQMD under a Stipulated Order for Abatement. Mr. Cassulo stated that CCL installed a temporary flare with a flow rate of approximately 1,600 standard cubic feet per minute, which is still not enough, and they are seeking for more help.

Mr. Mohajer then made a motion to send a letter to the AQMD requesting that they expedite the permit to construct for CCL which was requested in September 2020. Mr. Larry Israel with the AQMD stated that the permit was approved on August 1,

2023, by AQMD and is currently with the EPA for subsequent approval, which is currently under the public comment period. Mr. Israel also explained that the AQMD receives thousands of permits every year, and unless a facility specifically wants a permit expedited, it goes in a stack and is handled by date received. CCL submitted their request for a permit back in September 2020 but did not request it to be expedited until this odor issue came up in recent months.

Ms. Osmena asked for the durations of the EPA's public comment period. Mr. Israel responded that the public comment period is 30 days and the AQMD must respond to every comment sent to them, which is then sent to the EPA.

Mr. Mohajer requested that CCL's next report be updated to include the details regarding the public comment period. Mr. Israel also added that the EPA's review period is 45 days concurrent with the 30-day public comment period.

Ms. Osmena also asked if there had been any feedback on the purifiers working and/or if people have been requesting them. Mr. Cassulo responded that over 170 purifiers have been handed out to residents, but he has not received any feedback other than people requesting additional purifiers for other rooms as the purifiers are good for one room in a house. Mr. Cassulo further commented that 70 to 80 percent of residents are happy with what CCL is doing in terms of handing out purifiers and the other residents are unhappy with the odor issue.

Mr. Mohajer asked what the distance was of the Landfill from Val Verde, and Mr. Cassulo responded about 1,600 to 1,700 feet from the edge of the landfill footprint. Mr. Mohajer stated being pleased with the efforts that are being done for the community, including the Board passing its August 8, 2023, motion.

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 July 2023 at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL):

- During the month of July 2023, 34 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 11 were listed as No Field Response, 14 were classified as Landfill Gas, and 9 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to June 2023, the number of complaints received in July 2023, increased from 22 to 34 complaints.

- Compared to July 2022, the number of complaints for July 2023 increased from 12 to 34 complaints.
- AQMD issued 1 NOV related to odor for the month of July 2023, and a total of 31 NOVs for the year of 2023.
- Compared to the previous year, the number of NOVs increased from 12 to 31.
- As of July 2023, the total number of odor complaints received during 2023 is 836.

Mr. Wayde Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens asked for clarification regarding the additional NOV issued by AQMD for July 2023 and whether it was for rule 402 or 403. Ms. Rietze confirmed it was for Rule 402 for track-out of dirt. Mr. Hunter shared concern regarding SCL's active NOV related to soil tonnages exceedances and importation of soil at the landfill.

Vegetation Update

Mr. Rietze provided a [staff report](#) regarding vegetation at SCL.

Odor Mitigation Measures

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided the update on SCL mitigation measures. On April 13, 2023, the Task Force sent a letter to AQMD recommending odor mitigation measures. AQMD provided a response on June 1, 2023, and during the June 15, 2023, FPRS meeting, the Subcommittee requested staff to gather input from the community and local schools based on AQMD's response.

Staff received comments from Mr. Hunter and community representative Mr. Eric Fefferman on July 5 and 6, 2023, respectively. At the July 20, 2023, FPRS meeting, the Subcommittee requested those comments be sent to AQMD for consideration, which staff submitted on August 3, 2023. Public Works will continue to work with AQMD and monitor the implementation of the odor control measures.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the Subcommittee received a copy of what was proposed. Mr. Harmon confirmed yes that it was the original response letter from AQMD in last month's [staff report](#).

Mr. Hunter reiterated the concern at SCL with the odors and on the volume of trucks hauling dirt and trash queued along San Fernando Road. Mr. Hunter noted complaints he received from citizens at the SCL-Community Advisory Committee meeting. He mentioned that there are still odor problems in August citing complaints from the local school.

Mr. Hunter recalled that at last month's July meeting, the Task Force approved a letter be sent to Regional Planning requesting they expedite their hearing process for the NOV issued and asked what the status of the letter was. Mr. Harmon responded that staff drafted a letter requesting to expedite the hearing process and that the letter is currently with Public Works Administration for approval and signature.

Mr. Mohajer responded that based on his understanding staff has prepared the letter and it is currently with the Director of Public Works. He further stated that this was a Task Force letter and not a letter from Public Works and does not know why the letter has not been sent, nor does he know when it will be sent, but he would not pursue the matter any further.

Mr. Hunter requested that the letter be expedited due to the two years of violation. Ms. Osmena commented that she understood Mr. Hunter's concern and that staff would check with Public Works Administration on the status of the letter and convey the message of expediting.

Mr. Mohajer asked if the trucks carrying the dirt were covered, which was confirmed by Ms. Kate Downey with Republic Services (Republic). Mr. Mohajer asked where the dirt is being dumped that is brought into the landfill. Ms. Downey responded that the dirt is sent to a stockpile location or near the working face to apply the cover.

Mr. Mohajer asked if it was possible to have a water truck spray water to reduce the odors. Mr. Downey responded that they use multiple water trucks and street sweepers and that they also have an application pending with the City of Los Angeles to partially close a portion of San Fernando Road to clean it. Mr. Mohajer asked that they consider increasing the water use because of the ongoing odor issue and complaints.

Drainage and Erosion Control Measures

Mr. Harmon provided an update on drainage and erosion control measures at SCL. Since the rainstorms early this year, Republic continues to provide monthly status reports with the most recent on July 28, 2023, in addition to the latest SCL Litter Control Recovery Program and the Draft 2023 Wet Weather Preparedness and Winterization Plan. Public Works is reviewing the reports and will provide comments on the submittals. Until the completion of all corrections to the damages at SCL from the 2023 rainstorms, Public Works will continue to monitor the drainage, erosion, and site repairs.

On May 17, 2023, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) issued SCL a NOV for Waste Discharge Requirements and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit. Most of the pending items related to the violations are anticipated to be completed and reported back to the Water Board by August 17, 2023. Staff will follow up with the Water Board for a copy of SCL's report to confirm the status of the corrections to drainage violations.

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 12:10 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 17, 2023, at 11 a.m.