South Bay Odor Stakeholders' Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 20, 2017
Time: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm
Location: Sonesta Silicon Valley (1820 Barber Lane, Milpitas)
Attendees: See Sign-in Sheet
Recorder: Josh Mills, Republic Services

Discussion

Evan Boyd	Introductions, asked everyone to sign in, reviewed the last meeting minutes, inquired if anyone needed modifications to the minutes or any action items that were not addressed and distributed current agenda. Minutes were reviewed – no comments were suggested. All of the previous meeting minutes are posted on the SBOSG website for reference.
Evan Boyd - Chris Moylan – Chia Kong – Ryan Ford – Kathy Cote – John Marvin – Tracy Lee – Bob Bates	Pursuant to the Planned Development Permit (PD) issued to Newby Island, Republic is responsible to provide full funding to retain a third party independent consultant to complete a regional odor study mutually agreed upon by the South Bay Odor Stakeholders Group (SBOSG). The first step in the project process is to identify facilities to be included in the study and send invitations for participation. Republic has previously enlisted the help of a consulting firm to perform an Odor Study and the City of San Jose has previously performed their own, independent odor study. The two former odor studies focused primarily on Newby Island. The intent of the regional study, described in the PD Permit, is to capture a representative analysis of the entire area and to include all of the potential odor sources. The scope of this study is to be defined by the SBOSG. The study is to be coordinated with the permitting agency, the City of San Jose. Chia stated that at a minimum, ZWED and the Waste Water Treatment plant must participate; otherwise the study would be meaningless. Kathy asked if there is a way to encourage facilities to participate. Based on the attendance record of the SBOSG Meetings, it may prove difficult to get certain facilities to agree to participate in the regional odor study. It seems unlikely that these facilities would be willing commit to participating if the odor study results identify potential odor issues with their operation. Chris stated that participation cannot be voluntary if the results are going to be representative. Measuring results from only a percentage of cooperating facilities will not produce meaningful results.

	John agreed with Chris and stated that other potentially odorous operations in the region, along with Newby, should be considered for inclusion in order for the results of the study to be a representative model of the area. The existing map of potential odor sources in the south bay area (posted on the SBOSG website) is a good starting point for creating a list of facilities that need to be included in the study. Facilities previously identified include: The San Jose - Santa Clara Waste Water Treatment Plant, Open Air Sewage Sludge Drying Beds, ZWED, Zanker C&D Recycling, Zanker Composting, Cargill Salt Ponds & The US Fish and Wildlife Service Ponds. Other facilities not included on the map, within the area are: Vision Recycling in Fremont, Green Waste Recovery Center, & TRI Cities Landfill. Some of these facilities are upwind from the prevailing wind direction towards the community and should be considered for inclusion. Chris asked if the BAAQMD could compel the facilities to participate. John Marvin responded that BAAQMD cannot compel them, but that the City of San Jose may have some influence over their involvement. Evan added that he thought the elected government bodies could put additional pressure on these facilities to participate if needed. Bob asked what system BAAQMD uses to determine how complaints are assigned to facilities. Newby has received complaints from the community describing unpleasant odors typically associated with Waste Water Operations. John stated that he believed the Milpitas residents are of the opinion that odors in the community are emanating from Newby and is why the region for the study should be identified by the Map. Tracy added that BAAQMD does not assign the odor complaints to a facility when they are received but rather it is the responsibility of the complainant to allege the source. Chia commented that the public relies on BAAQMD to define the potential odor sources and determine where specific odors are coming from. Steve asked if BAAQMD has their complaint data in map form. To which, John and Tracy said that they have complaints by zip code. John agreed to assess the need to include Vision Recycling and other facilities that have been mentioned during the meeting. The consensus was that the Odor Sources Map, posted on the SBOSG website, will help define the initial list of facilities to consider for inclusion in the regional odor study. The final list of participants will be compiled and circulated to the group before the next SBOSG meeting. Juan asked who the invite to participate in the regional odor group would come from. The challenge with the SBOSG is that it is a consortium that is organized on a volunteer basis. It may be best to approach this like a CEQA process and engage the City of San Jose as the lead agency. Kathy stated that the invite should come from the City of San Jose. Ryan responded that the City of San Jose is looking to the SBOSG, as stipulated in the PD Permit, to define the scope of the study. The group could reach out to the City of San Jose and suggest that the invite to participate in the regional study be on City letter head.

	Once the geographical area and participants have been identified, the consultant chosen by the group, will be able to better define the scope of work for this study. Steve asked if BAAQMD performed odor studies. John responded that the scope of this type of project too large of an undertaking for their District. ERM performed the odor study commissioned by the City of San Jose.
Josh Mills – Chia Kong – Evan Boyd – Kathy Cote	Newby Island has committed to converting the convention windrow composting operation to an Aerated Static Pile (ASP) operation. To meet State mandated diversion rates, we are currently diverting approx. 500 to 700 tons of green/food waste from the landfill and composting the material. The comingled feedstock material is comprised of approx. 10:1 green:food waste. The quantity and quality of the feedstock will not change during this transition. Currently we have an 18 acre pad which supports our compost operation. Typically the pad has 40 to 50 windrows in different stages of decomposition. It takes approx. 60 to 70 days from receiving the green/food waste material to screening the final composted material. Once we convert the system to an ASP operation, the time it takes to compost material will be accelerated to 25 to 30 days and the footprint of the actively composting material would be reduced from approx. 18 acres to 9.5 acres. The process of ASP includes placing feedstock on top of perforated pipes that will convey forced air from a blower system through the waste material to rebalance the oxygen and heat during the decomposition process. Currently the rebalancing of those parameters occurs during the conventional windrow turning event. The ASP system we have designed will be automated to assure our compost will receive consistent air flow as needed and will minimize any potential for uneven decomposition. The system will also have remote control and real time data access capabilities. It has been proven with similar systems that by converting to this type of operation that air emissions, including any potential odor could be reduced up to 80% when compared to a conventional windrow process. The design of the ASP system has been finalized, some of the materials have been procured and we are currently in the process of obtaining all of our permits to operate through BAAQMD and the City of San Jose LEA. Chia asked if we had considered wind erosion or other damage that could happen to the biofilter. Josh responded that although unlikely due to the moisture content of the material and predominant wind speeds that the biofilter will remain in place during the entire composting process. Should any portion of the biofilter become compromised during the process, application of additional cover will be placed immediately. Steve stated that he had heard from the EPA that this ASP process was the most effective to abate potential migrating odors from a compost operation. Steve asked how the footprint would be reduced if the throughput tonnage remained the same. Josh responded that due to residency time and the physical ASP infrastructure the footprint of the actively composting material would be reduced. The operation will still require real estate to support the curing and screening operation. Evan added that the footprint would also further be reduced due to limited access needs of support equipment for this system. Typically the agitation of the windrows, during the decomposition process will produce the largest potential for odor. With the new ASP system, there will no longer be the need to agitate the windrows on a weekly basis to rebalance the oxygen and heat.

	Kathy asked about when and how the phasing process will work. Josh responded that the system will be fully phased in by the end of the year. The transition process will start around October or November, depending on when the Authority to Construct and operating permits are received. To achieve an ideal decomposition environment, the compost is maintained between 140 to 160*F. Bob mentioned that as part of the regular Compost 5-year Solid Waste Facility Permit review, the Compost facility permit will be revised to reflect the operational changes of the ASP. Evan mentioned that one of the Best Management Plans we implement onsite to minimize the potential for emanating odors include continuously monitoring weather and making operational adjustments to further assure site activities do not impact the community.
Evan Boyd – Tracy Lee – Juan Ortellado	The Zero Waste to Energy Facility had started a composting pilot project which was put on hold by BAAQMD for not obtaining a permit. BAAQMD believes that they are currently going through the permit process. Steve asked if the BAAQMD could dictate which composting process they implement. Juan stated that they could not require a facility to use a certain process but would be able to impose permit conditions on the operation to assure it met BACT.
Evan Boyd	Republic Services has been contacted by the Water District regarding the staging of materials for the Santa Valley Water District Tidal Marsh Restoration Project. This project is slated to start at the end of this year or the beginning of next and involves restoring the salt ponds in the south bay.
Tracy Lee – Chia Kong	For the duration of January to June 2017 the total number of odor complaints for the area of Milpitas was 1,100. This number is approximately 1,000 less compared to the same time of last year. Steve asked what BAAQMD thought attributes to the reduction in complaints. Tracy replied that there are season fluctuations that affect the number of odor complaints. Based on the feedback she received from her field inspectors, specifically regarding Newby, she also attributes the reduction in odor complaints to facility improvements. Chia added that she has heard of non-environmental factors that could potentially discourage reporting odor such as the call-in process.

Action Items

1. Define the list of Facilities to be considered for the Regional Odor Study.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2017, 11:30am to 1:30pm, Sonesta Silicon Valley (1820 Barber Lane, Milpitas)