

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

October 16, 2025

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Sam Shammas, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
Jordan Sisson, California Waste and Recycling Association
Felicia Truong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
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
Jonathan Caruso, Waste Management
Kate Logan, Waste Connections
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Alex Fitchmun, Los Angeles County Public Works
Michael Harmon, Los Angeles County Public Works
Ramon Herman, Los Angeles County Public Works
Karlo Manalo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works
Christopher Sheppard, Los Angeles County Public Works
Caleb Yun, 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 SEPTEMBER 18, 2025, SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. Wayne Hunter made a motion to approve the September 18, 2025, minutes, and Mr. Sam Shammass seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

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

- The Landfill Operator submitted their [Fifty-Third Monthly Update](#), dated October 1, 2025, and resubmitted a revised one on October 9, 2025, which included updates 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 16 NOVs in September 2025 related to air quality from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), compared to the 11 NOVs received in August 2025 and the 19 NOVs received in September 2024.
- CCL entered into a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) with AQMD on September 2, 2023, that was last modified on June 24, 2025, to address and abate the odors resulting from the reaction at CCL through continuous implementation of mitigation measures in the SOA.
- The next status update and modification hearing on the SOA is scheduled for October 29 and November 12, 2025.
- On September 2025, CCL received a NOV dated August 16, 2025, from AQMD alleging failure to maintain construction spoils in a moist condition. CCL is evaluating the alleged violations and will provide further explanation in their follow-up report.
- On September 12, 2025, CCL received a [Site Inspection Report](#) from the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) for alleged violations. CCL has taken steps to address landfill gas exceedances by installing new landfill gas extraction wells and submitting monthly reports of the reaction to the LEA. CCL has also taken steps to address the site maintenance issues by installing temperature monitoring probes, providing updates on the geosynthetic cover stability, and ensuring slope ability. All efforts by CCL are to comply with the LEA's 2024 and 2025 Compliance Orders.

- On June 2026, 2025, CCL received three NOVs from Public Works (PW) alleging that CCL engaged in grading works without obtaining a grading permit in accordance with Los Angeles County Code. CCL appealed the NOVs to PW on August 28, 2025. CCL's appeal claims that the NOVs are unsupported and should be rescinded. The appeal has not yet been set for a hearing, nor has CCL received a response to its appeal.
- On July 14, 2025, CCL received a NOV from Regional Planning alleging violations of their Conditional Use Permit based on NOVs issued by PW related to unpermitted grading at CCL. CCL appealed the NOV on September 12, 2025. On September 25, 2025, CCL requested that any hearing on Regional Planning's NOV post-date a final determination on CCL's appeal of NOVs issued by PW. CCL awaits written confirmation from Regional Planning regarding the request.

Mr. Sisson asked if CCL was subject to AQMD's oversight. Mr. Manalo responded yes. Mr. Sisson asked with the elevated temperature event at CCL if there were any waivers from the Clean Air Act regulations regarding wellhead temperatures. Mr. Manalo responded that staff would check with AQMD.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided a brief update on the [odor complaints from AQMD for September 2025](#) at SCL:

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation

- During the month of September 2025, 228 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 53 were classified as trash odors, 109 were listed as No Field Response, 18 were listed as landfill gas odors, and 48 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect odors.
- Compared to August 2025, the number of complaints received in September 2025 increased from 183 to 228 complaints.
- Compared to September 2024, the number of complaints for September 2025 increased from 179 to 228 complaints.
- AQMD issued 5 NOVs related to odor for the month of September 2025.
- The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 44.

Mr. Hunter noted that the chart provided in the packet was for August and not September and asked if AQMD had posted the most recent chart. Mr. Harmon responded that staff provided the AQMD's most recent information posted the day before the meeting. He asked if Mr. Larry Israel of AQMD could elaborate. Mr. Israel noted that some of the numbers on the report are incorrect and NOVs

were probably not entered in the database in a timely manner. Mr. Israel confirmed that the odor complaint numbers are correct, and clarified the following:

- During the month of August 2025, there were 4 NOVs for odor nuisance.
- During the month of September 2025, there were 7 NOVs for odor nuisance.
- Thus far for the month of October 2025, there have been approximately 100 complaints and the AQMD has issued 3 NOVs for odor nuisance.
- The total number of NOVs issued this calendar year is 50 and there were approximately 1,750 odor complaints.

Mr. Hunter asked if there was a problem getting an inspector out on site on September 16, 2025, since there were a series of complaints starting around 7 a.m. with many No Field Responses. Mr. Israel responded that it depends as it may have been when inspectors verified odors at Van Gogh Charter School. Once they have confirmed the nuisance, then the rest of the complaints are part of that series.

Mr. Israel further informed that the inspectors will then call the complainant without visiting the residence. He noted that a lot of No Field Responses are primarily on the weekends or evening hours, either because of confirming the nuisance violation earlier in the day or they were not spaced out over an hour, so an inspector was not dispatched. The policy is that if AQMD receives three calls within one hour from three different complainants, then an inspector is sent out.

Mr. Hunter asked if there was a reason why there were so many odor complaints in September. Mr. Israel responded that SCL has a SOA and one of the issues is the areas where they are installing the Posi-Shell and using the microbiology technology to mitigate the odors. The odors are not unexpected.

Mr. Hunter further asked if recent rain has influenced the odors. Mr. Israel assumed such and stated historically there is rain during September, October, November, and December. He has been responding to complaints for 15 years and knows the pattern well. Mr. Israel also indicated that they may see significant change from the SOA in early 2026. Mr. Hunter indicated that the LEA now has a year-round wet weather plan.

Mr. Sisson believed that in either 2015 or 2016 there were similar odor complaints where the landfill was issued a SOA, and after six months of implementation, the result was a drastic reduction in odor complaints, which was confirmed by Mr. Israel.

Mr. Sisson further asked if the complaints were more so due to trash than landfill gas. Mr. Israel explained that when they are in the field during the morning hours,

it is more of a trash odor and that the landfill gas is carrying those odors with it. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Hunter informed the Subcommittee that SCL applied for two new flares and that they only want one right now, which would be located at the existing flare station by the Gas-to-Energy Facility.

Mr. Hunter advised that he requested a Title V hearing the past evening on behalf of the North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens (NVC) and that a letter was sent from SCL to the community for a 15-day comment period and none of the hotlinks in the letter worked. Mr. Hunter further added that he had no objection to having SCL install flares because they are needed. However, the NVC was not able to review the document links.

Mr. Israel noted that at the September SCL Community Advisory Committee, Ms. Angela Shibata, Senior Compliance Manager of Engineering and Permitting with the AQMD was in attendance and provided a presentation on this subject and believes she is aware of the situation. He would follow up with her to see if there is any movement on the issue.

Vegetation Status Update

Mr. Harmon, provided the following update:

Republic Services provided their Second Quarter 2025 vegetation project status report for Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill on July 31, 2025.

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

- Since the 2019 Saddle Ridge Fire, Deck C has fully recovered and indicates that a sustainable shrubland vegetation community has been reestablished.
- Many of the non-native forb species have decreased in cover as they are outcompeted by the newly germinated native shrubs with the most prevalent native species as of quarter two comprising of the California Sunflower, Saltbush, and Beardless Wild Rye.
- Much of the non-native cover has decreased due to water availability and the annual species life span is expected to continue to decrease.
- Non-native plant cover observed in the Second Quarter of 2025 included, short-podded mustard, redstem filaree, and Eucalyptus trees have also been recommended for removal to prevent possible overturn and cap damage during high wind events.

City Side South Area – Deck B / Middle Deck

- Revegetation areas have been successful in establishing the Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub and native vegetation has been observed in higher abundance in the lower and upper portions of the deck. All native species were observed to be in their vegetative or flowering state.
- Non-native plant cover was observed to be in seeding and aging state and is expected to decrease in coverage during later months as the water becomes available in the fall. Similar species are found in Deck C.
- Non-native small-flowered iceplant cover continues to decline year-to-year, while the invasive Slenderleaf Iceplant continues to spread slowly across the deck where there are exposed areas and no vegetation.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- The southern center of vegetation coverage is higher than in other areas primarily consisting of the native California buckwheat and non-native herbaceous plant species.
- Mitigation efforts for Deck A include identifying and filling low-lying areas, followed by weed abatement, and are expected to begin in the Second Quarter of 2025. Seeding of Deck A is anticipated to begin in the winter of 2025.
- The replacement of the booster pump and power for irrigation to Deck A, is scheduled to start in late 2026 with a site walk to determine the replacement strategy.

County Sage Mitigation Areas

- No revegetation activities have occurred in the Second Quarter of 2025.

In April 2025, SCL gave away 33 Live and Coastal Scrub Oaks to the City of Los Angeles to be planted at local parks. PW staff confirmed with Republic Services that the donated trees were taken from SCL's nursery. SCL's nursery has approximately 1,400 trees that are comprised of both saplings and young trees and are not a part of SCL's Oak Tree Mitigation Bank.

Mr. Hunter asked if any irrigation was currently working in Deck A as the replacement will not begin until late 2026. Mr. Harmon responded that water is necessary to establish the vegetation and that the Operator is taking advantage of the natural water ability. Rainfall is expected in the coming wet season that will naturally irrigate the area, and the artificial irrigation may be used as a supplement once those seedlings have been placed. Mr. Hunter then asked if PW reviews the recommendations from Rincon noted in their report and if PW staff goes to SCL

monthly. Mr. Harmon confirmed that PW goes to SCL monthly. He noted that the third-party biologist and landscape consultants have identified that the native plant community should experience summer drought seasonally and that the plants should be resilient enough to follow that natural cycle. Discussion ensued.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Sisson reiterated his inquiry during the CCL update on whether a Clean Air Act Waiver for the well head temperature was granted to CCL, so staff could update the Subcommittee at next month's meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 20, 2025, at 11 a.m.