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October 31, 2024

Mr. Wade Hunter
Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee
16911 San Fernando Mission Blvd., Box 412
Granada Hills, CA 91344

RE: Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) request for Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) to conduct a medical focused analysis of data to evaluate health impacts on the community from SCL

Dear Mr. Hunter:

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) received the SCL-CAC’s request for DPH to “conduct a medically focused analysis of 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...”. DPH is not aware of any air monitoring data that has been collected regarding SCL odors, including the September 2022 Health Risk Assessment conducted by ECORP Consulting on diesel and other particulate matter from mobile sources, that indicate the need for an additional evaluation of health impacts from odors.

Landfill gases are naturally produced when bacteria break down organic waste (e.g., food, yard trimming, and paper). Odors from landfills are mostly caused by ammonia and sulfur compounds. Exposure to intermittent, unpleasant, and sometimes strong odors from trash and waste that individuals experience when in proximity to a landfill can sometimes cause physical health symptoms that are generally expected to go away when the odor is gone. The short-term health symptoms from exposures to these odors can include headaches, nasal congestion, eye, nose and throat irritation, hoarseness/sore throat, cough, chest tightness, shortness of breath, wheezing, heart palpitations, nausea, drowsiness, and mental depression. These health effects are not permanent and do not lead to long-term disease but may temporarily exacerbate existing health conditions, such as such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease, and respiratory diseases.



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We continue to work with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), Republic Services and SCL-CAC and support their efforts to mitigate the odors from the SCL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Chang".

Alicia H. Chang, MD, MS
Acting Regional Health Officer

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