

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, September 10, 2020**

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.

Document copies were available at <http://scl-cac.org>.

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of July 9, 2020 Minutes (Chair).**

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on September 10, 2020 in Granada Hills, California by Chair Wayde Hunter. Meeting procedures were explained. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Five of the seven Committee Members were present: Laine Caspi, Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck, Wayde Hunter and Debbie Pietraszko. Absent: Jeanette Capaldi and Dr. Donna Zero. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present. Two Committee Member openings are available. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Josh Mills; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel, Jack Cheng and Denny Shaw; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Dave Thompson and Dee Hanson-Lugo; 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 Gonzalez; L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s Office: Jarrod DeGonia; L.A. City Councilman John Lee’s Office: Sharon Bronson; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; LAUSD District 3: none. Also attended: 20 residents and other guests.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Caspi, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its July 9, 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 no such matters.

- Treasurer's Report, July 2020 – August 2020 (Treasurer).

Mr. Hunter reviewed finances, noting that there are three accounts. The Business Expenses Account was \$10,613.16; the Committee wrote three checks for March, for Minutes writing, storage boxes (for files for last 10 years), and the website (scl-cac.org); the ending balance was \$10,094.64. The beginning and ending balance for the Business Saving Account was \$107,499.16. Due to the need to put the financial statement online for this virtual meeting, the interest accrued (July and August) was not available at that time; typically, the interest ranges from \$1.73 - \$1.85 per month. The Business Checking Account remained unchanged at \$4,696.63, Petty Cash unchanged at \$100.00, and an Equity Service Retainer at \$682.00 also remained unchanged. The beginning balance (for all) in July was \$123,590.95 and the ending balance (for all) in August was \$123,072.43. Mr. Fisk asked how the Committee could get more than \$1 interest on \$100,000 and suggested investing in another bank where the Committee might be able to get \$50 to \$100 per month. Mr. Hunter indicated that it is extremely hard to make changes (on BofA linked accounts such as this) and offered to add him to the CAC account so that he could work with the bank. He also pointed out that any investment (i.e. \$107,499.16 in Business Savings) could be quickly wiped out (by the need to spend) if the Committee hired a consultant for any reason.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Caspi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the financial statement.

**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.

Josh Mills, Team Environmental 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 on Operations: with respect to disposal locations, they have not changed the routine (ADC) and continue to utilize Cell CC-4 Parts 1 thru 3 for daily operations; still using the Enviro Cover for daily cover, and monitor its performance daily; looking at the odor controls, and are aware of the recent odor complaints, including the event that occurred yesterday; as a result we have re-evaluated and made some operational adjustments in addition to numerous other measures during the heat wave, including a self-imposed restriction from delivery of waste in the early morning hours, which they will continue through this heatwave. Construction: began wet weather preparation for the 2020 - 2021 season, and site will be ready for rain by October 1, 2020.

On Gas Collection: BFI made some good progress on enhancing the gas collection system this year; continue to upgrade the headers to allow the enhanced capabilities of the blower skid to distribute the vacuum including making sure each well has sufficient vacuum, and that we are extracting as much gas as possible from that location; year-to-date, installed 60 new vertical wells; after installation they are evaluated for the presence of liquid, and if present, they will install liquid extraction infrastructure which typically includes a pneumatic pump along with all the ancillary equipment; Cell Construction: completed the mass excavation for the newest cell CC-4 Part 4a which had started in mid-June; working on tying the new liner system into the existing liner systems of cells CC-4 Parts 1, 2, 3, CC-3b and CC-3a; they currently have the liners exposed to facilitate those activities; two (2) gabions will be installed in the new cell (CC-4 Part 4a) along with a modified approach by applying vacuum to the bottom of the cubes so that they have a vacuum supply available collect any gases as soon as they start putting fresh waste into the area (cell).

Regarding Other Abatement Systems: they have an enhanced odor system specifically installed for the liner tie-in; a temporary construction control which is a combination of surface collectors and a trench collector that parallels the main liquids trench at the bottom of the cell... this is new this year; this is comparable to a quasi-closure turf where you have an impermeable layer on top, and below that you have the ability to extract gas with perforated pipes that are connected in a network or which you can apply vacuum to; again, this is specifically for the tie-in to abate any odors that might be generated by construction; they have made progress on their "odor neutralizer misting system" and plan to be completed by the end of September; it is located towards the middle of the site, along the southside of the City (landfill) south; they are using a combination of Dust Bosses and misting lines to provide multiple layers of odor mitigation between the working face and the southern boundary of the property; at this point they have the first four Odor Bosses are outfitted with misting lines installed and they operational to blow the neutralizing odor misting mist in the general vicinity; they are anticipating the completion of that project by the end of September or the first week in October.

Mr. Hunter pointed out that there was one thing that was not covered and that was a series of correspondence from County Public Works regarding the importation of 1,500 tons per day of soil, and there was also Republic's request to start importing up to 10,000 tons (of soil) per day; there was a Cease and Desist (for the 1,500 tpd) written on August 20, 2020..... has that issue been resolved? Mr. Mills reported that Republic is working on that, and that they are not currently importing any soil; he also agreed with Mr. Hunter's statement that the soil in question was for stockpiling, and did not impact Republic's current operations; Republic is currently working on a response to the County (regarding the 10,000 tpd) and recently had a conference with them this morning

**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.

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 July, there were 23 complaints made, and no Notices of Violation (NOVs) were issued; on July 10<sup>th</sup> the Legends in the Cascades in Sylmar reported strong landfill gas odors in the evening, which he did verify but there were not enough complaints to issue a NOV. In August, there were over 75 odor complaints, a significant increase from July; beginning on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, a similar episode occurred afterhours at the Legends in Sylmar with distinct to strong landfill gas odors; On Monday, August 17<sup>th</sup> the AQMD received 14 odor complaints for sour trash odors, and “all of the odor complaints were verified and a [NOV] was issued for Public Nuisance.” During August, there were also 30 other instances afterhours that were either dispositioned by telephone or were responded to the next day, but they were not verified; In September at this time, there were approximately 26 odor complaints that have been made, 16 of which were yesterday; “they were all verified in the morning as distinct sour trash odors,” and in the evening at the Legends as landfill gas odors; there were four more reports today and three have been verified. There was discussion of possible causes of recent odors. Lately, most complaints are at night from the Sylmar Cascades complex.

Mr. Hunter asked if an NOV had been issued for the 20 or so complaints in September, to which Mr. Israel replied “pending (not issued).” Mr. Fisk asked if the AQMD attributed the increased complaints due to the excessive heat that we have been having. Mr. Israel responded that “they have been getting a lot of odor complaints from other landfills that he responds to, and that they seem to be similar types of odors ...sour rotting odors... but (in regards to) the landfill gas odors, he is not detecting any at any other landfill other than Sunshine right now.” He further stated that he is not sure why odors were being detected so late in the week as he would have expected them to occur right after the holiday weekend when the landfill had been closed on Sunday and Monday. Mr. Hunter then asked if the odors could not be attributed to the liner tie-in of the cell construction as previously described. Mr. Mills opined that the material recovery facilities (MRFs) don’t clear their floor completely on the first day after the holiday, they were getting down to the older waste (more odorous material) after a few days, in fact, yesterday, he and the Larry had attributed the odors to Republic taking early morning loads of trash (from the MRFs) which were a little more odorous, and so Republic had decided to push back early morning receipt this morning.... “there were a few complaints today but not of the magnitude of yesterday.”

Mr. Israel stated that he wanted to let the Committee know “that yesterday, that odors had occurred between 6:55 a.m. and just after 8:00 a.m., and that early morning period, that was a similar pattern that he had noticed in August as well....

that early morning period, the first two hours after the landfill opened, seems to be when the most complaints were coming in.” The landfill gas odor complaints are coming in the nighttime and they are coming from the people located in the Legends at the Cascades.

Mr. DeGonia posed a question to Mr. Mills, noting that there is a concern in the Supervisor’s office that there has been a change in the waste stream itself due to COVID [the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic] and knowing at some point in time that restaurants will open, and that normalcy will return sometime soon, but is there a way for the landfill to stay ahead of the changing waste stream recognizing that the Abatement Order (for Odors) does not allow you to receive restaurant trash or organics...is there a way for us to be ahead of the curve and not lose the progress the landfill has made? Mr. Mills noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic; “that commercial waste is down; residential waste is up; we don’t have much control over the residential waste; we changed our approach even in the new cell; waste is no more than 9-months old at this point, and we already have 20 vertical wells and six gabions (cubes) on line, including one layer of horizontal collectors and another one slated to go in later this month (September); we’re really being aggressive with our gas capture in the new waste as well knowing that it has as much potential to generate gas much sooner...i.e. more organics .... it’s definitely something we’re considering at the site”

Mr. Hunter noted that “the Abatement Order for Odors had expired; one of the requirements was that Republic not bring in any trash early in the morning, because if there were any smells, they could come into the neighborhood from the prevailing winds; since it has expired (the Abatement Order), Republic has gone back to taking trash again from long hauls early in the morning... so we are back to getting odor again early in the morning.... have you considered stopping them and bringing them in at 9:00 a.m. like you were doing before..... that did work?” Mr. Mills responded that “Republic is having conversations about similar techniques such as that, and as he stated in his earlier presentation that we have voluntarily adjusted receiving select loads earlier in the morning... the intercompany loads that come from our transfer stations (MRFs)... that is the easiest change that we can make, and have the most control over because it is coming from our facilities in LA..... we are going to continue to do that..... we are trying to do everything we can but nothing is off the table, and we have not decided to do anything in the long term either.”

Mr. DeGonia asked if the AQMD had been seeing any of the same trends at the other landfills within the region i.e. Chiquita, Calabasas or otherwise..... same type of odors..... same type of complaints? Mr. Israel stated that “he could only speak on behalf of Chiquita (Canyon Landfill) which seems to have been the big source of odor complaints for me in last two months; it is very similar; it is primarily trash odors, primarily in the early morning hours; I haven’t received any complaints from Calabasas (County Landfill)..... I can’t speak to any other landfills.” He also

stated that he was not responsible for Scholl (Canyon Landfill) when asked by Mr. DeGonia.

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

Dee Hanson-Lugo, SCL-LEA Program Manager [213.252.3932; [David.Thompson@lacity.org](mailto:David.Thompson@lacity.org); [www.SCLLEA.org](http://www.SCLLEA.org)], reported that “since the last CAC meeting the LEA did not issue any Notices of Violations (NOVs) or Areas of Concerns (AOCs); the emergency waiver expired August 18 and the vendor did not request an extension.”

**4. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)** to discuss 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 and Van Gogh School. Motion (if necessary): move to Item F. for further discussion and/or for the selection of a qualified bidder.

Since Mr. Piazza was not available, Mr. Hunter reported that three consultants were again contacted around late July, and that he believed that Mr. Piazza had used his influence to persuade at least two of them in August to respond to the Committee by saying that they were seriously looking at our RFP; one consultant contacted the Committee and asked if there was a conflict of interest if one of their organization was sitting on the SCL-LEA Board of Directors; Mr. Hunter told them that there was no problem since that person was not going to be involved in the RFP, and he (Mr. Hunter) copied the CAC members. There was a discussion of the CAC’s work to create the RFP and to find a vendor. Ms. Pietraszko stated that “we were asking the consultant (STI) to look at the data that was there, and put it into lay language that makes sense to us, instead of just looking at that raw data that is meaningless.....we wanted an interpretation that the general public could understand.”

In response to Mr. Fisk’s questions regarding a new contract (with STI) and what data was being analyzed, Mr. Hunter stated that it was still 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Report, and that he had the data discs available for anybody responding to the CAC’s RFP. Mr. Fisk clarified that he was in fact speaking of the City/County who were again planning on renewing a contract with STI and it was STI that had said to the Committee in the past, that they did not have the expertise to answer our questions, and hence the reason for our RFP. Mr. Hunter agreed that the City/County should not award the contract to STI if they could not answer our questions, and that any new contract should include the CAC’s requirements. Mr. DeGonia agreed to help review a potential contract.



- 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. [213-974-6453; [EDeLaTorre@planning.LACounty.gov](mailto:EDeLaTorre@planning.LACounty.gov); <http://planning.LACounty.gov>], reported that he replaced Tim Stapleton. His “back-up” is Diana Gonzalez [[dgonzalez@planning.LACounty.gov](mailto:dgonzalez@planning.LACounty.gov)]. In response to a question by Mr. Hunter as to whether or not all outstanding legal matters (CPW vs Republic) have been resolved, he believed that there were some, and he would provide a report at the next CAC meeting.

- 7. County Public Health Department** to report on any SCL matters within their purview.

No representative was present; there was no report. Mr. Hunter noted that this was the second meeting in a row without a representative. Mr. DeGonia offered to work on having a DPH representative present. Mr. Hunter reminded Mr. DeGonia that the Supervisor’s office needed to make an appointment to the CAC; Mr. DeGonia replied that they had several lined up that did not work out, and that they had wanted to appoint Ms. Maria Fisk. Mr. Hunter believed that having a wife and a husband on the same Committee posed problems not only for the CAC but for Republic as well, even though he thought that she was a good choice. He also commented that since we also have the 12<sup>th</sup> Council District present, that they owed the CAC an appointment, too.

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

No representative was present; there was no report.

- 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. DeGonia reported that the Supervisor’s office is considering asking the Public Works Department to report back on landfills and the changing waste stream as it relates to the pandemic; will also work with AQMD, and will give a heads up to CAC before next meeting if they go ahead with the plan.

Denny Shaw, Senior Public Information Specialist. SCAQMD (909-396-2386; [DShaw@aqmd.gov](mailto:DShaw@aqmd.gov); [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)), reported that he replaced Leor Alpert and Rainbow Yeung who sat in on the last meeting.

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

Glenn Bailey thanked the Committee for carrying on its work virtually. Mr. Fisk reminded Mr. Hunter that he (Mr. Fisk) expected to find that “general questions from the horseshoe (Committee Members’ comments on items not on the Agenda)” had been added to the Agenda. He then asked for a CD12 representative to explain how John Lee’s recent announcement at a GHNNC meeting affects the CAC. Sharon Bronson, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; [Sharon.Bronson@LACity.org](mailto:Sharon.Bronson@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://www.CD12.org)), will report back regarding that the Councilman gave the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council \$100,000, probably from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Amenities Fund, to spend on public works and whether it impacts the SCL-CAC.

**E. Set next meeting date** (November 12, 2020) & adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be online November 12, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. He said that he has already cancelled the meeting at Knollwood, and he personally thanked Laine Caspi for conducting all of our virtual meetings. Mr. DeGonia volunteered that the Board of Supervisors is not looking at doing any meetings before December 1, 2020;

**F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking & Financial Matters.** Potential budget items FY 2020.

Mr. Hunter indicated that there was no more discussion.

Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 4:08 p.m.

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>.