

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

January 18, 2024

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

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorcas (Dee) Hanson-Lugo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Genevieve Osmena, Los Angeles County Public Works
Sam Shammass, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brenda Eells, Waste Connections
Michael Stewart, Republic Services
Ken Habaradas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition of Concerned Citizens
Larry Israel, South Coast Air Quality Management District
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
Carol Saucillo, Los Angeles County Public Works

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Mike Mohajer called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 21, OCTOBER 19, AND NOVEMBER 16, 2023 MEETINGS

Mr. Sam Shammass made a motion to approve the September 21, 2023, minutes, and Mr. Mohajer seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Shammass made a motion to approve the October 19, 2023, minutes, and Ms. Genevieve Osmena seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Ms. Osmena made a motion to approve the November 16, 2023, minutes, and Mr. Shammass seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

III. CHIQUITA CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Karlo Manalo, staff to the Task Force, provided the following update:

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation (NOV)

- Chiquita Canyon Landfill (CCL) was issued 13 NOVs in November and 7 NOVs in December of 2023 from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), of which 17 were air quality-related. As of December 31, 2023, 115 NOVs were issued to CCL for the calendar year. CCL provided their [Thirty-Third Monthly Update](#) and continues to provide monthly updates in accordance with the request [letter](#) from the Task Force, dated April 19, 2021.
- 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 resulting from the settlement agreement between the County and CCL is still under review by interdepartmental agencies.
- The alleged source of odors is from a large and unexpected increase in production of landfill gas/liquids due to a reaction taking place within a portion of the waste mass. The monitoring data from August - October 2003, reflects no adverse health effects anticipated across the community.
- CCL submitted their [formal written response](#), dated December 22, 2023, in response to the [Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Board's NOV](#) (Water Board), dated November 22, 2023. CCL's response noted their implementation of best management practices for leachate, in addition to measures already implemented by the Stipulated Order for Abatement.
- At the request of the Subcommittee on October 16, 2023, CCL provided an [updated tabulated list of Stipulated Order requirements by AQMD](#).

- On November 21, 2023, CCL received a subsequent [letter](#) from the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), which required CCL to implement four additional CalRecycle-recommended mitigation measures.
- CCL also provided an [updated tabulated list of mitigation measures by the LEA and CalRecycle](#).
- Public Works staff requested additional information from CCL including 1) the timeline of the existing landfill which the County permitted in 1965 under a Zone Exception Case and is now owned and operated by Waste Connections since 2009; 2) an update to the County Public Health Risk Assessment by a consultant as an independent study; and 3) the list of location of extractions wells with temperature readings above 131 degrees.

Mr. Mohajer asked if CCL acquired a permit with the Water Board and he requested staff to investigate and provide its findings at the next meeting.

Mr. Mohajer asked for the status of the fire and underground smoldering at CCL. Mr. Manalo responded that CCL's consultants are still monitoring the temperatures. He further stated that one of the measures from AQMD's Order for Abatement required the landfill to track the reaction area. CCL is also working with CalRecycle in looking at the situation as an elevated temperature landfill event.

Mr. Mohajer commented that the subsurface burning, odors, dimethyl sulfide, and the air filters provided to the community, etc., are all major issues. He asked staff to proactively monitor the event and keeping the Subcommittee members inform of the development since it is an element of waste management.

Mr. Mohajer indicated that on January 11, 2024, he e-mailed staff requesting that they provide a list of wells at CCL with temperature readings above 131 degrees and/or oxygen levels above 5 percent over the last six months. He mentioned receiving a response from Ms. Emiko Thompson that these issues would be discussed. Mr. Mohajer noted his request for items were not on the agenda and he told staff to contact him if they wanted to modify items or discuss.

Ms. Osmena responded that perhaps it was the clarification and expectation of what kind of information was expected from staff to provide. She also mentioned the complexity of the CCL incident, which requires a large amount of coordination between several State and County regulatory agencies.

Mr. Mohajer noted that the Task Force issued the Finding of Conformance (FOC) to make certain landfills comply with the criteria in the Countywide Siting Element and the items he requested is information required in the FOC.

Mr. Mohajer asked if staff had verified with AQMD that the information he requested was available on which Mr. Manalo responded that there are numerous amounts of data available. Mr. Mohajer asked staff to acquire and review all the information so to provide to the Task Force.

Mr. Dave Nguyen commented that the Order for Abatement and the requirement from the LEA is for the Landfill Operator to install monitoring probes to see if the reaction area is spreading or limited to that specific area. He further indicated a report would be given at the next Subcommittee meeting addressing Mr. Mohajer's concerns.

Mr. Mohajer asked for the status of the modified CUP on which Mr. Manalo responded it was still under review by Regional Planning and that the [Settlement Agreement](#) between the Los Angeles County and CCL was provided to the Subcommittee last year. Mr. Mohajer asked for another copy and for the date it was provided to the Subcommittee.

Mr. Mohajer also asked if the requirements in the Settlement Agreement which will be in the modified CUP include a requirement for a revision to the FOC. Mr. Nguyen informed that the term of the Settlement Agreement does not impact the CUP condition requirement for the Landfill to obtain an FOC or a revised FOC with the Task Force. Mr. Mohajer then requested staff to make certain the modified CUP is in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

Ms. Osmena asked for a brief overview of AQMD's recent public hearing (hearing). Mr. Mohajer indicated that he attended only the January 16, 2024, hearing, and not the January 17, 2024, hearing, in which he provided a [testimony](#) questioning the landfill for their rationale of their reasoning for the smoldering and high temperature at CCL.

Mr. Larry Israel with AQMD reported that the first Order for Abatement was issued on September 6, 2023. He informed that a large amount of leachate was observed at CCL in October 2023, which resulted in a modified hearing planned for December 2023. However, the December hearing was postponed for six weeks due to a hearing member having surgery.

Mr. Israel informed that at the recent January hearing, all conditions were stipulated. The biggest contested item was for the purchase and installation of certain types of ambient air monitoring equipment in the community and having completed certain installation requirement by certain time. The hearing concluded unanimously with modified conditions with main focus on the handling and cleanup of the leachate.

Mr. Israel further informed that AQMD was made aware of the leachate seepage in October 2023, that started in September 2022. The Water Board observed the leachate months ago and the LEA informed the AQMD. Geysers were also observed emanating from the wellheads of leachate. He informed that AQMD may have the final copy of the modified order in another week or two.

Discussion then resumed about health risks to the community near SCL based on a one-day analysis by a Dimethyl Sulfide committee, alleging there was no impact on public health. Mr. Mohajer informed that the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health has responded with a letter stating otherwise.

Mr. Mohajer requested that staff add all his listed items he had originally requested on January 11, 2024, e-mail for this month agenda, to be on next month's agenda. He recommended they all be included under one item for open for discussion.

IV. SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Odor Complaints and Notices of Violation (NOV)

Mr. Michael Harmon, staff to the Task Force, provided an update on the [odor complaints from AQMD](#) for December 2023 at SCL.

- During the month of December 2023, 113 complaints were made to the AQMD hotline. Of those, 30 were classified as Trash, 24 were listed as No Field Response, 21 were listed as Landfill Gas Odors, 38 were classified as None, which meant the inspector visited the site and did not detect any odor.
- Compared to November 2023, the number of complaints received in December 2023, decreased from 130 to 113 complaints.
- Compared to December 2022, the number of complaints received for December 2023, increased from 32 to 113 complaints.
- AQMD issued 4 NOVs related to odor for the month of December 2023 and a total of 61 NOVs for the 2023 calendar year. Compared to the 2022 calendar year, NOVs increased from 12 to 61.
- As of December 2023, the total number of odor complaints received during 2024 is 1,721.

In light of the 1,721 odor complaints, Mr. Mohajer made a motion for the Subcommittee to recommend that the Task Force send a letter to AQMD requesting that they issue another Odor of Abatement to mitigate the odor situation. The motion was not seconded by a Subcommittee member and subsequently failed.

Mr. Hunter commented that this is the second highest year of odor complaints since 2015, and the odors are increasing. He commented that the SCL-Community Advisory Committee (CAC) had ECORP Consulting, Inc., had prepared a [data review and health care assessment](#) in September 2022 that was sent to Public Health with a copy to Public Works. He stated that as of today, the SCL-CAC has not received a response from Public Health. Nevertheless, he noted that the Task Force did receive a response.

Mr. Hunter further commented that he believes Public Health did not review the report properly and pointed out that the data indicated health risks from a well-recognized consultant that the city and County have used.

Mr. Mohajer offered that staff could forward Public Health's response letter to the Task Force to Mr. Hunter for his reference. Mr. Hunter denied the offer and instead stated for the record that the SCL-CAC never received a response from Public Health.

Status Update on Environmental Mitigation Measures

Item postponed due to time constraint.

V. DISCUSSION ON FINDING OF CONFORMANCE REPORTS

Item postponed due to time constraint.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 15, 2024, at 11 a.m.