

**PALOS VERDES LANDFILL
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Monday January 24, 2011 at Rolling Hills Estates City Hall**

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Addleman, David Wahba, Kurt Swanson, Kathleen McGowan, James Greene, and Linda Cessna

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim Scott, Doug Henry, and Pat Furey

STAFF PRESENT: Robert Ferrante, Kristen Ruffell, Ethan Laden, and Mark McDannel

OTHERS: Joan Davidson, Melody Colbert, Connie Semos, and Jeremiah Dobruck (Palos Verdes Peninsula News)

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:35 p.m. and the roll was called. The October 25, 2010 minutes were approved.

An audience member questioned whether the meeting was noticed properly in accordance with the Brown Act, and if not, she stated the meeting was illegal. Chairperson Addleman was not sure whether the CAC meetings are subject the Brown Act. Nevertheless, he requested that agendas and minutes be posted on the Torrance, Rolling Hills Estates, and Sanitation Districts' websites two weeks before the next meeting. Representatives from Rolling Hills Estates, Torrance, and the Sanitation Districts agreed.

Mark McDannel next made a short presentation about the status of the Phase II Energy Recovery project and the new flare construction project in response to CAC requests at the previous meeting. He announced that the Sanitation Districts have decided not to pursue the Phase II project because it is no longer feasible due to permitting delays and reduced landfill gas flow and quality. The new ultra-low emission flare will be installed this summer. After a 1-2 month testing period to ensure the flare's proper operation, the existing Phase I power plant will be shut down.

David Wahba asked whether the CEQA documentation for the overall project (flare, microturbines, and fuel cell) covers the flare-only scenario. Robert Ferrante explained that the CEQA analysis evaluated a flare-only scenario, so the CEQA document is still appropriate.

Mark McDannel also discussed the total hydrocarbon and trace organic destruction efficiencies for flares. He shared that the existing landfill gas flares have consistently shown destruction efficiencies for total hydrocarbons that far exceed AQMD requirements (e.g. the flares destroy 99.8% of total hydrocarbons whereas the requirement is 98%). Further, the flares have been shown to have excellent destruction efficiencies for individual compounds (i.e. vinyl chloride is reduced to below detection limits and benzene is reduced 99.98%). In comparison, FlexEnergy's prototype system has shown destruction efficiencies of 87% - 98% for total hydrocarbons and only 70% for vinyl chloride. The Sanitation Districts will continue to evaluate the FlexEnergy system when source tests for the commercial system become available.

Ethan Laden reported that there were no gas collection wells at the landfill that were over 170° F during the fourth quarter of 2010. Hotspot information will continue to be provided to the CAC each meeting.

Robert Ferrante next presented information about the site's weather station. The station was installed to support AQMD 1150.1 surface emissions and ambient air monitoring. Wind direction and speed data are collected to check that atmospheric conditions during monitoring meet AQMD criteria for representative sampling. Also, data from the weather station are used to help locate the source of odors when either residents or employees notice them. The AQMD maintains very sophisticated weather stations that collect specialized data for use in air quality models. These weather stations are maintained to ensure the accuracy of the data collected. Because the site's weather station is appropriate for its purpose, and because data from AQMD-maintained weather stations have been shown to provide more conservative modeling results than the onsite weather station data, the Sanitation Districts have no plans to upgrade the onsite weather station.

Kristen Ruffell reported that a community activist contacted a local newspaper regarding bacteria in the water seepage from the Country Hills Estates neighborhood after the recent rains. The newspaper's staff contacted the Sanitation Districts and the City of Torrance for further information. The Sanitation Districts reported that similar seeps routinely occur after rain and have been shown repeatedly to be unrelated to the landfill. The bacteria found in the samples are common in soils and in the biofilms that develop in gutters. The City of Torrance also investigated and did not find any unusual conditions. Further information regarding groundwater conditions and seeps in the Country Hills Estates neighborhood may be found in the Five-Year Review.

Committee member Linda Cessna of Torrance commented that she was appalled that the community activist chose to wait several days after discovering what she thought was a hazardous condition to contact a newspaper instead of contacting the City to have someone come out to investigate immediately.

Kristen Ruffell reported that a discharge of groundwater from the South Coast Botanic Garden into the storm drain was discovered at 9:00 a.m. on January 24, 2011. The discharge was stopped immediately after it was found. The groundwater contains low concentrations of VOCs. The Sanitation Districts implemented clean-up and recovery protocols and will provide more information to the CAC when they finish gathering all of the relevant data.

The CAC chairperson requested following items for the next CAC meeting agenda:

- 1) An audience member wanted to know why PCE and methylene chloride appear to be increasing in the VOC emissions inventories for the landfill site,
- 2) An audience member commented that three sampling stations were used for ambient air monitoring during the Remedial Investigation, yet only two are used currently. The Sanitation Districts agreed to make a presentation about AQMD 1150.1 surface gas and ambient air monitoring at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at about 6:45 p.m. The next CAC meeting will be on April 25, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. in the Rolling Hills Estates council chambers.