

## South Bay Odor Stakeholders Group

### Meeting Minutes

Date: April 18, 2024

Location: Microsoft Teams

Recorder: Republic Services

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**Attendees:** Anurag Pal, Office of Asm. Alex Lee; Anthony Boccaleoni, Republic Services; Carmen Montano, Mayor, City of Milpitas; Chia Ling Kong, City of Milpitas; Elaine Ko, BAAQMD; Elaine Marshall, City of Milpitas; Eric Kiruja, CalRecycle; Gregory H. Nudd, BAAQMD; Jason Nettleton, City of San Jose; John Marvin, BAAQMD; Juan Ortellado, BAAQMD; Jose Guerrero, CSJ WWTP; Kathy Cote, City of Fremont; Michael Geiss, Republic Services; Paul Grazzini, BAAQMD; Rachelle Huber, Republic Services; Richard Elkins, Republic Services; Roberto Alonzo, City of Milpitas; Stanley Tom, BAAQMD; Tamiko Endow, BAAQMD; Tom Pyke, Office of Congressman Ro Khanna

### Discussion

Enrique Perez	1. Call to Order  10:33 a.m.
SBOSG members	2. Overview of Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2024  No changes
Paul Grazzini Carmen Montano Chia-Ling Kong	3. <b>BAAQMD</b> – Odor Complaints and Enforcement Activities Paul: We had approximately 40 complaints in January and of those, four were confirmed to be coming from the Newby Island Landfill. 48 complaints in February, with one confirmed to the landfill and one confirmed as compost. 41 complaints in March - four of those were confirmed to Newby Island Landfill and one of those alleged the sewage treatment plant, but that was unconfirmed. And then coming into April, as it stands, when I did the data poll yesterday, there were 10 complaints showing up on the list. I don't have a status confirmed, unconfirmed for those yet, but I do know several complaints came in last night. I know there was a call out and a minimum of phone investigation with some follow up today that will be occurring. We've been out to Newby recently to do an inspection and we found a couple of leaks. Carmen: What type of leaks? Is it the methane leaks? Paul: Landfill gas leaks at components and or at the well site. Chia: I wanted to give feedback because January, February, March, the amount of complaints that I've heard directly from neighbors and from resident members has been astronomically high. I would say in the last two years there has been improvement but

	<p>then suddenly the beginning of this year again it has been really, really bad and everybody is smelling it from very far, even from across Milpitas, especially in the areas surrounding City Hall area. Do you know precisely why this time of the year all of a sudden, nothing really has changed from an operational perspective, we heard several times that nothing operational really happens, but we continue to see leaks contributing to odor increase. Enrique: There hasn't been any major changes in operations or significant changes to what we've been doing in terms of landfill and the recyclery. Paul: When I when I talk about these numbers, we're seeing that the odors are reaching farther and while it's not atypical to see 40 complaints in a particular month, usually it tapers off after that. We have concerns about that and, just to speak broadly about our enforcement efforts, we are investigating this actively. I can't really talk more detail about that because it's an investigation, but just to be clear, we have noted this and we are seeing that pattern. Chia: So as far as investigation is concerned, are there active notices of violations because you did say that there are leaks that you did define, you detected leaks as part of your inspection process. Paul: When we find leaks, we issue notices of violation with regard to the investigation, there hasn't been any issuance there because it's an active investigation. The issuance of any notices of violation or for any violations found as a result of the investigation would come at a later time. When we make those determinations, if we make those determinations, we will bring it to this body and let you folks know about that.</p>
<p>Greg Nudd Chia-Ling Kong</p>	<p><b>4. BAAQMD - Odor Study Update</b> Greg: The odor study has been released and we will be making a presentation to the Milpitas City Council on it on May 21st. My colleague Viet Tran will be there in person and I'll be online to help answer questions, as will my colleague Meredith Bauer, who's Deputy Executive Officer of Engineering and Enforcement. Chia: Where is the odor study released to? What's that form or website that we can access for the public? Paul: I'll drop a link in the chat.</p>
<p>Jon Freedman Stanley Tom Benjamin Wade Chia-Ling Kong</p>	<p><b>5. Republic Services - Landfill Gas Collection System Update</b> Refer to PowerPoint presentation. Jon: So these are the statistics for the past five years. Number of wells there on the left column - Which varies from time to time due to fill sequencing and activities. Sometimes a well will be compromised by filling activities, and you'll see a fluctuation in those numbers and we can replace the wells immediately. These numbers reflect the amount of landfill gas and the flare which is typically around 2 billion cubic feet per year and that does fluctuate with time, sometimes, liquid levels in the landfill may decrease the the amount of gas we recover, but pretty consistently it's in that range. Going on to landfill gas system plans in 2024, so far we have replaced 8 wells that have been redrilled and installed. We have 15 additional wells that are scheduled for redrilling as fill sequencing and construction activities allow. And then in also during this year, we have installed fourteen additional new wells. There are in an area that we are currently under construction and as that area is completed, those wells will be brought online. Stanley: So you would think if you're processing you have more material in the landfill, your landfill gas flare should also be increasing, but looks like it's decreasing. Seems like there's enough wells, that it should actually increase, right? Benjamin: There are multiple factors</p>

	<p>that will impact performance and collection of a landfill gas asset and it is essentially a process of maintaining our gas collection control system. It's a process of constant evaluation and improvement as you look at these wells, it's just the total number frequency it's not necessarily fair to evaluate that on a one for one basis. There are things if you look, think of any asset like a car, you first buy it, it's getting your miles per gallon that you expect as things take time. You know you replace the asset with new items. So overall, I think you'll see on this trend, 2023 is a record year. We are collecting more and more gas and adding more and more wells and I think that that direction is what we will continually see going forward. And there are, the variations that you see in the past, those exist for the numerous operational reasons, but those are what are communicated as per allowable well actions in the permit and what we submit in our LMR and semi annual reporting as well. Chia: It's kind of counterintuitive that the remaining capacity increases over time. Jon: The remaining capacity will vary as we get different compaction rates. We fly over the site on an annual basis to get the volume of space that's left and then that is converted into a capacity taking into account the density we got in previous years so that's why you will see a variation in that. Benjamin: Our remaining capacity as relative to our Title 5 air permit and it does decrease year over year. And I think in the next quarterly meeting, we'll update this slide to reflect that relative to that point as it does follow the relationship that you implied there. Chia: I feel not enough extraction valve so when can we expect an optimal condition where you have enough wells for about a week that you have in place versus the efficiency of the system itself to make sure that it doesn't cause leaks. Benjamin: So we are consistently evaluating a data from various sources to evaluate the sections of our landfill gas collection and control system that are performing optimally and the areas to potentially improve. This includes inspection data from BAAQMD. It also includes our internal surface emissions monitoring data, which we utilize to identify leaks, and we'll utilize information from other third party sources such as the odor study or other monitoring companies, between those items, we collaborate with our landfill gas design engineers to develop construction plants in order to address those known identified issues. The project that John alluded to here will address many outstanding items and we anticipate will be completed here in the coming weeks. It will be a constant process of continued evaluation. We're never going to reach a point and say we're done, but the processes in place to identify deficiencies and then consistently respond to them. Will continue to be done until we reach our consistent period of optimal metrics. Chia: And hopefully part of your optimal metric will be there are zero complaints from the community, right? That's the goal that we hope will be achieved someday, cause right now it's definitely too high as compared to last year's. Benjamin: That goal is shared. Stanley: I also wanted to make a comment on the waste in place value like Ben was talking about. The permitted limit is 39 million tons and it looks like you guys were at about 37 million. So are you guys almost at the permitted limit or have you guys exceeded it yet or when do you project to exceeded? Benjamin: That information should be present in our most recent LMR report. I don't have it in in front of me, but and we can review those numbers and present them on the next call. Stanley: If you guys could present this information each meeting to keep the group up to date on the how much gas is being collected and your well counts, that would be appreciated.</p>
	<p>6. Round-Table Update No updates</p>
<p>Enrique Perez</p>	<p>7. Suggested Next Meeting Date</p>

	Next scheduled meeting October 18 at 10:30 am – 12 pm via Microsoft Teams
Enrique Perez	8. Adjourn 11:08 a.m.