



MARK PESTRELLA, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

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March 10, 2020

IN REPLY PLEASE  
REFER TO FILE:

PJ-2  
10145-1-19

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**

On February 6, 2020, Public Works posted the adopted plans and specifications for the former Cogen Landfill Gas Extraction System project for bids to be received no later than March 31, 2020. Public Works held a mandatory pre-bid conference with interested bidders on March 2, 2020.

### **Additional Mitigation**

Landscape enhancements, traffic improvements, and road repair were identified as items that would benefit the project. Public Works continues 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.

Public Works, CEO, and County Counsel are investigating the condition of Sheriff Road, including any existing damage and usage. Information will also be gathered regarding potential rights or responsibilities relating to the road by the adjacent property owners.

The interim work at the Cogen Landfill site to address fissure repairs was completed on February 27, 2020. Public Works continues to conduct ongoing monitoring at the site to comply with the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) requirements. A Postclosure Maintenance Plan for the fissure repair work was requested by the Local Enforcement Agency, and it will be submitted by March 30, 2020.

### **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 final work plan was submitted to Public Health on February 28, 2020, for review and approval. An approved work plan is anticipated to be ready by the end of March.

### **Community Engagement**

Community meetings continue to be a key component of the public outreach effort. The next outreach event will include a follow-up meeting with the community to review the details of the comprehensive health risk assessment once the assessment is completed and approved by Public Health. A newsletter to inform the community of the project progress will be distributed by Public Health on a monthly basis.

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)  
County Counsel (Casey Yourn)  
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)

REVISED MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

October 29, 2019

**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

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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 HillCegen Landfills, and the former owners and operators of the Eastern HillCegen Landfills.

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HLS:ew