

Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Citizens Advisory Committee

To: Dr. Seira Kurian, Regional Health Officer Alberto Rivadeneyra, Public Health Nurse

RE: Motion September 12, 2024, SCL-CAC Meeting to write a letter stating that “the SCL-CAC feels that it is the responsibility of the Los Angeles County Health Department to conduct a medical focused analysis of the data collected to determine what health impacts, both long and short term, are incurred from the odors from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill that detrimentally affect the residents in the surrounding community and to report back, in a timely manner, with those findings.”

It is the mission and responsibility of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Citizen Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) to listen to our residents and be responsive to the concerns about the impact of the landfill’s operation. The biggest concern is and has always been, the number of odor complaints and what is being done to mitigate those odors.

A common question has been brought up at virtually every meeting since 2009 either by board members or the public: what affect do these odors have on the immediate and long-term health of people living in the area? There are reported concerns about respiratory problems with children at the Van Gogh Elementary School. Adults and their families regularly curtail their physical activities often on days and evenings when the odors are strongest, even staying inside with their air conditioners and air filters running. These reported impacts extend to outdoor activities in O’Melveny Park and Bee Canyon Parks as well.

The answer to these health impacts are never truly addressed to a definitive conclusion or to the satisfaction of the residents of the area. There has been lot of data collected, reports filed, even defining some of the 100 compounds that are found in the odors, but not as they relate to health concerns.

The SCL-CAC committee contracted ECORP Consulting Incorporated to conduct an independent study to specifically address health impacts resulting from the landfill odors. Their 2022 report was submitted to County Public Health which never provided a written response to the SCL-CAC but did erroneously dismiss the findings.

As Dr. Cyrus Rangan, Director County of Los Angeles Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment said at our March 12, 2015, SCL-CAC meeting *“And so, when I hear about a situation like this, when we are talking and emphasizing this notion about odor complaints, that’s where for me it’s a big focus, and it really does actually cause adverse health effects, not necessarily outcomes, but have adverse health effects. So when I... (Pause) to be more specific. We’ve already talked..., you’ve already brought this up. When you are talking about something like odors; no I’m not saying you can’t get cancer from smelling an odor. But what I can say is that, yeh, can it cause: eye irritation, nose irritation, mouth irritation, throat irritation (Yes from audience), nausea, light headiness, a feeling of ick? All those kinds of things. Yeh, of course you can. And do I as a physician consider those to be real health effects? Real physiological effects? Yes, because they are real.”*

In closing, the SCL-CAC feels that it is the responsibility of the Los Angeles County Health Department to conduct a medical focused analysis of the data collected to determine what health impacts, both long and short term, are incurred from the odors from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill that detrimentally affect the residents in the surrounding community and to report back, in a timely manner, with those findings.

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