



South Coast Air Quality
Management District

Update on Agencies' Actions to Address Odors Information Sheet (October 2011)







Sunshine Canyon Landfill

This Information Sheet has been prepared by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL LEA), and with input from the County and City of Los Angeles. The purpose of this Information Sheet is to provide the communities surrounding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and others with updated information regarding efforts by the above agencies to address odor complaints from nearby residents and schools related to the operations at Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

SUMMARY:

Sunshine Canyon Landfill, owned and operated by Browning Ferris Industries of California, Inc., a subsidiary of Republic Services, Inc. (BFI/Republic), is a large municipal waste landfill, located approximately one (1) mile north of Granada Hills. Portions of the landfill are located in the City of Los Angeles and the other portions of the landfill are located in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The landfill has been in operation since the 1950s and has accepted and placed refuse in both the city and county portions of the landfill site.

Beginning in early 2009 and continuing to the present, operations at Sunshine Canyon Landfill have been the subject of a large number of odor complaints from nearby residents and schools. Oversight of operations at Sunshine Canyon Landfill is the responsibility of various public agencies including:

-  Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL LEA) of CalRecycle,
-  City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning and Department of Building and Safety,
-  County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning and Department of Public Works, and
-  South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD).

These agencies are closely working together to address and resolve the odor problem from the landfill.

UPDATE ON RECENT AGENCY ACTIONS:

1. Interagency Task Force:

In June 2011, AQMD convened an Interagency Task Force with representatives from each of the above agencies which have oversight on operations at Sunshine Canyon Landfill, in an attempt to effectively address and resolve the odors from the landfill affecting the nearby communities and schools, through increased interagency coordination. The Task Force meets regularly to share information regarding odor investigations, inspection findings, and enforcement actions, and to coordinate joint agency actions and communications with landfill operators to expedite resolution of the odor problem.

2. Joint Agency Inspection of Sunshine Canyon Landfill:

As a result of discussions at the Interagency Task Force, in September 2011, representatives from AQMD, SCL LEA and Los Angeles City and County conducted an unannounced comprehensive joint inspection at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Various aspects of landfill operations, such as landfill surface emission monitoring, flare operations, daily covers, perimeter probes monitoring and other odor control measures were inspected. AQMD and SCL LEA inspectors identified a number of noncompliance conditions related to landfill surface and perimeter exceedances, and enforcement actions were taken by respective agencies.

3. Petition to Amend the Order for Abatement for Sunshine Canyon Landfill:

Since April 2010, BFI/Republic has been operating the Sunshine Canyon Landfill under a Stipulated Order for Abatement (SOA) issued by the AQMD Hearing Board (a quasi-judicial body separate from AQMD). The SOA includes many operational provisions designed to minimize the landfill odors. However, due to the continued odor

problems, on October 26, 2011, AQMD filed a petition with the Hearing Board to modify the SOA to impose significant additional requirements on the operations at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The proposed amendments include expeditious and significant improvements to landfill gas collection and disposal system, increased on-site and off-site monitoring, implementation of improved operational plans, ambient monitoring and the use of outside expert consultants to design, construct, maintain and operate a superior landfill gas collection and disposal system. The Hearing Board has tentatively scheduled a hearing at Van Nuys City Hall on November 19, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. and on November 29 and 30, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the AQMD office in Diamond Bar.

OTHER AGENCY INFORMATION/ACTIVITIES UPDATE:

Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL LEA):

The SCL LEA is onsite during all hours of operation of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The SCL LEA conducts inspections onsite and offsite to evaluate impacts from the landfill operations. These impacts include trash and litter blowing offsite, landfill odors and inspections of perimeter landfill gas probes. SCL LEA has identified exceedances at three perimeter probes and issued a Notice of Violation to the landfill operator. CalRecycle had noted these violations and issued a Notice of Intent to include Sunshine Canyon Landfill on the inventory of solid waste facilities which violate state minimum standards. BFI/Republic has submitted a work plan and timetable for correcting these violations. The SCL LEA is reviewing the work plan, will monitor the repairs and is currently verifying the reported repairs to two of the three non-compliant probe locations.

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD):

The AQMD conducts frequent unannounced inspections of landfills and responds to public complaints. The AQMD has received a significant number of odor complaints about Sunshine Canyon Landfill and, since 2009, has issued thirty-five (35) Notices of Violation to BFI/Republic for verified public nuisances relating to odors from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The AQMD has also recently issued Notices of Violation for landfill gas surface emissions exceeding limits allowed by AQMD rules.

As a result of the significant number of public nuisance violations and the continued odor problem, AQMD has filed a petition with the AQMD Hearing Board to amend the existing Stipulated Order for Abatement issued by the Hearing Board to impose several additional operational requirements on BFI/Republic. The proposed amendments have been discussed with the Interagency Task Force members and are intended to address both trash odors, as well as landfill gas odors, by requiring significant and expeditious improvements to the landfill gas collection and control system and other operational requirements. The Interagency Task Force members have provided input and comments and are in full support of AQMD's petition to amend the Order for Abatement.

County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning and Department of Public Works:

The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, in September 2010, imposed a requirement that the landfill operator cover the trash deposited at the landfill at the end of each day with nine (9) inches of compacted soil, in an effort to address one of the potential sources of odors. In addition, the County of LA is working collaboratively to address other operational aspects, such as odoriferous loads handling and community outreach, to comprehensively control odors from all areas of the landfill.

The agencies listed in the Summary section of this Information Sheet take the community and school air quality concerns very seriously. All agencies are committed to work together and with community and school representatives, as well as BFI/Republic to address the odors from Sunshine Canyon Landfill affecting the residents, students and school staff.

**To report an air quality complaint, please call the AQMD's 24-hour toll-free number:
1(800) CUT-SMOG (1-800-288-7664).**