

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

**November 16, 2023**

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rachelle Hubert, Republic Services  
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens  
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Eugene Tseng, UCLA Solid Waste Program  
Josephine Chen, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Darren Kwan, Los Angeles County Public Works  
Cameron Jones, 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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Sam Shammass called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 21, AND OCTOBER 19, 2023, MEETINGS**

Approval of the minutes postponed until the next Subcommittee meeting due to lack of quorum.

**III. UPDATE ON CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Cameron Jones, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation (NOV)

Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) was issued 16 NOVs in October 2023 from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), all of which were air quality-related, and 2 NOVs on September 19, 2023, from the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for methane gas concentrations exceeding five percent by volume at two monitoring wells and leachate seeps in the upper northwest and west areas of CCL, as shown on [map](#). As of October 31, 2023, of this calendar year, CCL was issued 95 NOVs.

**IV. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL STATUS**

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

- CCL submitted their [Thirty-First Monthly Update](#) dated November 1, 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 (SOA) from AQMD. On August 15, 2022, the Subcommittee also requested monthly updates on any NOVs received by CCL from any regulatory agencies.
- CCL continues to work on securing the permits required to begin construction on the new entrance along Wolcott Way.
- The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) modification is still under review by interdepartmental agencies, which is not yet subject to public review.

#### AQMD NOVs Issued to CCL

- Sources of odors coming from CCL is caused by an unexpected increase in production of landfill gas due to a reaction taking place within a portion of the Landfill's waste mass, which is producing higher than normal levels of Dimethyl Sulfide (DMS). The normal levels of DMS at the Landfill is around 5 to 10 parts per million. CCL reported that DMS had not been detected across the community for the months of August and September 2023, and therefore, does not present a human health risk.

#### AQMD SOA

- The AQMD Hearing Board approved a SOA for CCL on September 6, 2023, which contained conditions designed to address and abate the current odor issues at the Landfill. Detailed information on the Landfill's implementation of the Stipulated Order and associated Status Update Table were provided to the Subcommittee last week.
- On September 28, 2023, the Landfill received its permit from the AQMD for a new flare onsite. The Landfill is currently on schedule to meet the deadline.
- As requested by the Subcommittee, Public Works staff reached out to the Landfill Operator and was informed that the DMS is comprised of subject matter experts from Blue Ridge Services, Incorporated, SCS Engineers, and the CTEH. The Landfill Operator informed staff that the Landfill shares information developed by the DMS Committee with the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and coordinates with them accordingly. The Landfill Operator indicated that members of the DMS Committee have been able to answer questions from the public at the CAC and TAC meetings held over the past couple of months.

#### LEA's Corrective and Mitigation Measures, per CalRecycle's Recommendation:

- In August 2023, the LEA requested CalRecycle to conduct a technical review of the raw well data provided by the Landfill regarding the ongoing odor incident at the Landfill. On October 16, 2023, CalRecycle completed their review and submitted a [letter to the LEA](#), dated October 16, 2023, outlining their findings based on their root cause analysis and providing comprehensive recommendations to mitigate the odor issue.
- The LEA relayed CalRecycle's findings and recommendation to the Landfill for implementation in a [letter dated October 17, 2023](#).

### Board Motions related to the Ongoing Odor Issues

- The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a [Read-in Motion on August 8, 2023](#), directing the County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), in collaboration with other County departments, AQMD and CalRecycle, to report back to the Board within 30 days on actions to mitigate the ongoing odor issue at CCL. The OEM submitted their [Report on September 12, 2023](#).
- The Board approved [two motions on September 12, 2023](#), to authorize Los Angeles County Regional Planning to accept funding from the Landfill to administer the Landfill's Grant Relief Programs; authorize the Board's Chief Executive Office (CEO) to enter into an agreement with the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) and transfer up to \$2.5 million from the Community Benefit Fund to LACDA; and authorize LACDA to execute an agreement with the National Development Council to administer the Grant Relief Programs.
- The Board approved a [Read-in Motion on October 17, 2023](#), that specified a series of actions by the Board, CEO, and County departments that must be completed immediately to bring relief to residents near CCL.

### Regulatory Agencies' Odor Mitigation Requirements

At the request of the Board, a special task force, Unified Coordination Group (UCG), was created to work collaboratively with the Landfill Operator to address the ongoing odor issue. The UCG, headed by the County OEM, is comprised of Supervisorial District 5, Public Works, Public Health, Regional Planning, and County Counsel. Since August 2023, the UCG has met weekly to discuss updates on the Landfill's efforts in mitigating odor. The UCG also works with AQMD, State Water Quality Control Board, and CalRecycle for technical assistance on odor issues for recommended mitigation measures.

## **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 October 2023 at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL):

- During the month of October 2023, 230 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 42 were listed as Trash, 51 were listed as No Field Response, 23 were classified as Landfill Gas, and 114 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.

- Compared to September 2023, the number of complaints received in October 2023, increased from 148 to 230 complaints.
- Compared to October 2022, the number of complaints received in October 2023 increased from 64 to 230 complaints.
- As of October 2023, AQMD issued 6 NOVs related to odor for the month of October 2023 and there was a total of 50 NOVs for the year of 2023.
- Compared to the previous year, the number of NOVs increased from 12 to 50.
- As of October 2023, the total number of odor complaints received during 2023 is 1,478.

At the October 16, 2023, FPRS meeting, the Subcommittee recommended that Public Works staff reach out to the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Sanitation Districts) regarding how they mitigate odors from wet loads during the wet weather season. The Sanitation District indicated the following:

- If significant odors are detected from a refuse load, it will be pushed and compacted into the active landfill working face as quickly as possible and covered with additional refuse or other cover, such as soil. If necessary, deodorizing agents may also be applied through a misting system or directly on the refuse after unloading. In rare circumstances, excessively odorous wastes may be rejected from the landfill prior to unloading.
- Preventive measures include monitoring the landfill cover for cracking to ensure prompt repair, conservative design and operation of the gas collection system with emission compliance as a priority, and maintenance of stormwater systems to protect the landfill cover from erosion and to prevent ponding and infiltration of water. Additionally, the landfill is designed to divert storm run-off around the area of active fill to minimize water contact with refuse. If significant rains are forecast landfill operations may, as a conservative measure, switch from use of plastic film alternative daily cover to soil and cover any remaining exposed film with soil.

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented about how bad the odors were at SCL during the month of October with nearly 1,500 complaints to AQMD. He asked Mr. Larry Israel of AQMD to provide a tally of odor complaints for the month of November.

Mr. Israel responded that the AQMD issued four NOVs related to odor complaint to SCL for the first half of November. He also indicated that five violations were issued this year for track out dust, as of the date of this meeting.

Mr. Hunter posited that odors were coming from the working face and that there is a limit to the size of the working face. In response, Ms. Rachele Huber of Republic Services (Republic) indicated that the LEA, who is onsite every day, is monitoring

the working face. She also informed that the size of the working face is stated in the Landfill's Joint Technical Document.

#### Update related to Drainage Issues

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update on the drainage issues at SCL:

The latest monthly report regarding corrective measures and milestones that SCL would be implementing to address the impacts sustained from the rainstorm events was submitted to Public Works on November 2, 2023, which indicated that the Landfill made significant progress towards repairing the damages from the rainstorm events, including:

- Repairs to the damaged pipe riser, construction of the trash guard, and repairs to the cracked skimmers that were completed by October 15, 2023.
- Additional measures such as straw waddles, litter fences, or jute matting on exposed slopes, that were completed.
- Slopes were identified and the selected seed mix was scheduled to be hydroseeded on November 6, 2023.
- The permit for the Landfill to clear the sediment pile and sediment along the acceleration lane, as well as the sediment removal behind the wall along San Fernando Road, is pending permit approval from the City of Los Angeles.

#### Wet Weather Planning

Republic indicated that the cause of odors was largely due to wet loads sitting in transfer stations, creating odorous loads when they arrived at the Landfill. To address this issue, Public Works provided recommendations to the LEA to be incorporated into the Wet Weather Plan, which included:

- Additional preventive measures before and during storm events.
- Protocols for odorous wet loads managed at transfer stations owned by Republic.
- Measures related to site operations to minimize odors such as delayed installation and trenching of vertical wells and horizontal collectors during rainstorm events.

Public Works will encourage other agencies, including AQMD, to incorporate recommendations in the oversight of the Landfill's operation.

### Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Water Board) NOV

The Water Board issued an [NOV on May 17, 2023](#), of Waste Discharge Requirements and the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Permit to the Landfill. Public Works followed up with the Water Board regarding the status of compliance on October 11, 2023. On October 23, 2023, the Water Board indicated that their staff reviewed the report provided by the Landfill Operator. However, the Water Board normally does not issue a formal response on submittals required by NOVs unless additional actions are required. No additional action was taken from the Water Board and Public Works continues to monitor the repair status.

### Monthly Tonnage Report Format

At the October 16, 2023, FPRS meeting, the Subcommittee requested staff to review Condition 14 of the Findings of Conformance (FOC) requirements. Based on staff's review of the quarterly report information provided by SCL, the quarterly report meets the FOC requirements.

Mr. Hunter commented that Mr. Michael Stewart, the SCL General Manager, stated at the November 9, 2023, SCL-CAC meeting that SCL has made improvements to their wet weather deck. However, the community is disagreeing with that statement since there was a huge number of odor complaints after the recent six inches of rain. He also suggested that Public Works monitor the said improvements.

## **VI. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS**

Mr. Dennis Lee, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on FOC reports, and displayed a [map](#), which only reflected the incoming waste stream during the one-week period when the studies were conducted, and not representative of the entire year or season of the respective landfills.

## **VII. DECEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Due to lack of quorum, no vote could be taken to cancel the Subcommittee meeting in December. The decision would be dependent on what the Task Force decides.

## **VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comment.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 18, 2023, at 11 a.m.