

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, July 14, 2022
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, and Approval of May 12, 2022, Minutes (Chair).

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on July 14, 2022 online by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Five of the eight Committee Members were present: Laine Caspi, Richard Fisk, Wayde Hunter, Debbie Pietraszko and Keren Waters. Larry Fleck arrived later. Absent: Jeanette Capaldi and Dr. Donna Zero. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present. One Committee Member opening was available. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Valorie Moore; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Dee Hanson-Lugo; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: none; L.A. County Public Works Dept.: David Nguyen; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Edgar De La Torre, Dianna Gonzalez; L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s Office: none; L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s Office: Will Steele; L.A. City Councilman John Lee’s Office: Sharon Bronson; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; and LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Also attended: at least 23 residents and other guests. A Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related SCL-CAC and Landfill documents were available at www.scl-cac.org and slides were shown.

MOTION (by Mr. Fisk, seconded by Ms. Waters): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its May 12, 2022 Meeting as written.

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

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

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair).
Mr. Hunter and Ms. Capaldi indicated that there were none.

[The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #C. 1.]

- Treasurer’s Report, May 2022 – June 2022 (Treasurer).
[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #D.*] Mr. Hunter reviewed finances. The “Business Checking Account (for Expenses)” beginning balance was \$20,241.44. One check was written on that account for \$200. Total deductions were \$200; the ending balance was \$20,041.44. The “Business Savings Account (for Consultants)” beginning balance was \$61,448.01; the interest was “not available”; the ending balance of \$61,448.01. The “Business Checking Account (for Consultants)” beginning and ending balances both were \$10,014.98. There was \$100 in Petty Cash. There was \$682 in Other Assets. The total beginning balance for all accounts as of May 1, 2022 was \$92,486.43; debits were \$200 and deposits were \$0; the total ending balance for all accounts was \$92,286.43 as of June 30, 2022 per Mr. Fleck and Mr. Hunter. It was noted that there was a “Balance of outstanding ECORP Consultant fees of \$12,943.75 due in 2022.”

MOTION (by Ms. Capaldi, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee accepts the Treasurer’s Report for May 2022 – June 2022

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Caspi, Fisk, Fleck, Hunter, Pietraszko and Waters); 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. Ms. Laine Caspi reported that Chris Coyle was no longer employed by Republic. Mr. Hunter said that he had heard that but had received no official notification and noted that Ms. Moore had provided a report at the last meeting, and that it was Republic’s duty to provide somebody in attendance.

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C. 2.*]

Valorie Moore, Environmental Team Manager, BFI/Republic [24-hour Landfill hotline 818-779-9170; main 818-362-2124; Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com; <http://SunshineCanyonLandfill.com>] gave an SCL Community Advisory Committee (CAC) an update. In response to a direct question from Mr. Hunter as to the employment status of Chris Coyle because the CAC had not received any official notification from Republic Services, she stated that, “all I know as of last Friday, July 8th, we were told, the management team here on site, that Chris would no longer be working for Republic Services as of July 8th... that was pretty much all we were told; I don’t have any details; I don’t have any additional information. So, from this point forward. I will be attending these meetings and providing the report on behalf of Sunshine Canyon Landfill.” She apologized for being late as she did not have the link, and Mr. Hunter said he would have her added to distribution so that she did not have to depend on emails sent to Chris.

Operations

“Over the last few months, our filling operations occurred in CC4 but we moved back into 3A and 3B, and I did hear the comments (from AQMD in C2 where we are really high right now. We were waiting to get approval from the Water Board to start filling in the new cell which is at a lower elevation. We received that verbal approval on Monday, July 11th and we are preparing this week to go to the lower elevations of the new cell next week; so, we will be making that move here very soon. It has been relatively dry, and so we have not had to move to the wet weather deck. We continue to use the EnviroCover for ADC; and we monitor it daily. Year to date, we have received 17.29” of rain. Last month (June) on-site we received about 0.02-inches”.

Construction

“To talk a little about our construction projects, we have received our grading permits for Phase 1 & 2 of the Toe Berm project, and we are still in the review process for Phases 3, 4 & 5. City Planning is currently reviewing our application and hopefully we can have that signed off in the near future. Then we have the Bureau of Engineering who is reviewing their portion of the application, and then the Commission Office. So, once we get these three areas reviewed and approved, we will receive our Grading Permit for Phases 3,4, and 5”.

“As everyone knows this is an important project for the site and for the community, to enhance our odor controls on-site as well as reduce the visual impact of looking up the canyon from San Fernando (Road) and the Interstate. Our contractor is currently installing our permanent drainage structure, including a new sedimentation basin above our terminal basin, and this will manage our stormwater on-site.”

Committee Member Larry Fleck arrived online at this time (3:20), making six Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).

“CC4-P4B/C which is the new cell is complete, and we have received verbal approval to start placing trash in the new cell. Our Maintenance Building or Shop is still in the temporary location. We are waiting on grading permits from the County for earthwork that is within our approved grading limits... ..before we move forward with relocating the Maintenance Shop.”

“I believe I mentioned at the last CAC meeting that we have filled the vacant Maintenance Manager position here on-site. In addition, we e have an HR Manager dedicated to Sunshine Canyon Landfill and his name is Matthew (Matt) Larsen, and he has been with us for about 3 or 4 weeks now.”

Odor Complaints

“As far as Odor Complaints June was a very challenging month. We received 40 complaints in June and of course we are not happy with these results. We continue to do what we can to mitigate odors. As Larry (Israel) mentioned, the complaints led to 2 NOVs (6/22 and 6/27). We’ve added a new odor neutralizer unit, a couple of units on-site. We are going through a pilot program now to test

and evaluate the effectiveness of this system. They're placed closer to the working face to attempt to control the odors at the source. And so, here we have this pilot program running... ..it/s worked at other locations... one other location, and we think we may be planning to take some of our leadership team to that location, which is in Texas, to go visit and take a look at them and how it's working and how effective it is at this location which is similar to what we have hear at Sunshine. You know, the landfill being in very close proximity to our neighbors, and so we are looking to improve on our system here on-site."

"Our Odor Patrol Team is now fully staffed, and the team is running smoothly, the program is running smoothly.. The Team is in the neighborhood during the early hours of operations and then we move to spot check once the conditions become favorable or once we are clear in the neighborhood. I think someone did mention whether or not some of those odor complaints are from trash pick-up, but I would just like to mention that on Monday when the team is out in the neighborhood they do document when they are getting odors and it is actually coming from those trash bins that have been sitting out; and really we see those on Sundays from the person who does Sunday night patrol, you know we some of those cans out on Sunday night and then when the team comes in on Monday morning you know you have more of the odors. And you also have the trucks, the juice dripping from the garbage trucks as well. We document that just so we have documentation, you know, that it is not the landfill that is responsible for those odors."

The winds have largely been unfavorable to start in the morning and then they usually flip early to mid-morning. We have had a couple days where the winds have started favorable and stayed that way all day, and we have had days where they flip to favorable and then they flip back to unfavorable, and then the team goes back out and patrol at that time.

"We have a lot of gas work going on at the site. When we started filling in 3A/3B we had to prep(are) that area, that waste, and so it took months of planning because we needed to coordinate gas construction projects. We have a lot of infrastructure in 3A/3B, so we had to be really strategic about how we are filling in that area. We are very excited to be moving out of that area and going down low into the new cell, but in reference to our 2022 gas construction activities. We have completed approximately 400-feet of 24-in header in (CC4) Part 3. We've started drilling the first phase of our vertical wells. Once operations move out of 3A/3B and down to the new cell we are going to be re-drilling in 3A/3B because we know we have some gassy wells in those areas. We are on schedule to install 42 wells this year and in the new cell we actually installed a horizontal collection system to help with gas there.. These projects will continue throughout the summer. In addition, we installed floor collectors in the new cell to prevent odors and increase gas flow in the new cell (CC4-P4A). We've been proactive in trying to make sure that we get these gas projects up and going, and are doing we what we can to prevent odors and increase gas flow. We continue to move through the permitting process for the installation of Flare 12, but we still have a number of pending approvals."

Mr. Mohajer stated that he is a private citizen and does not represent any private or governmental agency, and asked Ms. Moore “do you (Republic) receive in the past couple of months or so, (unintelligible) at the landfill, any source-separated organic waste? Ms. Moore replied that “no we did not”. Mr. Mohajer repeated her answer in the form of a question, and Ms. Moore then said,“I’ll follow up on that question and definitely get back to you.” Mr. Mohajer stated that “the reason I am emphasizing that, is because now they are also separating the food waste, which is (unintelligible) and that causes one heck of a lot more odor problem”.

Mr. Mohajer stated that “in the past a few years ago, when we had problems with odors especially in the morning, and Republic agreed not to accept any waste from transfer stations on Mondays until 9:30 (s/b 9:00) in the morning. Is that policy being enforced, or has it gone by the wayside?” Ms. Moore replied that “so we are not under the Abatement Order anymore, at this time, so we’ve have started accepting trash at 6 a.m.” Mr. Mohajer then asked, “would Republic consider the mitigation measure to not to accept any waste from transfer stations on Mondays until after 9:30 in the morning?” Ms. Moore replied, “that is something that Republic would have to consider by the Sunshine Team as a whole, but it would impact other sites, so it is something I cannot answer right now.” Mr. Mohajer went on to explain that because she had not been there at that time, and the reason he had asked was that trash sits in the transfer stations up to 48 hours and it cooks and creates odors before being brought to Sunshine Canyon Landfill on Mondays, and that was causing a problem, and that Republic should really consider implementing not accepting trash from transfer stations on Mondays until 9:30 am. again.

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; www.aqmd.gov], reported that, “in May, there were 17 complaints; two were verified; no NOVs [Notices of Violation] were issued. We did receive 2 complaints from the Cascades in Sylmar, but none were verified. In June there were 40 complaints; two NOVs were issued”. He noted that that “this is the most number of complaints for June since 2016 and the most NOVs ever issued for June going back 12, 13 or 14 years. The first NOV was issued June 22nd with 10 verified morning trash and garbage complaints and were received between 6:45 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. The weather conditions that day were partly cloudy and was not hot and dry.. a little bit overcast and cloudy. The descriptions of the odor complaints were from trash to garbage, to pungent rotting trash. I verified kind of a sour rotting trash odor... (o)n Lisette Street, Golden Valley Lane, Corbet Lane, Canyon Ridge, and Sesnon. It was kind of a wide area where the odors were noticed. The winds fairly slight less than 5 mph out of the northwest. I noticed that the working face was in 2 parts on the City side. The area was designated CC4 part 3A & 3B. In the past earlier this year they have

been located more on the County side, so we will have to ask Republic why they moved to that particular area, but it is a very visible exposed area right above the Admin Buildings, and there were definitely a lot of odors in the community that particular day. The next violation occurred just a few days later on Monday, June 27th and that is the day when we had all that thunder and lightning.. a lot of tropical moisture.. kind of unusual for this time of year but we did have a lot of moisture in the air. And so with that, there were eight complaints received. Actually, two of those were from the same household... and those were all received almost around the same time between 6:40 a.m. and 8:20 a.m., and a little bit earlier. The descriptions again were bad garbage, very strong trash, pungent sour trash, and rotting trash. The street locations were very similar to the ones from the previous Wednesday. Sesnon, Corbet, Golden Valley, and also by Bee Canyon Park on Orozco, and another street over there called Sesnon. And, so on that date I also verified a similar sour odor, and that was also the same working face location from the previous week. For the month of July, we have only gotten six complaints which is good... here we are two weeks into it (through July 14). What I want to bring to the attention of CAC, that all six complaints that were received this month were from the Legends Cascade complex in Sylmar. Of those, three were verified by myself last Friday evening. What I detected then was landfill gas odors.. very pungent sour landfill gas odor that I was able to trace back to landfill. This was the first confirmation that I have had for quite a while from the Legends Cascade complex, and all the complaints that we have received so far have been from that complex in Sylmar.”

Mr. Hunter asked if Mr. Israel had any idea of the size of the working faces because that is something that is supposed to be limited to 3 or 4 acres. Mr. Israel replied that he did not have that information and indicated that Ms. Valerie Moore was going to attend for Republic and could give those specifics. Mr. Hunter also made the observation that he was driving on Foothill Boulevard opposite the landfill, and you can see the operations which are not being shielded by the surrounding hills anymore, and that these guys (Republic) are way up high and that you can see them dumping (trash), and that odors can be brought directly to Granada Hills and the Cascades without benefit of anything (hills) in between. He also stated that “we have been telling the agencies that as this landfill moves to the east back toward Granada Hills and the homes and comes up out of the canyon that we are going to have problems with odors.... ..it can't be getting any better, it's going to get worse, and become untenable again.”

Mr. Richard Fisk asked if there was any correlation to the trash pickup days and the odor complaints. He noted that when he and his wife walk to the store on their Monday trash pickup days that they can smell trash and if there was any correlation with the rest of the District. Mr. Israel responded that when they (AQMD) do a surveillance or investigation of odor he goes up-wind and down-wind of a source and is very mindful of that (trash pickup days), and that it (the trash odors) was very pervasive, and it was not coming from people's trash.

Mr. Mike Mohajer asked Mr. Israel if NOV's had been issued. Mr. Israel stated that two NOV's had been issued several days after each of the dates discussed

previously. Mr. Mohajer asked Mr. Hunter if Republic was supposed to attend all CAC meetings. Mr. Hunter indicated that was true, and that there was no representation at the time (C 1.) but that Ms. Valerie Moore had joined the meeting, and he would call her to see if she is going to make a report. Mr. Mohajer suggested if Republic did not attend in the future that the CAC write to the County Board of Supervisors.

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; DLugo@ph.LACounty.gov; www.SCLLEA.org], reviewed the LEA's role to inspect Sunshine Canyon Landfill under California Code of Regulations, Title 14 and 27, and reported that no NOV's were issued to the landfill operator since the last CAC meeting. The SCL-LEA had its first meeting on June 23rd and approved the budget for the new fiscal year, and the update of the Enforcement Program; the next update is due in March 2023; continue to have Board meetings to authorize continued virtual meetings under AB361.

Mr. Hunter asked that "since the LEA has inspectors on-site and that in June we had two serious events with odors, did any of your staff (LEA inspectors) ever make any note in their reports?" Ms. Hanson-Lugo replied that she had not seen any reports of when they do their outside surveys, and they have not brought it to her attention, Mr. Hunter stated that while he realized that odors were not their responsibility, and that the LEA has spent a lot of time trying to help them get rid of them, but felt the inspectors could have noted the odor events in June as a special occurrence type log. Ms. Hanson-Lugo stated that the inspectors do drive through the neighborhood depending on their shift, and if they do detect odors, they will bring it to the landfill operator's attention, but there are no notes. Mr. Hunter concluded by saying how troubled he was at seeing how high up out of the canyon Republic was, and that he could see the dumping operations, and he felt that given the odor problems, the LEA should have been making notes of that.

Mr. Mohajer commented that it would be very appropriate for the LEA to say that they did not see any violation of those items under their purview because the odors are under the SCAQMD, so that the public understands that because the LEA says there are no violations, it doesn't mean there are no violations. Also, that when the odors get as severe as they were and a nuisance, the LEA can issue a NOV, and he believes that this has not been done for political reasons.

4. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to discuss the CAC's progress with ECORP to Review/Evaluate Air Quality Data and/or review final report if available for the 11th Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Reports for SCL & Van Gogh School and associated Quarterly Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Reports.

Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; Bill.Piazza@lausd.net],

reported that he retired from School District service as of June 30th, but he has been given approval to continue to work on HRA [Health Risk Assessment] matters; ECORP did provide a draft and we made comments to make it a little more readable, understandable, simplistic, and we have yet to see that revision so it was too premature to see it at this meeting; we will see a final presentation of the report at the September meeting; we will review latest invoice with ECORP which doesn't leave much (money under the contract) and, we want to make sure that whatever final changes they are making because edits are included in the proposal, that we want to see that it does not exceed the CAC budget amount.

Mr. Fisk asked if "were we planning on paying the final amount before we see the draft, and would not it be more appropriate to pay after we see the final report?" Mr. Piazza said he concurred, and he wanted to make sure that the final invoice, if there is anything additional for the revision, and that it did not exceed the CAC budgeted amount.

Mr. Hunter while acknowledging that Bill was going to continue to assist in the review, took the opportunity to thank him on behalf of the whole CAC for his years of service to it and the community. He also observed that "when you get experts dealing in this kind of stuff, it's pretty technical, and that is the problem we had with the previous reports.. they just threw out a bunch of technical data that didn't mean anything to anybody, and Bill has been going over that and trying to have them (ECORP) massage into some document that we and the community can understand based on the observations they make.... .. so it is taking a little longer than we originally anticipated."

Another LAUSD representative will be assigned.

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

David Nguyen, Civil Engineer, L.A. County Dept. of Public Works [626.458.5189; DNgyuen@dpw.LACounty.gov; www.dpw.LACounty.gov], reported that he had previously reported to the CAC that Republic is required to apply soil on the weekend; that this was a requirement (of the CUP) and that they (Republic) had failed to comply, and as a result Public Works had referred this to County Regional Planning on April 11th, and that an NOV was issued on April 28th; the landfill is now in compliance and staff have been inspecting the Landfill every Monday morning since then, to make sure they continue to comply.

6. County Regional Planning Department to report on any 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; <http://planning.LACounty.gov>], reported that County Public Works covered the NOV issued by County Regional Planning, and that the Landfill is complying regarding weekend cover, and that there were no other areas of concern.

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.

Kristine Jegalian, Planner, L.A. City Planning Dept. (818-374-5046; Kristine.Jegalian@LACity.org; www.planning.LACity.org), was not present and 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. Hunter requested and Sharon Bronson, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; Sharon.Bronson@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), stated that she had nothing to report but was taking notes. At Mr. Hunter's request she agreed to take back to Councilman Lee that we are again experiencing odor problems, and that the landfill is getting NOVs, and that this is highly unusual during the month of June.

Will Steele, a Staff Assistant for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Kathryn Barger [office 818-993-5170; WSteele@bos.LACounty.gov; <https://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/kathryn-barger>] Jason Maruca was unavailable and asked that he attend in his absence to take notes, however, had nothing to report. Mr. Hunter requested, and Mr. Steele agreed that he (Mr. Steele) will forward the odor complaints and NOVs to Supervisor Barger, and thanked District 5 for attending, realizing that our area had been moved into District 3.

Mr. Mohajer commented that we worked with the Supervisor's office over the past several years to work with Public Health to conduct a Health Risk Assessment, and that became critical with the problem at Aliso Canyon, but he doesn't see anything coming from County Public Health on the landfill, and requested that Will take that back to the Supervisor.

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

Mr. Glenn Bailey suggested sending meeting Agendas to the two candidates for Board of Supervisors District 3 so that they might become acquainted with Sunshine Canyon Landfill and the community issues.

[The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #B.]

E. Set next meeting date (September 8, 2022). Motion: Whereas meeting in person would continue to present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and

that State and/or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing we approve the continued use of Zoom for our meetings. Adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION (by Ms. Pietraszko, seconded by Ms. Caspi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee Motions that Whereas meeting in person would continue to present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and that State and/or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing we approve the continued use of Zoom for our meetings.

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

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be online September 8, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

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

Mr. Hunter indicated that there was no more discussion.

Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 4:14 p.m.; there was no opposition.

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>.