

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

March 21, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Emiko Thompson, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sam Shammass, 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:

Kate Downey, Republic Services
Brenda Eells, Waste Management
Ken Habaradas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Alexander Fitchmun, 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
Omar Carrillo Maldonado, Los Angeles County Public Works
Aric Rodriguez, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Emiko Thompson called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 18 AND FEBRUARY 15, 2024 MEETINGS

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

III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Ramon Herman, staff to the Task Force, reported on Chiquita Canyon Landfill's (CCL) Notices of Violations (NOVs) and status update on environmental mitigation measures:

- CCL received 17 NOVs in February 2024, all of which are air quality-related from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).
- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Thirty-Fifth Monthly Update](#), dated March 1, 2024, 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 regulatory agencies.
- The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) modification application, resulting from the [Settlement Agreement](#) between the County and CCL, was submitted to County Regional Planning on November 10, 2022.
- CCL and Public Works continue to work on securing permits required to begin construction of the new entrance along Wolcott Way, as required by the CUP.
- CCL reported that the alleged source of odors from the Landfill is from a large and unexpected increase in production of landfill gas and liquids due to a reaction within a portion of the Landfill's waste mass.
- An initial [Stipulated Order for Abatement](#) (SOA) was adopted by AQMD on September 6, 2023, to address the odors, and through a two-day status update and modification hearing by the AQMD Hearing Board on January 17, 2024, AQMD approved a [Modified SOA](#).
- The Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), with recommendations from CalRecycle, also provided [mitigation measures](#) for CCL to implement.
- CCL received four additional CalRecycle-recommended [mitigation measures](#) from the LEA.
- On February 12, 2024, CCL received an NOV from AQMD alleging that fugitive dust emissions from active operations remained visible in the atmosphere beyond the facility's property line and that the facility allowed track out to extend

25 feet or more from the point of origin of an active operation. CCL believes that the NOV was the result of street sweeping operations on the highway.

- On December 12, 2023, the Department of Toxic Substances Control investigated CCL and on February 15, 2024, issued CCL a Summary of Violations for alleged violation of California's hazardous waste control laws and their implementing regulations. CCL is implementing requirements.
- On February 21, 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued CCL a Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO), pursuant to its authority under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, alleging that CCL has contributed to the past or present handling, storage, treatment, transportation, or disposal of solid and hazardous waste that may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to health or the environment. CCL is evaluating and implementing the UAO.

Odor mitigation efforts from various regulatory agencies include:

- A status update and hearing on the modified SOA will be held before the AQMD Hearing Board on March 21, 2024.
- AQMD reviews CCL's monthly reports required by the SOA, of which are posted on CCL's website.
- In addition to receiving calls of health complaints on the Public Health hotline, Public Health applied its own set of mitigation measures for CCL to implement.
- Public Works has been working with CCL to expedite any approvals and permits for additional flares CCL is required to install, as required by the SOA.
- Regional Planning expanded their [webpage](#) to post information and resources for the odor incident.
- Regional Planning was authorized by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to transfer up to \$2.5 million from Chiquita's Community Benefit Fund to Los Angeles County Development Authority and administer Chiquita's Grant Relief Programs.
- CalRecycle continues to assist the LEA with reviewing reports and data provided by CCL related to the ongoing odor incident and developing potential mitigation measures.

Mr. Wayne Hunter of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens asked what the status was regarding CCL relocating their entrance. Mr. Herman responded that CCL and Public Works continue to work on securing the permits required to begin construction of the entrance.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from AQMD](#) for February 2024 at Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL):

- During the month of February 2024, 474 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 69 were classified as Trash, 237 were listed as No Field Response, 56 were listed as Landfill Gas Odors, 21 were listed as Trash Odors/Landfill Gas Odors, and 91 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to January 2024, the number of complaints received for February 2024, increased from 204 to 474 complaints.
- Compared to February 2023, the number of complaints for February 2024 increased from 191 to 474 complaints.
- AQMD issued 17 NOVs related to odor for the month of February 2024.
- The total of NOVs issued this calendar year is 26.

Status of Recent Storm Events

Mr. Harmon provided an update on the February 2024 storm events impacting SCL:

- SCL received more than 19 inches of rain and experienced some drainage issues and erosion of the temporary drainage channels. SCL had difficulty repairing the areas but repaired later that month once areas dried up.
- The LEA required SCL to take immediate action on repairs and requested they send a report of repairs completed or due dates of when repairs are completed.
- On February 10, 2024, the LEA observed areas of exposed trash excavated at closed city south area consisting of plastic and metals exposed to the surface, and identified cover issues, resulting in violations from the LEA for the month of February.
- At the March 14, 2024, SCL Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, the Landfill Operator provided an update detailing current mitigation measures on site, including cover enhancements. Results and schedule are expected to be provided to the LEA at the end of March.
- A neutralizing foaming spray is planned to be used at the working face of SCL during unfavorable weather conditions. SCL also intends to use alternative grading techniques suggested by the LEA for wet weather preparedness.
- On March 7, 2024, Public Works inspected SCL and observed intrusion of subsurface water at the terminal basin.

- On March 13, 2024, City and County engineers met with Republic Services regarding the status of repairs for the terminal basin wall and water mitigation.
- Public Works requested the Landfill Operator to confirm the source of water and provided a mitigation plan. Public Works also contacted the California State Water Resources Control Board on the issue.

Mr. Hunter requested a copy of Mr. Harmon's report, which had good information, so he may forward to the CAC. Mr. Harmon responded that his report would be noted in the meeting minutes and that staff would work with him.

V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS

Mr. Herman informed Subcommittee that staff did not receive any Finding of Conformance Reports. A staff report would be provided at next month's Subcommittee meeting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Hunter informed that Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Subcommittee was currently in Sacramento working on bills so was unable to attend today's meeting.

Mr. Hunter mentioned being aware of one vacancy and asked how many seats are on the Subcommittee. Ms. Thompson responded there were five and asked staff to confirm vacancies. Ms. Carol Saucillo responded there were five seats on the Subcommittee; Public Works, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, Public Health, Public Representative, and an Environmental Organization Representative which is vacant.

Mr. Hunter expressed his disappointment of only two Subcommittee members present and asked who else should have been in attendance. Ms. Saucillo responded that the Public Health representative and alternate were unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Thompson commented that Public Works is working on a procedure to fill vacancies on Subcommittees and the Task Force, and that there may be discussion regarding filling vacancies at this afternoon's Task Force meeting. She also suggested that perhaps at a future Subcommittee meeting, the urgency of alternates for agencies may be discussed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:22 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 18, 2024, at 11 a.m.