

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA  
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING, Thursday, July 13, 2023**

Center for Spiritual Living, 17622 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, CA 91344  
and online via Zoom

DRAFT Minutes [to be replaced by “Approved \_[Month]\_ \_[date]\_, 202\_[year]\_”]

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

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of May 11, 2023 Minutes (Chair).**

This hybrid meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on July 13, 2023, in Granada Hills, California and online by Chair Wayde Hunter. Mr. Hunter explained that, because this was a hybrid meeting, rules under AB2449 were in effect and that copies of it had been sent to CAC Members previously in the letter from the Executive Office, County Board of Supervisors (dated January 12, 2023). The letter noted that at least a quorum of CAC members must be present in-person; any member who seeks to participate remotely must be approved prior to the meeting; they must announce if any person over 18 years old is present with them online; any votes must be voice votes; the CAC must provide a two-way audio-visual platform or two-way telephonic services with live webcasting of meeting; and that the agenda notify the public of ways to access the meeting and offer public comment via a call-in or internet-based service option and in person.

Roll Call was taken by the Chair. Seven of the eight Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Laine Caspi (virtual), Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck, Wayde Hunter, Debbie Pietraszko and (new Member, appointed by LAUSD) Jennifer Yoo. Absent: Keren Waters. A quorum of at least five (there were seven) Committee Members was present. One Committee Member opening was available. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Michael Stewart; 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.: Evan Cohen; L.A. County Public Works Dept.: David Nguyen; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Edgar De La Torre and Alex Garcia; L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath’s Office: Savannah Portillo; L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger’s Office: none; L.A. City Councilman John Lee’s Office: none; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; and LAUSD District 3: Andrew Modugno. Also attended: approximately 36 residents and other guests in person and online. Mr. Hunter asked everyone to sign in, though members of the public may remain anonymous. A Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related SCL-CAC and Landfill documents were available at [www.scl-cac.org](http://www.scl-cac.org) and slides were shown. Mr. Hunter had distributed to Committee Members an information packet that included a

Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related SCL-CAC and Landfill documents, and copies were available to the public. (See <http://scl-cac.org>.) Meeting documents were at <http://scl-cac.org>.

*Committee Member Jennifer Yoo arrived at this time (3:06).*

No corrections or amendments were made to the Minutes.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Capaldi, seconded by Mr. Fleck): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its May 11, 2023 Meeting.

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

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

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair).

Mr. Fleck pointed out that Mr. Hunter had previously referred to Committee members as Commissioners; based on the paperwork that he had, he took exception to that. Mr. Hunter said that while he did not know what the City called their appointees, County appointees are called Commissioners.

- Treasurer’s Report, May 2023 - June 2023 (Treasurer).  
Mr. Fleck reviewed finances. The “Business Checking Account (for Expenses) 1234” beginning balance was \$6,051.14. Total deductions were \$1,612.91; the ending balance was \$4,438.23. The “Business Savings Account (for Consultants) 1582” beginning balance was \$61,454.13; \$1.04 in interest was accrued; the ending balance was \$61,455.17. The “Business Checking Account (for Consultants) 9514” beginning and ending balances both were \$36,696.98. There was \$100 in Petty Cash. There was \$0 in Other Assets. The total beginning balance for all accounts as of May 1, 2023 was \$104,302.25; debits were \$1,612.91 and deposits were \$1.04; the total ending balance for all accounts was \$102,690.38 as of June 30, 2023 per Mr. Fleck and Mr. Hunter.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Pietraszko): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the financial report for May-June.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the seven eligible voters present with all seven in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Caspi, Fisk, Fleck, Hunter, Pietraszko and Yoo); 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 including NOVs, current and future disposal operations, including continuing efforts to abate odors

Michael Stewart, 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” as follows:

Operations

- There have been no major changes to our disposal operation or location, and we continue to utilize cell CC-4-P4A/B/C. We have not needed to use our wet weather deck in the last month.
- We continue to use the Enviro-Cover for ADC and monitor its performance daily.
- During the months of May and June, a full soil cover was applied every Saturday. ADC was used for cover on weekdays. All trash was covered with either ADC or soil on all days.

Construction

- We continue to repair the site from the extensive damage caused by the rain this season, and have submitted action plans to the LEA, County Department of Public Works, AQMD and the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- The implementation of these plans are well underway, which include repair of roadways and drainage channels, covering and grading of slopes, buttressing and grading work on surficial soil sloughs, as well as typical winterization activities. Additionally, the permanent repair to the terminal basin riser is on schedule to be complete by the end of July.
- We have received our grading permits for Phase 1 & 2 of the Toe Berm project. All approvals within the City have been issued for Phases 3, 4 & 5 with the City and we expect the grading permit within the next 2 weeks.
- This is an important project to enhance our odor controls on site as well as reduce the visual impact of looking up into the canyon, and to ensure stability for the continued development of the landfill. Most of Phases 1 and 2 Construction have been complete – 100% completion is on schedule to be done by the first week of August.
- Work has also begun on an internal access road through City south which will eventually connect with the full build-out of the berm, and will provide safer, paved access into the landfill. This is expected to be complete by January 2024.
- Construction of the entirety of the berm project estimated to be completed in mid-2025.
- No cell construction is planned for 2023; disposal operations will continue in the existing remaining constructed airspace for the remainder of this year. The next planned cell will be constructed in 2024.
- We continue to move through the permitting process for the installation of Flare 12 with an expected installation completion target of 2024, pending approvals.

- We have secured a new location for the air quality monitoring station and have scheduled work for a new power supply in early August.

Odor update:

- The repairs of the slopes and erosion have significantly improved odors, as well as the clear out of the network of transfer stations throughout the County which were backed up by the rain earlier in the year.
- In addition, the site to date has drilled 40 vertical gas wells and installed over 6,000 linear feet of horizontal (gas) collectors which have also helped with gas odors.
- In early May, one NOV was issued by AQMD for odors, but since that day, there have been no NOV's issued for odor complaints. Overall, May showed a significant decrease in overall number of complaints. As of today, the data for June has not been made available.. as of writing this today. Based on our odor patrol's, we expect June to continue a downward trend.
- Our Odor Patrol Team is fully staffed, and the patrols are rolling smoothly. The Team is in the neighborhood during the early hours of operations and then moves to spot patrols throughout the day. As they notice odors, they relay that information back to the site and we adjust the operations based on their feedback. This is our most effective line of defense when get highly odoriferous at the working face
- We are continually modifying the pilot Stationary wet and dry vapor odor neutralizer delivery system on site. We have established a partnership with a consultant developing site-specific neutralizer product and delivery systems, and we continue working with them to improve the on-site systems and tailor the product to our waste stream.

Mr. Fisk asked about the pilot vapor odor neutralizer system. Mr. Stewart explained that "their odor control technology is basically a generic design but based on sampling and engineering in the lab, we are able to figure out what are the components of the odor molecules in our odors, and they can tailor the neutralizer to break down the compound." He further noted that he did not know the impacts to the system from the heat and the cold.

Mr. Hunter asked if Republic was on schedule with an agreement it had made with the AQMD for a series of actions that they were supposed to take on the basis of the odor complaints caused by the rains (January and February), etc. Mr. Stewart reported that "we have met all the deadlines" of the AQMD's requested Landfill actions.

Guest Mike Mohajer stated that "he had read that Republic had excavated 17 vertical extraction wells" and asked that, "during the excavation, what type of mitigating measures did you incorporate to prevent odor emissions in the neighborhood?" Mr. Stewart replied that "the 17 wells referred to were not excavated but were plugged and abandoned in place. We dug down, cut them off and sealed them." Mr. Mohajer further explained his concern and Mr. Stewart

said that he now understood his question, and that “new well construction included vacuum boxes and on-site water trucks for odor control, and myriad of procedures that we follow, and that they monitor the waste as they are putting in the wells.” Mr. Mohajer said that Mr. Stewart had mentioned in his report that the grading and drainage plans had been approved by the City but wanted to know if those plans had been approved by the County Public Works. Mr. Stewart replied that “they were not.” Mr. Mohajer expressed his concern as the County requirements may be more restrictive.” He asked Republic if they had obtained Water Board approval of the drainage plan. Mr. Stewart replied that “we have.” Mr. Mohajer further expressed his concern as the landfill is in the Los Angeles Flood Control District and has a Stormwater Permit (NPDES) that the County has to comply with and wants to make sure that the County is not sued by the Water Board. Mr. Mohajer stated that he “does not represent any governmental or private agency, just speaking as a private citizen.”

Resident Bill Leslie stated that “within the last thirty days, two trucks that were made for animal hauling - live animals and dead animals were entering the landfill. What restrictions are there on dead animals going to the dump?” Mr. Stewart said that “we don’t accept them.” Mr. Leslie asked “then why did you have two animal haulers go to the dump on two separate occasions? I am an agricultural expert, so I know what it was, I know what I saw...” Mr. Stewart asked which days he was referring to and the resident replied yesterday. The resident continued that “you can’t be taking dead animals...where are the dead animals coming from if you are only taking from Los Angeles County, and the City of Los Angeles? Is it coming from Chino? Chino is out of LA County.” Mr. Stewart stated he “does not agree with the premise that we took dead animals.” In a follow-up conversation with Ms. Pietraszco, Mr. Leslie stated that he had not seen them come out. Mr. Hunter said he would follow up with Mr. Stewart.

A resident asked, “if there is any way to neutralize the odor completely or does the deodorizer always take effect so that it smells like strong fabric softener?” Mr. Stewart explained to her that the odor control material is “a neutralizer”; the fragrance is to trace and ensure the existence of the odor control material; “we’re going to have it taken out completely.”

Resident Eric Fefferman asked “what is the Wet Weather Plan that is in place in anticipation with El Nino in the Fall and Winter; these atmospheric rivers.... ..and all this flooding this year.. .. what is in place to stop a repeat of this year?” Mr. Stewart stated that “we’re going to be . . . putting in a lot of very hefty berms; we’re going to be creating access to the majority of our wells . . . that they can be pumped out. We’ve already cleaned out the sediment basins, the normal wet weather stuff. Between now and October when the rains start we’re going to have a . . . beefed-up berm system so we can keep the slopes intact and better track the runoff from the storm . . .

A resident asked, “Is there a plan in place to mitigate the dirt and dust that we are experiencing?” Mr. Stewart said that “We’re continually covering the Landfill with road (access); we have four water trucks that run constantly, especially during these dry periods of time, to stay on top of it.” The resident replied that she has to drive through “major dust clouds as you round that turn (outside of the Landfill) and whatever they were doing was not working.”

Mr. Hunter said regarding the Landfill that “we, the public, think that you need to have a far more aggressive policy when it comes to wet weather”; you have basically indicated that you couldn’t shut down the Landfill; that you couldn’t divert the trash; both of which have happened in the past;. So, you need to develop a far more aggressive policy when it comes to wet weather.” When it comes to torrential rains. he believed that Republic should have a policy to “shut down” and/or “divert traffic to other landfills” . . . . . and what you did “wasn’t in the public interest.” LAUSD’s Andrew Modugno asked if that policy had been put in writing. Mr. Stewart reported that the Landfill will submit a wet weather policy for LEA approval by around October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Mohajer noted that in the Water Board’s letter to Republic they will have a new Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) Permit effective in September 2023. He asked whether that WDR will be similar to the previous WDR or have additional requirements. Mr. Stewart replied that he did not know and would consult with his environmental team, and get back to him and Mr. Hunter.

- 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.

Mr. Hunter explained that a May report was provided; “June was not available.” Larry Israel, Compliance Supervisor, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; [LIsrael@aqmd.gov](mailto:LIsrael@aqmd.gov); [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)], reported that in May the AQMD received 32 complaints; one NOV [Notice of Violation] was issued May 3<sup>rd</sup> for odors, including at Van Gogh Charter School. In June there were 23 odor complaints; 21 were not verified. In July so far eight complaints were received, “none of which were verified,” making 809 complaints so far this year. He explained that, when there’s liquid spillage from trucks going to the Landfill, the AQMD checks both upwind and downwind for odors. The odor reporting phone number still is 1-800-CUT-SMOG, and the Internet app also is available.

Mr. Fefferman wanted to know, since recently there’ve been a lot of complaints like in 2016-2018, why the AQMD hasn’t issued another Order for Abatement to the Landfill like it did then. Mr. Israel said he did not know, but “would let our staff know of your concerns.”

*(At this time, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Israel inquired about when AQMD Legal counsel Nicholas Sanchez attended the SCL-CAC. For the record, Mr. Sanchez last attended on March 10, 2016. He reported at the SCL-CAC's November 1, 2012 (almost 11 years ago) meeting that "beginning around 2008 a series of Notices were issued" regarding "Violations of Odors . . . Because the Violations were persistent and ongoing, a Notice of Abatement was filed in April 2010 . . . additional Violations of use were reported to the District . . . so more Notices were issued." He said they "have imposed numerous other conditions." The Notice of Abatement is scheduled to last until April 2013. Mr. Sanchez added that "by statute" the SCAQMD cannot redirect NOV fines paid. "There are other remedies available if this does not solve the problem" such as "injunctive relief" and they can refer the case.)*

Mr. Hunter reported that relevant documents are posted on the SCL-CAC website, including a June 1, 2023 letter from Mr. Sanchez to the County Task Force regarding agreements made with BFI/Republic regarding the Landfill. Mr. Sanchez "is claiming that this agreement that they've had . . . is in lieu of them taking any action." Mr. Hunter noted that the AQMD shut down a business that had 300 complaints, while there've been 14,000 complaints about Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

**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)] reported that "our agency is responsible for enforcing Title 27 State Regulations on solid waste . . . The wet weather plan . . . is due to the LEA by October 1<sup>st</sup>. This plan will be put onto our website . . . Anytime we get these plans, we work closely with County Department of Public Works . . . We also work with . . . the Water Board . . . One of the issues that we've had with the site is the haul road; a lot of potholes and it was interfering with the traffic . . . Republic . . . repaved a lot of these areas and it's really helped with the traffic flow . . . Every five years the Landfill is required to undergo a Permit review and that will be due . . . by December this year. They should be getting the application in to us sometime in the Fall . . . we'll put this online . . . we'll see if it needs to be adjusted . . . [Republic has] been working on . . . preparing the site

**4. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to report on any SCL matters within their purview.**

Andrew Modugno, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213-241-3926; [Andrew.Modugno@lausd.net](mailto:Andrew.Modugno@lausd.net)], reported that "we . . . got the access agreement done for the L.A. City air monitoring trailer . . . We trimmed some trees so that we can get the new trailer in . . . by the 28<sup>th</sup> . . . This is on the Van Gogh [Charter School] campus . . . We haven't had any complaints from Van Gogh since May 3<sup>rd</sup>

. . . The device is operational; the trailer was starting to fall apart.” The trailer measures “dust, [is] part of a weather station, and black carbon . . .” The new trailer will measure for more different types of particulate matter, which he listed; the data is regularly reported. He believed the data would be on a website.

**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; [DNguyen@dpw.LACounty.gov](mailto:DNguyen@dpw.LACounty.gov); [www.dpw.LACounty.gov](http://www.dpw.LACounty.gov)], reported that “there was significant damage to the Landfill infrastructure due to the windstorm event in January. To make sure that the operator corrected these damages, we have sent a letter to Republic in April, requesting for milestones as to when these damages are repaired . . . Republic did submit a response in late April, however, we determined that the response did not include sufficient detail on milestones for maintenance and repair, or implementation of long-term measures to ensure that the same event does not happen again in the future. The Landfill has submitted a report recently to Public Works . . . It’s clearly under review and we will continue to review and monitor the progress to repair. We will have more updates at the next CAC meeting . . . The Landfill has been taking in material, more than what is clearly allowed under the Conditional Use Permits.” This matter has been “referred to Regional [Planning], who is the Land Use Permit issuer, for possible enforcement action. Regional Planning has issued an NOV to Republic Services and the matter is clearly under appeal . . . We’ll continue to monitor for compliance.” Mr. Thompson explained that “the five-year Permit review is . . . required by State regulations in Title 27. It’s regarding the solid waste facility Permit; it’s not regarding any of the other Permits . . .” The number of NOVs issued “could” have an effect on the Permit. Mr. Hunter clarified that the LEA only can consider NOVs that it issues, not NOVs issued by other agencies. Mr. Nguyen clarified that “the Solid Waste Facility Permit . . . is a State Permit . . . the CUP [is] under the County.” Mr. Mohajer noted that the CUP is jointly issued by both the County and the City of Los Angeles.

**6. County Regional Planning Department** to report on 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 “our purview is to check compliance with the Conditional Use Permit . . . As of now, there’s nothing . . . going in that direction [of amending the CUP] . . . Exceedance of tonnage was referred by the Public Works Department . . . We would need a specific referral” [to amend the CUP].

Alex Garcia, Assistant Deputy Director, L.A. County Regional Planning Dept., Zoning Enforcement Project Section, [213-974-6453; [AGarcia@planning.LACounty.gov](mailto:AGarcia@planning.LACounty.gov); <http://planning.LACounty.gov>], reported that a



Hearing Officer has continued to November 7th Republic's appeal of the NOV. He said "the Permit has to be modified by the Regional Planning Commission . . . . The determination of whether to issue an NOV "is based on a discussion; there is no threshold . . . ." Mr. Fefferman questioned who was responsible for Landfill oversight and compliance. He "live[s] a half a mile away from the school" and reported that "there's all these respiratory infections that're happening . . . all my neighbors who have young kids, all those kids have had ear infections, bronchial infections this year. There's something going on . . ." Mr. Garcia said the CAC "can make recommendations to the Board."

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

Evan Cohen, Environmental Toxicologist, L.A. County Public Health Dept. [voicemail 626-430-9821; [ECohen@ph.LACounty.gov](mailto:ECohen@ph.LACounty.gov); <http://publichealth.LACounty.gov>], encouraged contacting him with questions. Mr. Hunter reported that CPH didn't reply even to acknowledge receiving a study from the CAC. Mr. Cohen said "I'll do my best to be here at all of the meetings, as well as the TAC meetings."

**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.**

Savannah Portillo, a Field Deputy "filling in for Sophia Souvani" for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Lindsey Horvath [office 213-974-3333; [SPortillo@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:SPortillo@bos.LACounty.gov); [ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov); <https://lacounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/lindsey-p-horvath>], introduced herself and encouraged to "reach out to the AQMD" and "keep communicating with us . . ."

Tammy Stevens, a Field Representative for U.S. 25th District of California Congressman Mike Garcia [ofc. 661-568-4855; [Tammy.Stevens@mail.house.gov](mailto:Tammy.Stevens@mail.house.gov); <https://mikegarcia.house.gov>], introduced herself and encouraged reaching out to them.

**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 (September 14, 2023).**

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be at a location to be determined, possibly a hybrid in-person and online, on September 14, 2023 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 4:56 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>.