

**PALOS VERDES LANDFILL  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
Monday July 25, 2011 at Rolling Hills Estates City Hall**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Addleman, David Wahba, Kurt Swanson, Kathleen McGowan, Tim Scott, Pat Furey James Greene, and Linda Cessna

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Doug Henry

**STAFF PRESENT:** Robert Ferrante, Kristen Ruffell, Ethan Laden

**OTHERS:** Joan Davidson, Melody Colbert, Jim Tarr, Donna Madden, Barry Hildebrand, and an unnamed videographer hired by Ms. Davidson

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. and the roll was called. The April 25, 2011 minutes were approved. Chairman Addleman asked Ms. Ruffell to report on the landfill tour that was held lead on July 12, 2011. Ms. Ruffell and Mr. Laden led the tour. The attendees were Mayor Zuckerman and Greg Grammer from Rolling Hills Estates, Joan Davidson, Jim Tarr, and two consultants invited by Ms. Davidson. The attendees found the tour to be informative. A second tour is scheduled for July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Davidson expressed her opinion that the public must be allowed to comment before or during each agenda item to be in compliance with the Section 5494.3(a) of the Brown Act. Chairman Addleman responded that he would allow questions/comments following each agenda item for the remainder of the meeting. Chairman Addleman indicated that he would request an opinion from the Sanitation Districts' legal counsel regarding the applicability of the cited section before the next CAC meeting.

Mr. Laden updated the committee about recent site activities. The Las Amigas de Las Lomas Annual Charity Horse show was held on the July 16-17 weekend at Ernie Howlett Park with parking on the Main Site of the landfill. The Zink Ultra-Low Emissions Flare construction is continuing. Most of the remaining work is electrical. Once the work is completed, there will be a testing period. Once the flare testing is completed, the existing steam boiler will be shut down and the flare will be utilized full time. This switchover is anticipated to occur this fall.

Mr. Laden gave the quarterly landfill gas temperature monitoring update, reporting there were no gas wells with temperature measurements over 170 degrees F during the second quarter of 2011. Ms Davidson asked whether the Districts measure headerline temperatures and how many gas wells are monitored for temperature. The Districts agreed to address these questions at the next meeting.

During the previous CAC meeting a committee member requested copies of flare and boiler emissions testing reports. Mr. Laden provided a brief summary of the testing procedures and reported that the both the flare and the boiler met all regulatory limits. VOC destruction efficiencies were 99.7% for the flare and 99.8% for the boiler. Ms Davidson questioned why boiler test results from a test performed in 1995 had certain chemical concentrations that were lower than results from testing in 2010. The committee saw little value in requesting a report from the Districts on the boiler equipment that will shut down shortly. Instead, the committee requested a presentation comparing source test data from the new flare to recent source test data from the boilers and the old flare. This item will be placed on the agenda when source test data from the new flare is available.

During the previous meeting, the committee had requested a summary of surface gas and boundary probe monitoring results for the previous year. Mr. Laden described the three instantaneous surface gas detections and the one boundary probe exceedance that occurred between July 2010 and June 2011. All of the exceedances were remediated within their regulatory time frame. Mr. Tarr asked whether the Districts analyze gas samples collected for 1150.1 toxic air contaminant (TAC) analyses for DOC# 1988961

all the compounds listed in Tables 1 and 2 in Rule 1150.1. Joan Davidson asked why headline TAC concentrations are much higher now than they were in a July 2005 sample of headline gas. The Districts agreed to address these questions at the next CAC meeting.

The CAC had requested information about the equipment leak-checking program. New regulations require all equipment that is under pressure be checked for methane leaks. The only equipment that has landfill gas under pressure is in the area of the flare station, i.e. downgradient of the blowers. Site technicians identified all possible locations where leaks may occur and the identified locations are checked for methane quarterly. Methane concentrations greater than 500 ppm require remediation. No exceedances were found in the first scheduled leak monitoring in February 2011.

Mr. Laden then addressed questions regarding potential odor sources that were presented by Donna Madden at the previous CAC meeting. Mr. Laden described that trees at the landfill are occasionally blown over during storms. Surface gas monitoring and ambient air monitoring do not indicate that the holes left by downed trees are a source for landfill gas to escape. Ms. Madden also questioned whether sewer gases might migrate through the storm drains over to the landfill and cause odors. Mr. Laden described how the sewer and storm drain systems are separate systems and therefore the storm drain is not a path for sewer odors. Ms. Madden also believed that odors could come from areas where the ground had split open. Although site staff has not noticed areas where the cover had split open, differential settlement of the refuse can cause cover cracks that could transmit odors. The surface gas monitoring program should detect these cracks and once detected they will be repaired.

Regulations require gas samples from two grids and one boundary probe be analyzed each quarter for TAC. An audience member previously asked how the grids and boundary probe are selected. Per the regulations, the two grids and one boundary probe are randomly selected from those grids and boundary probes that have not yet been sampled. Occasionally additional samples are collected if grids or boundary probes required remediation during that quarter.

At the previous CAC meeting Ms. Davidson questioned why method detection limits were different in the two samples collected following the groundwater release on Jan. 24, 2011. Ms. Ruffell explained that certain sample characteristics may cause foaming or effervescing that would cause laboratory equipment damage or inaccurate results. This is known as matrix interference. Should a sample show matrix interference, the analyst will dilute the sample to the point that there is no matrix interference, then analyze the sample. The difference in the method detection limits reflects this dilution. Ms. Ruffell stated that the differing detection limits did not affect the evaluation of whether the spill had any effect on the receiving waters.

David Wahba gave an update on the upgrade of the Peter Webber Equestrian Center. Currently the plans are to build a new barn in the western area of the equestrian center. This area of the center is over native ground. Previous plans to build a barn over refuse proved to be cost prohibitive. The city has applied for grants that will allow for drainage improvements for the eastern portion of the center including potential runoff water reuse.

Under new business, Mr. Laden told the committee about California Water Service's plan to build a new water pipeline up into the Palos Verdes Peninsula. A portion of the pipeline is proposed to run under the horse trail along the southern boundary of the Botanic Garden. Mr. Laden stated that a representative from California Water Service has requested to make a presentation on the project at the next CAC meeting. The CAC approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next CAC meeting is October 24, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.