

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, September 9, 2021**

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), Keren Waters and Dr. Donna Zero.

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, welcome Keren Waters, and Approval of July 8, 2021, Minutes (Chair).**

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on September 9, 2021 online by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Five of the seven Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Laine Caspi, Wayde Hunter, Debbie Pietraszko and new Member Keren Waters. Richard Fisk arrived later. Larry Fleck and Dr. Donna Zero were absent. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present. Two Committee Member openings were available. Landfill and government representatives present BFI/Republic Services: Chris Coyle; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Dave Thompson; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: none; L.A. County Public Works Dept.: none; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Diana Gonzalez; L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s Office: Jason Maruca; L.A. City Councilman John Lee’s Office: Sharon Bronson; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. A Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related SCL-CAC and Landfill documents were available at <https://scl-cac.org/2021/09/scl-cac-virtual-meeting-september-9-2021>. Also see <http://SCL-CAC.org>.

Mr. Hunter welcomed Ms. Waters to the Committee. Ms. Waters thanked Supervisor Barger for her appointment and noted that she knows or has worked with almost all Committee Members, has been a resident of Granada Hills for 19 years, has lived in the Valley for 40 years, is a licensed insurance executive, and is Vice-President of the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council and Chair of its Outreach Committee.

*Committee Member Richard Fisk arrived online by this time, making six Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).*

The following amendment of the July 8, 2021 Minutes was requested by Mike Mohajer: in Item number C. 1., page five, second paragraph in the middle: in the sentence “It is the record that defines what we can accept, and yes, it needs to be within 12,500 tons” add the phrase in brackets “[actually 12,100]” so that the

sentence reads “It is the record that defines what we can accept, and yes, it needs to be within 12,500 [actually 12,100] tons.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Fisk, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its July 8, 2021 Meeting as amended.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Caspi, Fisk, Hunter, Pietraszko, Waters and Waters); zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair).  
Mr. Hunter explained that there have been some questions on what it takes to pass a Motion. Parliamentarian Ms. Pietraszko agreed that the Committee uses Robert’s Rules of Order. Mr. Hunter said that he would provide wording as to how the CAC considers such things as vote abstentions, and bring it back to the Committee for review, for consideration to add to the Bylaws.
- Treasurer’s Report, July 2021 – August 2021 (Treasurer).  
*[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C. 1.]* Mr. Hunter reviewed finances.

There are three Business Checking Accounts. The Business Checking Account for Expenses beginning balance was \$9,124.64. Three checks were written on that account: \$220 for the March Minutes, \$141.17 for web hosting, and \$180 for P.O. Box 412 rental. Total deductions were \$541.17, leaving an ending balance of \$8,583.47. The Business Savings Account for Consultants beginning balance was \$107,509.93; the CAC received \$1.76 in interest for that time period, leaving an ending balance of \$107,511.69. The other account, the Business Checking for Consultants, is where we move money to when we pay them. The beginning and ending balances both were \$8,096.63. Petty Cash remained unchanged at \$100. Other Assets remained unchanged at \$682. The total beginning balance for all accounts as of July 1, 2021 was \$125,513.20; debits were \$541.17, deposits were \$1.76, and the total ending balance was \$124,973.79 as of August 31, 2021 per Larry Fleck, Treasurer, and Mr. Hunter as of September 2, 2021. The report is available at scl-cac.org under the committee document package.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the September 2021 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Caspi, Fisk, Hunter, Pietraszko and Waters); zero opposed; zero abstained.

**C. New Business.** Discussion and possible Committee motions and 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.

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>], gave an SCL "Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Update." He reported that there have been no changes to their disposal operation or location, and they continue to utilize cell CC-4. They continue to put most of the waste into CC4-P4A with the remainder of the waste going into P3. This allows them to keep the larger of the two working faces low and back in the canyon. They continue to use the Enviro-Cover for ADC and monitor its performance daily. Their Winterization Plan is due to the LEA by October 1<sup>st</sup>; the majority of the work almost complete. They have received their grading permits for Phases 1 and 2 of the Toe Berm project to enhance odor controls as well as reduce the visual impact of looking up the canyon. They began construction for the new cell with the first step being relocation of the maintenance facilities. Maintenance is currently in a temporary location while they wait on permits from the County for earthwork within the already approved grading limits. They continue increased odor patrols and actively managing the working face to reduce or eliminate the potential for odors. Early morning winds flip a couple of hours before settling down. Since the beginning of this year, 57 vertical landfill gas wells have been installed throughout the site, including some larger (10" wells) to increase their flow. Horizontal collectors, as well as an upgraded header, have been installed in the active area, CC4 Part 3. Fourteen pumps have been installed in new wells to increase gas flow. Construction of new/upgraded headers along the west perimeter will continue over the coming months, weather permitting. They continue to move through the permitting process for the installation of Flare 12 with an expected install completion target of 2022, pending approvals.

- 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, "on the day of the last meeting in July, we had discussed 14 odor complaints, six of which were verified. For the rest of July there were 27 complaints; no NOVs (Notices of Violation) were issued. In September so far there've been seven complaints; none were verified. In August there were approximately 74 complaints; the official record might be different. Of that 74, twelve were investigated by two other inspectors, and none

(of the reports) were verified. On Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup> there were seven complaints of landfill gas; all from the Granada Hills side, not from the Sylmar side; the timeframe was between 10:30 p.m. and midnight; an NOV was issued. A week later on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> seven complaints were verified and one NOV was issued. On Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> there were five odor complaints in the morning between 6:00 a.m. and 6:30 a.m.; two were verified. On Monday, August 9<sup>th</sup> there were seven complaints between 6:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.; none were verified. On Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> there were 19 odor complaints, 14 of which were verified. Calls were between 7:15 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. He detected landfill trash odors and an NOV was issued.

Mr. Hunter asked if Mr. Israel, "if it was trash, did you concur with Mr. Coyle that the hot weather and just the prevailing winds were the reason, or was there something else going on, on those two particular days... after a holiday or anything unusual about it?" Mr. Israel replied that "the first one for August 1<sup>st</sup> was for evening hours, and that's something not typical." Mr. Hunter asked, "so this was landfill outgassing from somewhere on the landfill... you weren't able to determine where it was coming from or maybe if I asked Chris?" Mr. Coyle explained that "it was a power outage that knocked out power to the flares, but it was actually more of a chain reaction on the transmission side at the Gas-to-Energy Plant, and so when that goes down... we're pushing gas to them and since they can no longer accept the gas it shuts us down, and so our flares shut down.. It took us just under two hours to get it fired back up, and the complaints started coming in about 90 minutes to 1-1/2 hours after us being down... and then we got back up, and everything kind of went away... so that's what drove that one... I was looking at the official record (for August) this morning and there was a total of 71 reports . . . I appreciate you putting an asterisk on your report and noting that for the record, you used your notes not the official record."

Mr. Hunter said "so that takes care of the Sunday the (August) 1<sup>st</sup>"; he asked what the issue was for the trash (odor) reports on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Coyle replied that "that was trash, and that was the wind. The garbage was sitting on the ground at the transfer stations and just honked, and that was what was driving that... ..we did our best, but we have to do better."

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

Dave Thompson, SCL-LEA Program Manager [213.252.3932 [David.Thompson@lacity.org](mailto:David.Thompson@lacity.org); [www.SCLLEA.org](http://www.SCLLEA.org)], apologized for missing the last meeting since he was on vacation and reported that "we continue to monitor the Landfill for compliance under the solid waste regulations found in Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations. We have an Inspector there during (the) hours of operation. The summer has been . . . hot and dry... an issue with a little bit of dust but the landfill has been doing a good job with the water trucks, making sure the

roads are wet. We have not issued any violations (NOVs) since the last CAC meeting.”

- 4. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)** to discuss the status and 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 (if necessary): move to Item F. for further discussion.

Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; [Bill.Piazza@lausd.net](mailto:Bill.Piazza@lausd.net)], reported that, “as you are all aware, that on July 16<sup>th</sup>, we solicited a list of consultants, and that list of consultants was provided by the City of LA; it came from their BAVN network (Los Angeles Business Assistance Virtual Network) on June 23, 2021. We incorporated that in our solicitation proposal along with a Request for Proposal from those firms. There were a total of 66 firms that we solicited responses from, and we gave them to the end of August or 45 days to respond. We had four companies that had expressed interest; three did in fact provide proposals for consideration. We have looked at those proposals, evaluated them, and we would like to share the results of that endeavor.” Mr. Hunter made a Motion to move the Item.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Pietraszko): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee moves further discussion of this to Item F.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Caspi, Fisk, Hunter, Pietraszko and Waters); zero opposed; zero abstained.

- 5. County Public Works** to report on the status of the importation of soil, revegetation status including any other 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.

Diana Gonzalez [[dgonzalez@planning.LACounty.gov](mailto:dgonzalez@planning.LACounty.gov)] reported that “Edgar was unable to attend; ... there was an NOV in 2017 that got appealed to the Hearing Officer and subsequently to the Court; and the Court has remanded the case back to the Hearing Officer for new findings.” There would be a Hearing of Appeal of an NOV Related to Sunshine Canyon Landfill on Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Email 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>], for information.

Mr. Hunter confirmed that Mr. De La Torre had sent him the Notice; that Mr. Hunter had posted it on the CAC website and made a general public distribution, and that a copy was in the Committee Members' package.

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

No representative was present; there was no report.

**8. City Planning Department** to report on any 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

Jason Maruca had no report and welcomed Ms. Waters to the Committee. Sharon Bronson had no report.

**D. Committee Member and Public comments** on items NOT on the Agenda.

There were no public comments at this time.

**E. Set next meeting date** (Nov. 11, 2021), & adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

After a general discussion by all those in attendance, Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting probably would be online and be on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, instead of the usual second Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, which is the Veterans Day holiday. Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 3:59 p.m.

There was a brief 5-minute recess.

**F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking & Financial Matters.** Potential budget items FY 2021 and Item #C4 RFP consultants. Staff and/or public presence optional.

Roll Call was taken by Mr. Hunter: six of the seven Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Laine Caspi, Richard Fisk, Wayde Hunter, Debbie Pietraszko and Keren Waters. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Chris Coyle; L.A. City Councilman John Lee's Office: Sharon Bronson; and LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza

Mr. Piazza reported that we (Bill & Wayde) reviewed 66 consultant firms that were on the BAVN list provided by the City; we went through the list, eliminating those that obviously did not have the expertise for emissions or health risks or Ultra Systems who does work for Sunshine Canyon. “We did get four who showed interest, and three who ultimately responded within the 45-day time period.” He summarized the bids: one bid for \$5,950 was considered to be representative of a company that did not read the RFP properly and would not be able to provide the scope of services desired by the CAC. A second bid provided a very interesting approach, including bringing in a health professional, but quoted a “discounted” billing rate of \$300 per hour and 1,000 hours of work, which amounted to \$300,000, an amount that was considered to be way too much. He then showed a slide of a third bid made by environmental consultants ECORP Consulting, Inc., which works “primarily in the San Diego area,” with a bid of \$46,070 which he believed to be a reasonable estimate, and one that “is commensurate with other companies who do this type of work.” There was extensive discussion of how the CAC should negotiate with ECORP, how cost overruns might be handled, and what procedural process the CAC should follow in approving the consultant. Both Mr. Piazza and Mr. Coyle offered their insights as to how the process works.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Fisk, seconded by Ms. Waters): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee will have Bill Piazza move forward with selecting ECORP Consulting, Inc. as the contractor to prepare a Health Risk Assessment in the area surrounding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, based upon a proposal received dated August 26, 2021.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Pietraszko): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee adds the phrase “and Wayde Hunter” to the Motion, so that it reads “will have Bill Piazza and Wayde Hunter move forward with selecting ECORP Consulting, Inc. as a contractor to prepare a Health Risk Assessment in the area surrounding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, based upon a proposal received dated August 26, 2021.

**AMENDED to the MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Caspi, Fisk, Hunter, Pietraszko and Waters); zero opposed; zero abstained.

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Caspi, Fisk, Hunter, Pietraszko and Waters); zero opposed; zero abstained.

The meeting ended at 5:04 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. The SCL-CAC Meeting Minutes page is <http://scl-cac.org/agendas-minutes>.

DRAFT