Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency

Approved Meeting Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, November 29, 2018
University of West Los Angeles Law School
9201 Oakdale Avenue, Room 201, Chatsworth, CA 91311

Opening Comments: Chair Frank Bush welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota to roll call.

Item 1: Call to Order/Welcome

Roll Call: Directors Present: Chair Frank Bush, Secretary Jacqueline Taylor, David Honda, and Robert Wallace

Four (4) Board Members were present in the room, constituting a quorum of Board of Directors

Also Present:
Shikari Nakagawa-Ota: Program Manager, SCL LEA
David Thompson: SCL LEA
Andrea Ross: Deputy County Counsel, County of Los Angeles

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota advised Board that 4 Directors are present in the room, there’s a quorum.

She then announced that the meeting was noticed in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act to commence meeting on Thursday, 2:30 pm, at this location. Anyone wishes to address the Board should fill out a speaker card, bring the card to her, and will be given 3 minutes each to address the Board.

Meeting Items Discussed

(Notice of SCL LEA Board of Directors Meeting and Agenda is provided in Appendix)
**Item 2: Introductions**

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota welcomed attendees from audience for attending the meeting: Representative from Republic Services/BFI - Mr. Chris Coyle, General Manager, and Representative from the City/County Community Advisory Committee - Mr. Wayde Hunter.

Chair Bush announced that effective January 1, 2019, his position will be replaced by Mr. John Biezin, Deputy Superintendent of Building and Safety, City of LA.

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota announced that Ms. Jessica Strobel has been appointed by Director Mitchell Englander to fill the City Council Director’s position on this Board. She thanked Director Englander for his many years of services on the SCL LEA Board.

**Item 3: Approval of the Board Meeting minutes**

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota advised Board that a draft was provided for Directors’ review and comments were incorporated into this Meeting minutes provided in the Board package. Director David Honda moved to approve the May 31, 2018 Board Meeting minutes as written and Secretary Jacqueline Taylor 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

*Board Action: Board approved the May 31, 2018 Board Meeting minutes.*

*(SCL LEA Board of Directors Meeting minutes for May 31, 2018 is provided in Appendix)*

**Item 4: Program Manager’s Report**

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota briefed Board on following areas.

**4.1. Inspection History Report: May 2018 – November 2018**

LEA conducted 26 inspections during this period and issued 2 Areas of Concern from methane gas emissions exceedance above 1.25% around the perimeter wells on the County side of the landfill.

- **2 Areas of Concern were issued:**
  - 6/29/18: gas monitoring and control - Probes 205R-C at 1.9%, 205R-D at 3.0%, 205R-E at 1.8%
  - 5/25/18: gas monitoring and control - Probe 205R-D at 3.1%

  *(SCL LEA Inspection History between May 2018 and November 2018 is provided in Appendix)*

**4.2. Sunshine Canyon Landfill 5-Year Permit Review**

On 8/2/18, Republic submitted its 5-Year Permit Review application package to SCL LEA and it’s currently being reviewed by SCL LEA staff. A report will then be prepared and submitted to CalRecycle no later than 12/30/18.

**4.3. Program Manager’s Update on Board Directed Programs**

Update on following SCL LEA data compilation / analysis:

1. Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)
2. Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE)
3. Improvements to Landfill Gas (LFG) Collection System

*(SCL LEA Program Manager’s Report dated November 29, 2018, presented by Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Program Manager is provided in Appendix)*
4.3.1. *Alternative Daily Cover (ADC)*
The operator installed additional 5-acres of closure turf since last Board Meeting.

4.3.2. *Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE)*
ICE program is one of the most important remedial measures to reduce odor emissions from landfill gas, especially from problematic slope areas.

![Diagram of ICE: PosiShell & Closure Turf + Vegetated Layer](image)

(Page 2, SCL LEA Program Manager's Report dated November 29, 2018)

The red dotted area in the chart was identified by SCL LEA as grids with the most surface emissions exceedances; that this is the slope area of the impacted 9 inch daily soil cover without peel-back; and that majority of ICE programs were implemented in 3/2017, after the rainy season. Data collected showed that as odor mitigation programs are implemented, odor complaints decreased; and that there were no odor complaints over the last 18-months period (May 2017 – October 2018).

4.3.3. *Improvements to Landfill Gas (LFG) Collection System*
SCL LEA has been analyzing the impact of ADC, ICE and landfill gas collection system on landfill gas emission over time. Key indicators evaluated include volume of landfill gas collected and odor complaints. Because methane is odorless, it is being used as a proxy for odorous compounds. As landfill gas such as methane passes through the additional soil cover, Posi-Shell, and vegetative layer, there is a “filtering” effect, or reduction of carrier gases that potentially contain odorous compounds.

The analysis showed that as ADC, ICE and landfill gas collections system such as more wells and more pumps are implemented, volume of landfill gas collection increase. The trend line in the chart below indicated ~ 55% increase in the volume of landfill gas collected over a period of 1.5 years.
Mitigation Measures Timeline and LFG Collection Volumes

As another source of confirmation, SCL LEA also reviewed monthly SCAQMD Rule 1150.1 surface emissions monitoring data to evaluate the effectiveness of the ADC and ICE. The following chart showed the overall grid emissions levels 2015 (before the implementation of mitigation measures) and 2018 (after implementation of mitigation measures). The data also supported the fact that as landfill gas collection increased, the number of odor complaints decreased.

SCAQMD Rule 1150.1 Surface Emissions Monitoring (Year 2015 vs 2018)

Compare Emission Levels of Grids of Same Year (1a vs. 1b; and 2a vs. 2b)

Note: Methane level is only a proxy for odor.

Secretary Taylor inquired and Ms. Nakagawa-Ota responded that the dark blue area representing problematic area impacted by 9 inche soil without peel-back is a bit larger in 2018, but don’t think
it’s above exceedance level. Dr. Tseng clarified that the comparison in the chart is not really a good comparison because the barometric pressure exerts a lot of influence over the level of surface emission. However, the average monthly surface odor emissions are much less in 2018 (2a, 2b) than 2015 (1a, 1b).

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota apprised Board that SCL LEA has been collaborating with NASA/JPL for a couple of years on identifying the largest emitters of greenhouse gas in the State. They provide an independent source of quantifying the amount of landfill gas emitted from landfill surface. The remote sensing equipment not only generate data that identify methane “hotspots”, but also allow NASA to estimate the amount of methane “flux” (volume of methane generated, in units of kilograms per hour).

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota summarized her presentation:
- SCL LEA’s holistic approach has been successful in mitigating odors
- ADC and ICE meet regulatory performance requirements, and increase LFG collection
- Odor complaints significantly reduced, both landfill gas odors and trash odors
- No Nuisance Notice of Violations (NOVs) in 18 months, since May 2017

Director Wallace commented that this agency is breaking new ground with the State on measuring landfill gas and odor emissions; that the ability to measure landfill gas and odor emissions, combined with the work with NASA/JPL, are crucial in designing landfill facilities; that this knowledge should be disseminated to public and engineering groups; that the agency has been contacted by the editor of MSW Magazine to prepare articles showcasing the findings; and there’s sufficient budget to disseminate the benefits of using holistic system approach to mitigate landfill odors.
Director Wallace then recommended that SCL LEA, including himself, to educate the public about lessons learned to design landfills and mitigate landfill gas odors. Director Honda 2nd the motion.

Secretary Taylor commented that the staff should first determine if this agency has the capability and time to present the information. Mr. Thompson responded that the staff will prepare a feasibility proposal for Board review at next Board meeting.

Chair Bush motioned to have SCL LEA staff put together a feasibility proposal of developing technical documentation and doing public presentations for Board review at next Board meeting. Secretary Taylor 2nd the amended motion. Motion carried.

**Board Action:** Board directed the SCL LEA staff to put together a feasibility proposal of developing technical documentation and doing public presentations for Board review at next Board meeting.

**Item 5: Sunshine Canyon Landfill Update – Chris Coyle, General Manager**

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota invited Mr. Chris Coyle, General Manager of Republic Services, to update Board on the landfill operation and upcoming programs.

Mr. Coyle shared with Board that the facility is holding up well with the 1.2 inches of rain today and is open for business. He commented that there will be some redundancy of his presentation and Ms. Nakagawa-Ota’s presentation, then proceeded to update Board on following progress.

*(Sunshine Canyon Landfill LEA Board Update dated November 29, 2018, presented by Mr. Chris Coyle, General Manager of Republic Services is provided in Appendix)*

**5.1. November 2017 Site Status**

- Installed:
  - 153 gas wells
  - 253 dewatering pumps
  - 9 Bagnon cubes
  - 38.5 acres of intermediate spray-on cover
  - 21 acres of closure turf

- In progress: 57 acres of vegetative cover

**5.2. Work Completed in 2018**

- Installed:
  - 85 gas wells
  - 46 pumps
  - 3370 feet of horizontal collectors
  - 58 acres of vegetative covers

- Initiated 5 acres of closure turf

**5.3. How is it Working**

There were 3 odor complaints in Nov 2018 and year-to-date complaints totaled 173; and that odor complaints are back to pre-2009 level (see chart below). Mr. Coyle then commented that the company’s goal is “No Odors”; and that a lot of great work has been done to get there.
5.4. Looking to the Future
Republic has assembled a great team of experts consisting of:

- Corporate landfill experts
- Experienced local team
- Dedicated environmental managers

The team will continue to focus on practices ranging from optimizing gas collection and expansion, adding more flare capacity, improving operation and maintenance resource, implementing odor reduction measures, and conducting on-site odor diligence.

Discussions were held between Director Wallace, Mr. Coyle and Mr. Thompson that the number of wells on the City south side is 2/acre, active landfill is 5 or 6/acre, and industry standard is 1/acre; that CC1-Part 1 and Part 2 have both horizontal and vertical wells; that as disposal sites are build up on top, one of the requirements is to put in horizontal wells; and that a lot of these areas in the facility have been built up, so they have both systems installed.

Secretary Taylor inquired and Mr. Coyle responded that his relationship with the community is improving; that transparency is crucial when addressing issues; and that the community is encouraged to go through the formal channels, but they can also shared their concerns with him and he will try to address them.

Item 6: Comments from the public
Chair Bush shared that he would like to invite Councilmember Mitchell Englander to the floor.

Councilmember Englander commented that he’s retiring from the City, Ms. Jessica Strobel, his replacement, will be a great asset to this Board, and thanked the Board members for doing a tremendous job of taking care of the community. He then recognized 2 outstanding people, Mr. David Thompson, and Mr. Eugene Tseng, for implementing innovative strategies to solve odor issues and minimize negative environmental impact on the community.
Ms. Nakagawa-Ota then advised Board that there’s one speaker under this Agenda item.

**Public Speaker: Mr. Wayde Hunter, representing NVC, SCL CAC**

Mr. Wayde Hunter commented that the relationship between Republic and the community is improving; that many improvements have reduced odor complaints such as spraying odor neutralizers on the working face, moving working face further away from community and spraying odor neutralizer at Republic MRFs; that the there are still odor complaints and he hope improvements will continue. He then inquired and Ms. Nakagawa-Ota responded that the Republic presentation will be on the agency’s website.

Ms. Nakagawa-Ota advised Board that this is her last meeting for this year, Mr. Thompson will take the lead as the Program Manager, effective January 1, 2019. She thanked Mr. Thompson and the agency staff: Mr. Jose Gutierrez, Mr. Andy Kao, Ms. Megan Lee for their support, Mr. George Kasikarin and Ms. Patricia Hundt for great work as lead inspectors for SCL and the community, Ms. Dee Hanson-Lugo, Ms. Janet Gallardo, and Ms. Monica Galimberti for great work with permitting for SCL and meeting logistics.

Secretary Taylor commented that this Board appreciates SCL LEA and everyone that played a vital role of delivering excellent work.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.
APPENDIX

Documents Available

Item 1:
- Meeting Notice and Agenda for November 29, 2018
- Meeting Attendees Sign-in Sheet
- Public Speaker Request Form

Item 3:
- SCL LEA Board of Directors Meeting minutes for May 31, 2018

Item 4:
- SCL LEA Inspection History between May 2018 and November 2018
- SCL LEA Program Manager's Report dated November 29, 2018, presented by Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Program Manager

Item 5:
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill LEA Board Update dated November 29, 2018, presented by Mr. Chris Coyle, General Manager of Republic Services