

## South Bay Odor Stakeholders Group

### Meeting Minutes

Date: October 17, 2024

Location: Microsoft Teams

Recorder: Republic Services

---

**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; 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
SBOSG members	2. Overview of Meeting Minutes from April 18, 2024  Remove Tamiko Endow from list of attendees.
Paul Grazzini Enrique Perez Chia-Ling Kong Meredith Bauer	3. <b>BAAQMD – Odor Complaints and Enforcement Activities</b> Paul: Starting from April to the current date. In April there were 38 complaints. 43 in May, 45 in June, 29 in July, 33 in August, 29 in September. In June, we were able to confirm five of those complaints. It's been pretty consistent month by month from the beginning of the year. There have been somewhere between 30 and 40 complaints a month. So the total count to date is 380 which is which is bit of an uptick from last year where we only saw a total of 169 complaints. 2022 there were 427. It's a little bit concerning that most of our enforcement activity has revolved around trying to investigate these complaints and trying to determine an exact source which is a little bit difficult as the odors themselves can be fleeting and temporary in nature. We're still seeing a few of the complaints come in between 5 - 9:00 PM. We're doing our best to investigate. For other enforcement activities there's a comprehensive review going on that involves our fog group that's looking at taking a more in depth look at operations and design and of the landfill, their gas collection and control system so I don't have the results for that. It's going take us some time to get through that but when that is complete, we will share the results with this group. Enrique: There's been a total of 6 confirmed from April to October. Ling: I've requested Jeanne to add this to the agenda because a couple of weeks ago the community members were invited to do a community tour of Newby Island and

Enrique, as well as the environmental manager, Jon, was kind enough to host the meeting, so we do have representative from the city, which is Councilmember Barbadillo also join us and we have the resident representative from Fremont, Eric, also joined us. It was a very, very productive discussion and we have learned from the meeting, such as how complaints that community members have called in to BAAQMD and how that is being fed forward to the operation team at Newby Island and it has come to our attention that there has been a delay in terms of when the complainants file and when that information is being passed forward so I wanted to bring this into discussion.

As we agreed during that meeting that this is something that we definitely want to collectively address. At least improve the time that it alerts the facilities when complaints are coming in from the community. That way you BAAQMD can proactively respond to it earlier rather than wait a day or two. For the information to be pushed forward from BAAQMD to the facilities, Enrique, please chime in. If I'm capturing the take-away from our discussion because I think this was one thing that everybody agreed from that discussion about how the complaint process was being handled. That was one thing that we see an area for improvement, which is the speed at which information is being transferred.

Enrique: The conclusion of the discussion for the members of BAAQMD that generally we don't get the complaints real time and when complaints come in, it's hard to identify because they could be passive for a short period of time. We have to go back on weather data and operations data - wind direction and tide levels. We know there are some members of the community that do have our direct line and they've reached out to us and there may not be a manager onsite because like you mentioned, a lot of these complaints come between the hours of 5- 9:00 PM, when operations have ceased. But we do make the effort when we can to try to understand the complaint area and do an observation of the site or if there is any operations that have a that are occurring, but when it's the case that the landfill is closed, we try our best to drive around and see if there's any particular odor coming from the facility at that point in time and we report back to the few amount of people that have direct contact with us. I think the consensus was that if the complaints were able to be pushed forward in in a more expedited fashion, we can do the investigation a little bit quicker and try to identify if the source whether it's coming from us or coming from other contributors in the area, and we can make note of that. And that was the basis of the discussion. Like Ling mentioned it was a community tour that tried to accommodate just like we did with Mayor Carmen Montano so they could see the processes that we have in place and how the operation runs. There were a lot of positive outcomes from the meeting because we want to make sure that we're communicating to the community and the members of the SBOSG. But at the same time, we know education is a factor that goes into play on the different systems that we have to reduce odors.

Paul: I can't make any effective promises in that regard with the more rapid notification because that has to do with how our systems operate within the air district.

Enrique: When a complaint comes in and the person calling the complaint identifies a source of order, does BAAQMD only contact Newby, or does it contact other

	<p>contributors? Paul: If the person alleges a sewer odor, they're going to call the sewage treatment plant. If they if they allege a dump or a trash odor, more than likely they're going to contact Newby. Based on their investigation, they may not contact the sewage treatment plant. It evolves in real time. Ling: Can community members see all the complaints on the BAAQMD website? Meredith: Our complaint process expert Tracy Lee is not on today, so I'd really like to have that be a follow up item where we can give you more information on that and explain how it works and what the limitations are.</p>
<p>Viet Tran Chia-Ling Kong Meredith Bauer Enrique Perez Tamiko Endow</p>	<p><b>4. BAAQMD - Odor Study Update</b></p> <p>Viet: Many of you on this in this meeting right now were also with me in the meeting on May 21st when I attended the Milpitas City Council meeting, joined by many of you that are in this meeting. In that meeting, we talked about an overview of the study, the history of the complaints and actions, as well as this group. I mentioned to the mayor that she herself has been in these meetings and she's part of this group as well as well as Miss Kong. And then we talked about the odor study challenges and goals, the overview of actions since January 2022 when we first engaged in this conversation with the public and with the Mayor and Council, and then we talked about some potential actions to address the odor issues. With that, we published the report to our website, and it's been live since March. Ling: This SBOSG group was formed as part of the permit condition for the landfill expansion at Newby Island. And as part of the condition was once we completed this odor study. Are there any actionable improvements that is being identified by the study? Will be implemented. What are the steps being taken right now to make sure that the recommendations for odor mitigation and reductions are being planned out with the facilities in question? There are multiple sources that have been identified five or six different ones within the report. So how is this being administered as far as making sure that the facilities are taking on the improvements and within? A timeline that this group will also be aware of and be able to monitor the progress. Viet: The facilities should be in these meetings with us and responding directly to this group as to the steps being taken. Meredith: I will also add that from the air district side of things, that's a big part of the additional investigation work that's going on and we hopefully will have more to report out on that at the next time we see you. But we are taking that part very seriously. So, the accountability is not necessarily with us in terms of having taken those actions to fix it, but the part that we can do is show up, look for the NOVs. Look for the compliance part of it and take appropriate steps. Chia: Will this be a recurring agenda to have updates from the facilities as far as you know whether the learnings from this study that they are implementing and which ones they would not be able to do just because of technology or resource constraints? Enrique: I can speak for Republic Services in terms of improvements. We touch a lot of a lot of them on our landfill gas collection system update we also had the deodorizers that were installed but we continue to do is proper</p>

	<p>cover operations with the proper materials at the end of the day and just a curing to the operational requirements that we have that will assist in in you know trying to reduce odors, but a lot of the updates that you will get is part of our landfill gas collection system update in in those systems. Tamiko: I have a question about the requirements of the San Jose permit. We did ask for that to be shared so that we can all understand what the requirements are. Is it correct that the San Jose permit requires you to take all feasible steps recommended by the study?. Enrique: The Solid Waste Facility permit was issued February 2015. It's a public document for you to view. We are not aware of any conditions to the odor study because that was collected before and the odor study was connected to 2022, but that document is there for the district, or I could share it with you and send it over. Ling: It does mention any feasible odor mitigation or reduction measures that are identified. They shall be implemented by the permitting within a time frame agreed upon by the permitting the Odor Stakeholders Group and the director of Planning, building and code enforcement so it seems like this body needs to be part of the discussion of measures that will be implemented. Tamiko: Do you know what the procedure is? The process will be to decide on the timeline for those measures. Enrique: At the moment I don't. I would have to do my investigation and research and once we do that we can get back to the group.</p>
<p>Enrique Perez Jon Freedman Stanley Tom Paul Grazzini Tamiko Endow Benjamin Wade</p>	<p><b>5. Republic Services - Landfill Gas Collection System Update</b>          Enrique: We get a landfill gas collection system update; I'll call over Jon Friedman will give us an update on the landfill gas collection system. Jon: To date in 2024 we have added a total of 21 gas collecting devices to the field, which has resulted in an uptick on our overall flow rate through the flares. We are currently flaring about 5500 cubic feet per minute, so our efforts are continuing. We have a additional enhancement to the system planned that will be taking place in the remainder of this year and then in 2025, we will be also implementing more collector installation and further enhancements of the system. Stanley: I sent out to Newby the past historical gas collection for the landfill for the past few years that was reported to us through the annual permit renewal process. So I was wondering if I could request maybe to send that out to the group so that the group could have the historical data of how the landfill gas collection system has been performing in the past and then also to add any of this new data in 2024 to that list so we can just track how the performance is coming along. Enrique: That's something we could get together and add it to the next agenda. Paul: I just wanted to break back in and provide an update on those six complaints that were confirmed in between June and July. Those were all confirmed to the landfill itself. They weren't confirmed to the recycling facility or the composting facility, which any that would have been confirmed the composting facility we'd have to refer to the LEA, but just to verify that I had a minute to</p>

	<p>go look at that. All were confirmed to the landfill itself. Tamiko: Do you have any activities that would have occurred between June and July that would have resulted in those complaints? Enrique: We did have the construction of a new cell where there were some upgrades to the system that could have contributed, but since they're so sparsely out, I can't clearly point it to that. That operation has been completed. Tamiko: When you say new cell, are you talking about opening areas that contain waste or opening up an area that did not contain waste? Enrique: It's an over liner project to tie in to the liner system. There were areas where there was waste that had to be exposed to tie in. Ben: And as a part of this project was the installation of multiple gas collectors as well. So during the construction and drilling of additional wells that Jon alluded to there are periods of exposed post waste but again, we can't necessarily tie it to it. But we can look into the time frame in our construction logs and evaluate if there are any items for further consideration. Tamiko: Do you know how long the waste was exposed? Waste is covered at the end of each working day but whenever you're disturbing an area, there could be intermittent periods of exposed waste, but is covered at the end of work working day, no waste is left exposed overnight. Tamiko: Were those complaints, evening complaints, or were they during the day? Paul: No, those were during the day. One on June 10<sup>th</sup>, one on the 11<sup>th</sup>, two on June 17<sup>th</sup>, one on June 24<sup>th</sup> and one on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Have to dig into each one of those individually to get the exact time. Tamiko: If Republic could at the next meeting discussed what activities, if that was tied to construction of the new cells or installation of new wells, that would be useful. Also, what additional measures you could take to make sure that exposing waste is not going to create odors that are complaints. That would be helpful.</p>
	<p>6. Round-Table Update No updates</p>
Enrique Perez	<p>7. Suggested Next Meeting Date</p> <p>Next scheduled meeting January 16 at 10:30 am – 11:30 pm via Microsoft Teams</p>
Enrique Perez	<p>8. Adjourn</p> <p>11:15 a.m.</p>