

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, July 9, 2020**

Knollwood Country Club, 12024 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344  
DRAFT Minutes [to be replaced by “Approved \_[Month]\_ \_[date]\_, 201\_[year]\_”]

In conformity with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this meeting was conducted online and telephonically.

Members: Jeanette Capaldi (Vice-Chair), Laine Caspi (Secretary), Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck (Treasurer), Wayde Hunter (Chair & TAC Rep), Debbie Pietraszko (Parliamentarian) and Dr. Donna Zero.

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of March 12, 2020 Minutes (Chair).**

This online virtual meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:08 p.m. on July 9, 2020 in Granada Hills, California by Chair, Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Five of the seven Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Laine Caspi, Richard Fisk, Wayde Hunter and Debbie Pietraszko. Dr. Donna Zero arrived later. Absent: Larry Fleck. Karen Coca had resigned. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present. There were two openings. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Chris Coyle; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Terrence Mann, Larry Israel, Rainbow Yeung, Victor Yip, John Anderson and Chris Ravensteen; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Dee Lugo and Dave Thompson; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: none; L.A. County Public Works Dept.: none; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Edgar De La Torre and Diana Gonzales; L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s Office: Jarrod DeGonia; L.A. City Councilman John Lee’s Office: none; L.A. City Planning Dept.: Nicholas Hendricks and Devon Zatorski; and LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Also attended: approximately nine residents and other guests. A Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related SCL-CAC and Landfill documents were available at <http://SCL-CAC.org> and slides were shown.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Caspi, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its March 12, 2020 Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

**B. Old Business: Discussion and Committee motions & possible action:**

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair).  
Mr. Hunter indicated that there were none, however, he did apologize to all those in attendance, and asked them to bear with us, as this was our (CAC) first virtual meeting.

- Treasurer's Report, March 2020 – June 2020 (Treasurer).  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #D.] Mr. Hunter reported that the Committee had \$123,590.95 at the end of June. He reviewed costs.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Fisk, seconded by Mr. Hunter): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the March-June 2020 Treasurer's Report as presented.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

**C. New Business.** Discussion and possible Committee motions & action to address the following:

1. Browning-Ferris Industries/Republic Services Inc. (BFI/Republic) to report on any and all Sunshine Canyon Landfill daily activities, state of infrastructure/gas collection system, notable events, current and future disposal operations, including continuing efforts to abate odors.

[This Item was addressed after Terrence Mann's report in Item #C. 2.] Chris Coyle, General Manager, BFI/Republic [24-hour Landfill hotline 818-779-9170; main 818-362-2124; [Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com](mailto:Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com); <http://SunshineCanyonLandfill.com>], reported that "nothing much has changed to our disposal or operations at our location. . . still in CC4 part 3.... we continue to use Enviro-Cover as ADC and it is performing as expected . . . a lot of summer construction activities going on . . . since March we have had two rain days (March 16 and May 18) ... both events unexpected, but not significant amounts of rain..... stormwater controls worked as expected, and no damage to the site..... in March we received 6.07 inches with 5.25 inches in April.... trace amounts of 0.79 inches in May and 0.02 inches in June..... total rain for the season going back to last October was 23.73 inches . . . Now that we are in summer, we have begun our wet weather preparation plan for the 2020 – 2021 season, with a certified engineer, and have begun ordering materials for that..... our plan (wet prep) is due to the SCL-LEA by October 1<sup>st</sup>, and we plan to have most or all of it done for the rainy season, by that time... we made good progress to upgrade our landfill gas system and our collection system... we continue to upgrade the headers to allow the enhance capabilities of the new blowers skid to effectively distribute vacuum to the entire site... we finished the first phase of the vertical wells and horizontal collectors, which added an additional 18 new horizontal gas collection points, and are nearly complete with our second phase for 2020, which is a schedule that includes 36 new vertical wells... wells also continue to be evaluated for liquids and pumps are being installed to those wells that need liquids removed from them... we still average around 250 pumps in wells on site... we continue to move through the permitting process for the installation of Flare 12 with an expected installation completion target of 2020, pending approval... we are developing a new cell this year; we began mass excavation in early June... the cell will be called CC4 part 4a... excavation should take approximately eight weeks as it is a pretty small footprint and liner deployment should be completed by the end of September in plenty of time for the winter season... this cell has only a small floor, so we are only doing two gabions in it . . . In the prior cell we did

eight... we continue adding the gabions as they have proven to be effective in getting water out of the landfill... and gas.

“With the liner tie-in, we have developed an enhanced odor control system designed specifically for this liner tie-in... a combination of surface and trench collectors under a geosynthetic cover will be used to abate any odors generated during the construction... just so everybody knows when you tie-in the liner it is one of the riskier parts to have odors escape that can get in the atmosphere... We’ve developed a plan to keep it encapsulated as we do that liner tie-in.

“Here’s the bullet point I was talking about [referencing aerial picture/map], we are enhancing odor control mitigations in the middle of the site, and along the south side of the landfill... there is an attached map that I will get to, which is conceptual, but it gives you an idea of installing over the summer... some of it is already installed... we are using a combination of best practices such as Dust Boss, and misting lines to develop layers of mitigation between where the trash is, and where the property boundary is...”

Ms. Caspi and Ms. Pietraszko discussed the problem of presenting Mr. Coyle’s presentation document to the attendees; Mr. Hunter offered that he had already sent this presentation via email to the Committee and to the public, and also that it was available on the [www.scl-cac.org](http://www.scl-cac.org) website under “BFI/Republic, number 8,” and to click on “Manager’s Report to the LEA”: the same drawing is there. Mr. Coyle explained that “a gabion (cube) are those rock structures about 12 feet high and 20 x 20 feet that are tied into the leachate collection system that allow for a greater surface area of water to get to the bottom of the Landfill for the leachate layer but allows for greater gas extraction, though it’s not in the well itself... Mr. Hunter opined “that in the past, when they drilled down to put their wells in for the extraction, they had to stay so far off of the top, that they couldn’t get down to the bottom... sometimes if they went too low they hit water and that created a problem, so these gabion cubes now... the wells go down and actually sit on the top of the cube which stops anything from getting into it (the well).” Mr. Coyle said that they installed gabion cubes in the last three or four cells and they have been a great improvement to keeping the wells dry.

Mr. Coyle displayed and referred to his presentation document and to the map to which he had previously referred. He indicated what the various solid and broken lines and dots represented. He referred to a new misting line that was planned which would be below the ridgeline as they are aware of the sensitivity of the public to the visual aspect. “We’re going to have three layers of protection between the active area and the southern ridgeline, which we are targeting for completion before the end of summer and before the winds change.” As to whether the system would be on the Landfill side or on the crest of the ridge where it will be visible to the public, he said that it would be on their property. Regarding the movement of the scales and administrative/employee locker rooms, Mr. Coyle indicated that the scale relocation is complete; they relocated it into the 500-foot setback of the Landfill footprint as referred to in the JTD (Joint Technical Document). Mr. Hunter requested a drawing or something unless they wanted

him to come up to the Landfill so that he could see what was happening. Mr. Coyle noted that 75% of the move of the admin/employee locker room is complete.

Mr. Coyle noted that the Landfill had received three Notices of Violation (NOVs), including one in May and one in June. He said that there was nothing wrong with the Landfill that he knew of, that the gas-to-energy plant and the flares have been running well, and that only unusual weather and winds were present. He noted that the Landfill cannot depend on the winds to control odors; that is why they have made a substantial six-figure investment in the odor mitigation system that he just presented. Mr. Coyle described changes to the methods of collection, and the Landfill's composition and volumes due to COVID-19 lifestyle changes.

2. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to report on odor complaints received and NOVs issued including any year-to-date charts, frequency of Inspector response to reports, and any other matters within their purview.

Terrence Mann, Deputy Executive Officer for Compliance (basically the new Chief of Enforcement), introduced Larry Israel, Rainbow Yeung, Victor Yip, Assistant Deputy Officer, John Anderson, and Chris Ravensteen, Staff Specialist. Mr. Mann indicated that "there have been some changes, division wide, agency wide from SCAQMD... you should hear it from me... I was talking to my team earlier and this is a really tough situation here (SCL)... that we feel for the community." If necessary, because of his background as a prosecutor, he is willing to get tough with the Landfill. He apologized for the lateness of his email in responding to an earlier CAC email (that complained of changes in response to complaints) which Mr. Hunter had referred to during his introduction, and said "with respect to what we are doing, we are not making massive changes but basically going back to the standard policies for after-hours."

He said "during business hours we respond to every complaint regardless of when it comes in; respond as in checking, call-back the complainant, do the proper investigation... that kind of thing... with respect to after-hours, overtime, and spending additional funds, our standard policy is that we only go out when we get three (3) calls in one (1) hour... in the past for high-priority facilities, high-profile, like this one (SCL), we have gone out with fewer complaints, or even one... you all have been the beneficiary of that, and that is when our resources allowed it... budgets are tighter... we are being consistent with everyone, be it Chiquita Canyon, facilities in Paramount or other places... none of them are being treated better."

Bill Piazza, of the LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety, interjected that "we want to make it clear that it has been a longstanding policy that, for many years, that a person from a school, be it Van Gogh or any other school calls, that represents the entire school population... so, we want to make it clear now, that you (Mr. Mann) are at the helm, that... it is a call for the entire school." Jarrod DeGonia [Field Deputy for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Kathryn Barger;

office 818-993-5170; cell 818-653-7812; [JDeGonia@lacbos.org](mailto:JDeGonia@lacbos.org); <https://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/kathryn-barger>], questioned Mr. Piazza, asking that “if he called in a complaint, would it represent all of the Board of Supervisors or his [5<sup>th</sup>] District?” Mr. Piazza said “no” and explained that, after a complaint, the AQMD Inspector would go class to class, knocking on the door and asking if they smelled anything... which was quite disruptive..... that it has been a long-standing practice for over 20 years that a call from the Principal or their representative was a call from the entire school population. Mr. DeGonia felt that it was “a slippery slope” and asked Mr. Mann to explain. Mr. Mann said he understood and that, under California law, the public nuisance standard regards interfering with a considerable number of persons or the public; school children are minors, cannot speak for themselves and cannot lodge a complaint, so teachers and/or other school officials act as proxies for the students. He said that he agreed with what Mr. Piazza said regarding a teacher or a staff member representing all the students. In closing, he spoke again on the CAC email regarding COVID-19, noting that there had been letters to the County Department of Health Services and that the AQMD was deferring to other agencies, as this was not their area of expertise.

[*The following was addressed after Item #C. 1.*] Larry Israel, Compliance Lead Inspector, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; [LIsrael@aqmd.gov](mailto:LIsrael@aqmd.gov); [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)], reported that, in March, there were a dozen complaints, and in April, there were 33. Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> had a lot of complaints for odors for Landfill gas in the evening, which was the first episode of the year that he could remember where the AQMD started getting significant amount of complaints after-hours. Complaints occurred again on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> but they didn’t result in a public nuisance [citation]. There were five complaints confirmed for Landfill gas in the Granada Hills area and some he believed in Sylmar. What he found more interesting is what was going on in May when almost a hundred complaints were received. He agreed with Mr. Coyle that this was an unusual year. Two NOVs were issued back-to-back on May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>; “half of the complaints were in the morning for Landfill trash, and half were in the evening for Landfill gas... the balance of May there were scattered reports at different times of the day... of the 98 odors reported in May, more than 65 complaints were in the morning for trash, and about 20+ were in the evening hours... in June we had about 20 complaints that did result in one NOV... this occurred on June 10<sup>th</sup> and there were 13 complaints, seven of which were verified... all morning complaints and strong, rotting trash odors is what I detected... in July so far, there were five complaints, but they were not verified . . . we did do our Title V inspection at the Landfill a few weeks ago and there were no violations issued then... we would typically at this time of year expect, due to the wind patterns, not too many complaints.”

*Committee Member Dr. Donna Zero arrived at this time (4:00), making six Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).*

Mr. Hunter said that Mr. Mann said it was all about economics, that budgetary concerns were the reason for changing the frequency of checking but that he was concerned that in June there was “no field response for 40% of eight out of

the 20 complaints, and the lack of a field response on the infamous Wednesday when there were 14 calls, you identified them as trash... but now we end up with three calls coming in the evening with no field response and now we have to assume that because they were in the evening, that it was Landfill gas, but we will never know... we depend on you to know what it (the odor) is, and maybe what the problem is at the Landfill.” Mr. Hunter felt with the past history of the Landfill and the fact that in the past, 20% of all calls to the AQMD for any reason were about the Landfill, that the AQMD was dropping the ball. Mr. Yip, SCAQMD Deputy Executive Officer, reported that “our Inspector did follow up with the Landfill asking them to look into it . . . the complaints were addressed [and] responded to.” Mr. Israel noted that while they are not getting calls from Van Gogh [School] right now, there is a likelihood of more people complaining, especially in the morning, due to being home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Hunter added that the appearance of an Inspector is validation of the person calling in the odor complaint, it makes the record, that we are not just bored people with nothing better to do, that our problem is real, and that is what is important to us. Mr. Mann assured Mr. Hunter and others that “there is nobody at the AQMD that thinks that this is a matter of being bored at home and have nothing better to do; the AQMD knows that it is an issue, that what you (community), are going through is true, it is valid, and it is happening... but our focus in these lean times is on enforcement; we will get to a Notice of Violation... we will do it . . . without apology or hesitation.”

Mr. Israel indicated that he can tell the difference between trash and Landfill gas, but not specifically from staging (trucks) in the morning, pointing out that the NOVs were “for trash odors.” Mr. Coyle said that reports of odors are investigated, winds are plotted and, specifically, what the AQMD Inspector found; “we are doing our homework trying to find the cause... we drive San Fernando Road as early as 4:30 a.m. to discourage staging; “drivers are disciplined” to discourage them from trying to get in early... we want to continuously improve the Landfill.” Mr. DeGonia asked Mr. Coyle if there have been any studies on wastestream impacts (for COVID-19) regionally, to which he responded that he thought it was too early to tell but that SCL tonnage and hours had increased, and that they have to provide a report to the LEA; “there is nothing on the waste composition, although we did a waste characterization report that was delayed because of our concern for our workers, but there is no data yet.” Mr. DeGonia opined on the impact of recyclables such bottles, cans, et cetera coming to the Landfill. He asked if that was being studied as well; Mr. Coyle replied that he was not aware of any.

3. Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) to report on any SCL matters within their purview.

Dee Hanson-Lugo, Program Manager [626-430-5540; [DLugo@ph.LACounty.gov](mailto:DLugo@ph.LACounty.gov); [www.SCLLEA.org](http://www.SCLLEA.org)], reported that “since the last meeting, the LEA has not issued any” NOVs or Areas of Concern. “On April 20<sup>th</sup> SCL requested a temporary Emergency Waiver of the terms and conditions” of the Solid Waste Facilities Permit for a daily tonnage increase to 14,100 tons/day, weekly tonnage to 84,600

tons/week and an increase of hours from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. “The LEA consulted with the other agencies but they had no comment . . . the waiver was issued for 120 days and a 90-day report is due from the Landfill.” Mr. Coyle said the Landfill exceeded the tonnage on one day but it was because of asphalt, not MSW; an exceedance of hours (that Mr. Hunter clarified) occurred after the extended waiver hours of 11 p.m. Mr. Hunter thought that making a report in 90 days was way too long and asked the LEA if they had looked at the AQMD May (odor) complaints report to make sure that nothing was happening as a result of granting the increase; Ms. Hanson-Lugo replied that she did not, and she did not know if Mr. Thompson did. Mr. Thomson reported that, because the Landfill had only exceeded their tonnage and hours on one occasion, and that the AQMD complaints were during the regular hours, he had not checked given that he gets the AQMD reports when the Committee does... he also said that there is an LEA Inspector stationed at the Landfill from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and that they know on a daily basis what is going on at the Landfill. Mr. Coyle commented that “we don’t always get complaints real-time from the AQMD . . . May was a horrible month, and in June we only got a dozen reports and we did not know that there had been 20... we will investigate them”

4. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to present any responses to the CAC’s Request for Proposal to Review/Evaluate Air Quality Data from the 11th Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Reports for SCL & Van Gogh School. Motion: To move to Item F. for further discussion and/or for the selection of a qualified bidder.

Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; [Bill.Piazza@lausd.net](mailto:Bill.Piazza@lausd.net)], asked and Mr. Hunter confirmed that the three companies contacted had not yet responded to the Committee’s Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide air quality data interpretation services. Mr. Piazza and Mr. Hunter indicated that they will again try to see if these companies have interest in working with the Committee. No Motion was made or vote taken.

5. County Public Works to report on the status of any SCL matters within their purview.

No representative was present; there was no report.

6. County Regional Planning Department to report SCL matters within their purview.

Edgar De La Torre, Zoning Enforcement Planner, L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.; [[edelatorre@planning.LACounty.gov](mailto:edelatorre@planning.LACounty.gov); <http://planning.LACounty.gov>];, and Diana Gonzales, [[dgonzales@planning.LACounty.gov](mailto:dgonzales@planning.LACounty.gov)] were present. Mr. De La Torre reported that Tim Stapleton “has been transferred to another Division”; he had “no updates” and encouraged contacting them with any questions.

7. County Public Health Department to report on the status of actions to work with STI to create a “fact sheet” as offered per Ms. Katie Butler, Environmental Toxicologist, and any other SCL matters within their purview.

No representative was present; there was no report. Mr. DeGonia “will work with Public Health” to ensure future meeting representation. Audience member Mike Mohajer (speaking “as a private citizen” representing himself, not any group), said that he had not received any response from Public Health. Mr. DeGonia noted that no government health organization has yet identified any connection between COVID-19 and Landfills, though that may change.

8. City Planning Department to report on any SCL matters within their purview.

Nicholas Hendricks, Planner, L.A. City Planning Dept. (818-374-5046; [Nick.Hendricks@LACity.org](mailto:Nick.Hendricks@LACity.org); [www.planning.LACity.org](http://www.planning.LACity.org)), in response to Mr. Hunter’s request for help, reported that the City is working on acquiring more “licensing agreements” to have more online meetings (Zoom), including for the SCL-CAC.

9. Other persons representing the City, County or State who wish to report any additional information or subject matter relating to SCL that is within their purview that has not been agendized for this meeting. If necessary, discussion and action will be agendized for another meeting.

Mr. Coyle reported that “my company won’t allow me to participate in Zoom meetings . . . we’re trying to find a solution.” He has been working from home using his personal computer. Mr. Hendricks indicated he will work on that. Mr. DeGonia reported that he can participate in but “not organize” Zoom meetings. Ms. Caspi reported that Zoom is working to increase online security. Mr. Hendricks reported that, for City meetings, lately they’ve had no (security) problems.

**D. Public comment** on items NOT on the Agenda.

There were no comments at this time.

**E. Set next meeting date** (September 10, 2020) & adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be September 10, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. He declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 4:53 p.m. in honor of Resident Bill Hopkins, who recently passed away.

**F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking & Financial Matters.**

Potential budget items FY 2020.

Mr. Hunter indicated that there was no more discussion.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Levin, Note Taker (Minutes Writer). Edited by SCL-CAC. *The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda.* Minutes are available at <http://scl-cac.org/agendas-minutes>.