

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

**January 21, 2021**

**WEB CONFERENCE**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsey Landis, Chair, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Carlos Ruiz, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammass, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Wayne Nastri, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Reina Pereira, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Gabriel Esparza, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Omid Mazdiyasni, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Dave Nguyen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Carol Oyola, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sarah Solomon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Vu Truong, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Daniel Wibisono, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Jeffrey Zhu, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Tuong-Phu Ngo, Republic Services

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Betsey Landis called the meeting to order at 11:09 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

A motion to approve the Minutes, as corrected, from the November 19, 2020, Subcommittee Meeting was made by Mr. Mike Mohajer, and seconded by Mr. Carlos Ruiz. Motion passed with one abstention.

**III. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

Odor Complaints

Mr. Gabriel Esparza, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) odor complaints from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) for the month of December 2020 ([Link](#)).

- During the month of December 2020, 22 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 8 were classified as Trash, 5 were listed as No Field Response, and the rest were listed as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to November 2020, the number of complaints received in December 2020 increased from 18 to 22 complaints.
- Compared to December 2019, the number of complaints for December 2020 increased from 16 to 22 complaints.
- As of January 5, 2021, AQMD issued one Notice of Violation (NOV) related to odor for the month of December 2020.
- According to the AQMD report, the total number of complaints received during 2020 is 580.

Soil Importation

Ms. Sarah Solomon, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the soil importation activities at SCL.

At the previous Subcommittee meeting on November 19, 2020, staff provided an update regarding soil importation at SCL. The Task Force approved a motion to send a letter to Republic Services (Republic) at the November meeting. A letter from the Task Force was sent to Republic on December 8, 2020, informing them that if the proposed soil importation is in addition to and beyond the daily and/or weekly permitted tonnage limits, a new Finding of Conformance (FOC) would be required per chapter 10 of the Siting Element.

Ms. Solomon also reported that Republic submitted a revised soil importation request to Public Works (PW) on December 23, 2020, in response to PW's letter dated November 10, 2020. Currently, PW is continuing to work with Republic on the issue and is currently reviewing Republic's revised request.

Mr. Carlos Ruiz asked if there was a significant difference between the previous and revised requests from Republic. Mr. Esparza responded that staff is still reviewing the request and trying to get some clarification. Discussion ensued.

### Vegetation Report

Ms. Solomon provided an update on the vegetation for SCL.

At last month's Subcommittee meeting, Ms. Solomon provided the Third Quarter 2020 SCL Vegetation Report. The Subcommittee discussed wanting to see more activity from Republic regarding vegetation at SCL. In the Vegetation Report, Republic's Consultant, JMA, provided a list of recommendations for vegetation and many proposed actions were listed by Republic as "this recommendation will be considered at a later date."

Republic's Environmental Manager, Mr. Tuong-Phu Ngo, made himself available at today's Subcommittee meeting to address concerns and provide a vegetation update on the landfill.

Mr. Ngo informed the Subcommittee that he would provide the Fourth Quarter 2020 Vegetation Report for SCL at the end of the month. He also notified the Subcommittee that Deck B is being designed on the south slope, connecting to Deck C. Republic will continue to look at options pertaining to the pH and boron in the soil for the County's mitigation area in order to grow vegetation on that slope, such as California natives and coastal sage. Details will be provided in the Fourth Quarter 2020 Vegetation Report.

Ms. Landis suggested perhaps making a riser from boulders, lumber, or pipe and filling it with decent soil, which would probably solve the issue. Mr. Ngo acknowledged the comment and informed that Republic would relay the suggest to its biologists and designers.

Mr. Hunter brought up his concern that the report specified an undetermined time frame for the recommendations and that Republic should have something in writing stating a specific time or that recommendations will be taken care of in the following quarter. Mr. Hunter asked if the issue of indeterminate future will be addressed in the next report. Mr. Ngo was no longer in attendance at the Subcommittee to answer the question. Ms. Landis asked Mr. Ruiz if staff could follow up with Mr. Ngo regarding if and how they did the seeding and to provide a report at the next

Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Ruiz responded that staff would follow up with Republic.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION ON FOC REPORTS**

Mr. Daniel Wibisono, staff to the Task Force, informed the Subcommittee that staff did not receive any FOC reports for this reporting period and that staff would provide FOC reports at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

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

Mr. Omid Mazdiyasni, staff to the Task Force, gave an update on Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL).

##### Odor Complaints

AQMD agreed to provide odor complaint data on a quarterly basis. CCL received 57 odor complaints in October, 21 odor complaints in November, and 3 odor complaints in December 2020. CCL did not receive any NOV's during those three months. The next quarterly odor complaint update will be in January 2021.

##### Lawsuits Updates

CCL filed two separate 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). If no settlement is reached, the litigation will proceed to Phase 2 for the determination of additional claims pertaining to the challenged conditions.
- The second lawsuit challenged a decision by the hearing officer that upheld an NOV issued by Regional Planning on December 11, 2017. The trial in the second lawsuit was previously set for June 25, 2020. The trial date will be continued to Fall 2021.

Environmental and Community Groups on August 24, 2017, filed a lawsuit against the Los Angeles County and CCL.

- The third lawsuit alleges that the project Environmental Impact Report was inadequate and not in compliance with California Environmental Quality Act. The court issued a decision on October 10, 2019, in favor of the County and CCL. The Community filed an appeal and the hearing was held on November 18, 2020. The court has not yet issued a ruling.

NOVs for Non-Compliance with the CUP

- The Department of Regional Planning issued four NOVs issued for CUP Condition 68, 77, 79, and 113 to Waste Connections on June 11, 2020, at the request of PW.
- CCL filed its appeal on August 6, 2020. The hearing was rescheduled to March 2021.

Mr. Mohajer requested copies of the FOC and CUP for CCL. He also asked if the Val Verde community reported any of the three odor complaints in December. Mr. Mazdiyasni responded he did not have the data to confirm since AQMD does not provide the source locations from which the complaints came, and this is a set of data that staff must specifically request from AQMD.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the Val Verde community is only 1,500 feet from CCL and other communities are five miles away. He further indicated that Val Verde is a minority community and he has concern about environmental justice.

Ms. Landis also commented that wind direction plays a large factor on who can smell the odors. Ms. Landis asked Mr. Mazdiyasni to email the Subcommittee the Odor Complaint Data Report for CCL.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled remotely for Thursday, February 18, 2021, at 11 a.m.