

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

March 20, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Jordan Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association
Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Basil Cantu, City of Long Beach Public Works

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Bronson – Republic Services
Genny Garcia, Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector
Cesar Leon, Tetra Tech
Alexander Castro, Los Angeles County Public Works
Anna Gov, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Cameron Jones, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, Los Angeles County Public Works
Kawsar Vazifdar, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Emiko Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 20, 2025, MEETING

Mr. Wayde Hunter made a motion to approve the February 20, 2025, minutes as amended, and Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Cameron Jones, staff to the Task Force, reported on Chiquita Canyon Landfill's (CCL) Notices of Violation (NOVs):

- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Forty-Sixth Monthly Update](#), dated January 31, 2025, in accordance with the [April 19, 2021, Task Force letter](#) requirements and subsequent request for additional updates on NOVs issued and mitigation measures imposed by various regulatory agencies.
- CCL received 8 NOVs in February 2025 related to air quality from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).
- CCL entered into a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) with AQMD that was last modified on [November 13, 2024](#), to address and abate the odors resulting from the reaction at CCL through continuous implementation of mitigation measures in the SOA. Once available, the modified SOA will be shared with the Subcommittee. The Stipulated Order Hearing is scheduled for April 16 and 17, 2025.
- The Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), with recommendations from CalRecycle, required CCL in 2023 to implement mitigation measures to address the reaction and ongoing odors.
- On June 6, 2024, the LEA issued CCL a [Compliance Order](#) alleging violation of site maintenance and gas monitoring and control, memorializes prior mitigation measures recommended by CalRecycle and the LEA, and imposes additional reporting requirements.
- CCL continues to implement mitigation measures required by AQMD and the LEA and provides periodic reports to various agencies, which are accessible through CCL's [odor mitigation website](#).
- On January 10, 2025, AQMD issued a [NOV](#) alleging that CCL failed to maintain tanks under negative pressure, record and report pressure readings, submit the September 2024 monthly report on time, and monitor and report landfill gas temperatures for October 2024. CCL continues to investigate these events and began implementing mitigation measures.

Mr. Jordan Sisson asked when CCL's reaction area was operational and if there were any other factors that may have influenced the reaction at the landfill. He further asked if there were other landfills in the County or other landfills that may have similar contributing factors to potentially cause the same issue in the future.

Ms. Thompson commented that Mr. Sisson's questions have been brought up previously and she had not heard any definitive year that the material was deposited to the landfill, other than material being deposited on the northwestern side of the landfill. She indicated that samples from onsite borings were taken and came out as carbonized semisolids so it was difficult to determine if any type of material may have attributed to the issue.

Mr. Sisson expressed his concern about the situation because there was a rain event in which the landfill was closed last year and even for one day, caused ripple effects. Then, with the closure of CCL and the January 2025 fire event, there is more strain on disposal. He stated one more unexpected catastrophe could be detrimental.

Mr. Shammas mentioned some best management practices to reduce risks at landfills were to monitor and maintain all the gas well systems, reduce vacuum and the temperature coming up, having a good landfill cover, and reducing water filtration.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Alexander Castro, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from AQMD for February 2025](#) at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL):

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

- During the month of February 2025, 340 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 66 were classified as Trash, 161 were listed as No Field Response, 41 were listed as Landfill Gas Odor, and 72 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to January 2025, the number of complaints received for February 2025, increased from 118 to 340 complaints.
- Compared to February 2024, the number of complaints for February 2025, decreased from 474 to 340 complaints.
- AQMD issued 12 NOVs related to odor for the month of February 2025.
- The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 25.

Mr. Hunter mentioned that Mr. Larry Israel, inspector with the AQMD, attended the SCL-Community Advisory Committee on March 13, 2025, and reported that the AQMD received 600 odor reports and 18 nuisance violations for the month of March. He also mentioned that on March 19, 2025, the AQMD had a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) hearing.

Mr. Hunter further added that SCL has been implementing the recommendations made by Mr. Eugene Tseng, of the SCL-LEA, who is overseeing the implementation. The SOA without any changes was approved by the Hearing Board on March 19, 2025.

Ms. Thompson added that the next hearing is scheduled for September 2025.

Fourth Quarter Vegetation Report

Mr. Alexander Castro provided an update on Republic Services' Fourth Quarter Vegetation Project Status Report for SCL City/County Landfill dated February 6, 2025.

City Side South Sage Pilot Area - Deck C / Lower Deck

- Germination of native species has been established. The most prevalent native species as of fourth quarter of 2024 include the California Sunflower, Saltbush, Horsetweed, and Wild Ryegrass.
- Exotic annual plant species have declined because of natural aging and weeding of the non-native herbaceous species by landfill staff. These weeding activities have negatively impacted some of the native herbaceous cover which is easy to misidentify as non-native grass.
- This plant cover is anticipated to increase in the coming winter and spring months.

City Side South Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- Revegetation efforts have been successful in establishing the Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub and native vegetation has been observed in higher abundance than in the lower and upper decks and are spreading northward, closing off the canopy. All native species were in vegetative state.
- Non-native plant cover is expected to increase in coverage during the upcoming winter and spring months as water becomes more available.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck A / Upper Deck

- Revegetation activities are expected to restart after the fall and winter rainfall is properly leached with activities anticipated to start in mid-2025. Approximately 25 acres of the deck are planned to be partitioned into five-acre plots.
- The southern center of vegetation coverage is higher than in other areas with native and non-native herbaceous plant species.

County Sage Mitigation Areas

- The County sage mitigation area remains difficult to revegetate due to eroded soils, steep slopes, and toxic soils.
- The non-native plant cover is anticipated to increase in the late winter months of 2024 and early spring months of 2025 as water availability increases.

Mr. Hunter inquired about the status of the Ridgeline Oak Tree berm because based on his knowledge oak trees are deep rooted and established at elevations lower than crestlines. He further asked if the oak trees in that area were planted on virgin soil or over the old city landfill waste mass, and if the trees were watered.

Mr. Michael Harmon, as staff to the Task Force, specified that Public Works has quarterly site visits with the County biologist and biologist contracted by the Landfill Operator, and that the oak trees are on native soil and are irrigated to promote growth. It was planned that throughout the life of the landfill and based on the oak tree resiliency, that they would grow from their juvenile state and become well established after the landfill closure.

V. WASTE BY RAIL SYSTEM UPDATE

Ms. Thompson informed the Subcommittee that the Waste by Rail System Update was unavailable, so the item was postponed to next month.

VI. FINDING OF CONFORMANCE

Ms. Thompson informed the Subcommittee that there was no update for the Finding of Conformance.

Mr. Sisson mentioned the Subcommittee's recommendation last year that the Task Force approved which was to update the Annual Disposal Report and to include where the trash was going. However, the report was using 2023 data. He shared his concerns with the further strain on the disposal system because of the closure of CCL, Olinda Alpha Landfill (Orange County) reducing acceptance of

out-of-county waste by July 1, 2025, and most recently the fire debris from the wildfires.

Mr. Sisson then made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hunter for staff to provide an update to the Subcommittee on the Annual Disposal Report with map similar to the Staff Report prepared for the November 2024 meeting, including updated information from 2024 year, for large and medium-sized facilities; and to consider recent events such as fire debris, reduction of import to Orange County, CCL closure, and the ongoing issue at El Sobrante Landfill in Riverside. Update to be given around the third quarter or when data is available.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Carol Saucillo reminded Subcommittee members of the celebration of life service on Saturday, March 22, 2025, for former Task Force and Subcommittee Chair, Ms. Betsey Landis.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 17, 2025, at 11 a.m.