

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Thursday, January 6, 2011, 3 p.m.  
Knollwood Country Club  
12024 Balboa Boulevard, Granada Hills, CA 91344**

- A.** The meeting was called to order by Chair, Becky Bendikson, at 3:02 p.m.  
Roll call was called by Agnes Lewis.

**PRESENT:**

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Members:** Becky Bendikson, Jeanette Capaldi, Larry Gray, Wayde Hunter, Josh Jordahl, Mary Anna Kienholz, and Joe Vitti. **Late:** Josh Jordahl. **Absent:** Michael Hemming.

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE CITY, COUNTY, AND REPUBLIC SERVICES:**

SCL-LEA: David Thompson, Mark Como; COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING: None; SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH'S OFFICE: Millie Jones; BFI/REPUBLIC SERVICES: Rafael Garcia, Patti Costa, Steve Cassulo; SCAQMD: David Jones; GREIG SMITH'S OFFICE: Nicole Bernson;

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Bill Hopkins (GHNNC), Agnes Lewis (GHNNC), Ralph Kroy (GHNNC), Cherie Mann, Mike Mohajer.

**Motion** to approve November 2010 minutes (Hunter/Capaldi); Approved 5-0-1.

Ms. Bendikson thanked members of the public for attending noting that we were short a few of the government entities. She asked that those present sign in, but made it clear that the members of the public may remain anonymous if they so wished by not signing in, and if requested would not be identified in the minutes when speaking.

**B. Old Business:**

**1. Discussion of any outstanding administrative matters (Chair):**

- a. Accept the resignation of Mary Wroblewski, Secretary, as of November 4, 2010. The Chair said she had asked the office of Tamar Galatzan to name a successor; to date there has been no response. Millie Jones volunteered to pursue this with Ms. Galatzan.
- b. Discussion of new posting locations to replace HOWS market (closed). Ralph Kroy (member of the public) volunteered top post at Bee Canyon Park and at Van Gogh Elementary school. Currently, posting sites include HOWS and Albertson's (also closing at the San Fernando Mission location); a display case at Sugar Suite (Knollwood Plaza); also at the library, though that is not accessible 24 hours a day. Ms. Capaldi posts at the Reseda Firestation; she will see if it is possible to post at the police station on Devonshire. Ms. Bendikson contacted Knollwood Pharmacy, which agreed to post near the post office in the location. Ms. Bendikson asked for other suggestions. There were

none. They will request a posting at the GHNNC office; notices of meetings are included in the websites of both the North & South Granada Hills Neighborhood Councils. Mr. Hunter to contact GHNNC.

2. **Treasurer's Report (Ms. Kienholz):** Three SCL-CAC members went to open a new bank account on November 10<sup>th</sup>. The organization has been caught in a catch-22: they could not open a bank account without funds to deposit; but they could not get the funds from BFI/Republic without a bank account. They solved the problem by opening the account with borrowed funds. BFI had promised to wire the funds within two weeks, but at more than two months, no funds have been made available. Mr. Bratton of BFI/Republic was not in attendance; Mr. Garcia said that there had been an unfortunate procedural problem; the - authorized payment was rejected by their controller because it was too small for a wire transfer. They are now manually issuing checks for \$80k plus \$6k for expenses; the controller's office said they would be at the Sunshine Canyon office by January 10<sup>th</sup> (2011).
  
3. **Formalize/discuss request to deliver an Executive Summary of written or oral reports delivered under agenda item C.** To avoid the committee having to listen to often detailed information delivered orally, or having to wade through charts during the meeting, the intent is to request that information providers deliver an Executive summary at the meeting (15 copies), and to also forward the information at least 3 days before the meeting so that participants can review the information before discussing it at the meetings. In the case of lengthy documents, one copy with a hotlink to an online source is acceptable, as long as it is provided 5 days before the meeting. Mr. Thompson remarked that typically they don't have reports, just charts of statistics. After discussion, it was agreed he would provide 2 months of exception reports – areas of concern and violations.

### **C. New Business:**

1. **BFI Report:** Mr. Bratton was not in attendance. Mr. Garcia remarked that there is a new format for the reports. Mr. Cassulo, Operations Manager of BFI, gave the report. They will now use Firefox for the reports; plan on going live by the middle of the month (January). They publish a newsletter every quarter; will work on it as soon as they are done with the website updates. During November, received only one call at the hotline number, and five calls from the AQMD on odor complaints. In December, there were two calls from the public and eight from the AQMD. The hotline has been available for more than 6 years. It notifies managers immediately by email that goes to their Blackberries; this is faster than going through the AQMD. The 800 number to call is published on their website, in the newsletter, on signs; they hope to encourage the public to call there. Question from the public (Mohajer): do they publicize waste collection events? Answer: they rely on the County to publish that information, since these events apply only to some geographical areas. Comment (Mohajer): according to their conditional use permit, they are supposed to provide some free services to the public. He asks that they publish on their website information about what free services are available to whom. Mr. Cassulo returned to his report: They are averaging 80,000 tons a day excavated; 1.2 million cubic yards are being stored on the City side with a 500 foot offset. Buttresses are being maintained, and the roadway is being maintained; there have been no issues. In December, there were 9.9 inches of rain at the

site, without erosion problems; it held up pretty well. Covering the trash every day as has been required, makes it harder to move equipment in mud; it takes more time. They exceed the number of hours allowed on two days, in order to finish putting in the dirt cover. Question from the Chair: last year they processed sediment from La Canada/Flintridge; is that being done again this year? Answer (Garcia): They did not receive any to process this year, though the County had asked them to be ready for that contingency.

Ms. Costa, Environmental Manager for BFI, said that they received comments from County Public Health asking for additional information by 12/31. This was submitted on 12/30/2010 and copied to other interested parties by January 5<sup>th</sup>. The County had requested more information regarding operational practices to address odors; to submit plans to increase gas collection efficiency; and that they submit gas monitoring maps and locations of probes by the end of the month. An update of efforts to comply with the Order of Abatement: There are **several studies** going on simultaneously. One is due May 6<sup>th</sup>, a computer model with wind flow, using topography information. Another is due February 13<sup>th</sup>; a study to collect capture and the destruction of odors at the working face. This will be a preliminary report, the final one by June 16<sup>th</sup>. They are evaluating the whole process at the working face, in conjunction with a consulting firm, Environmental Strategies. A working face study is due the first week of February; data collection is done by JMA and evaluated by Environment International.

Question (Vitti): the computer model has not been used before? Answer (Garcia): this model had not been approved before; it's a new computer model. (Costa): and the study is being done with AQMD cooperation. Question (Vitti): do the 4 consultants interact? Answer (Costa): there are lots of data, so the consultants necessarily interact. (Vitti): who draws the conclusions? (Costa): All consultants, AQMD, and SCL will be involved. (Vitti): Who pays for the "Odor Summit" in June? (Costa): Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Question from the public (Mann): what entities determine which neutralizers are used? (Costa): they depend on information from the manufacturers; then SCL tests it and then they get approval from the Water Board. (Mann) is the AQMD involved? (Costa) No, the Water Board has jurisdiction.

Comment (Vitti): all of this information would have been very convenient as a one-page summary. Costa agreed to provide.

Resuming the report, Ms. Costa said they are continuing to **install 14 gas extraction wells**; they stopped temporarily in November and December because of the heavy rains. They are planning on an additional 5 on the County side, and 4 on the City side.

Question (Mohajer): Any horizontal collection? Answer: No, because this would cause additional odor issues and would have a lot of oxygen impact. Horizontal collection is done only in locations where vertical wells have failed. (Mohajer): Also, why is only the Water Board involved in the neutralizers, and not AQMD? The impact is on the air. Answer (Jones,

SCAQMD): They are only involved if there are VOC (volatile organic compounds) involved. Their charter is to look into certain defined pollutants, not broad-based to look at everything that could be a problem. Perhaps the County Public Health department would be appropriate. SCAQMD only looks at known toxins.

Ms. Costa resumed her report: On **leachate prevention**: leachate treatment has been relocated temporarily to an area near the truck scales, while a permanent plan is developed. **Power line realignment**: Comments have been received, and this will be re-submitted to SCE by February 14<sup>th</sup>. Preliminary civil design for pads has been submitted to SCE.

Question (Hunter): On the relocation of leachate treatment, were all regulators notified? All permits applied for and received? Answer: All liquid treatment (leachate and condensate) – the original plan was to send both to a location near the gate. However, one of the conditions prohibit treatment of condensate within 500' of perimeter, so the two are now treated separately. All necessary permits were applied for and received.

Comment (Hunter): the Conditional Use Permit requires notification to all CACs. None was received by the SCL-CAC. The only exclusion is supposed to be proprietary information. (Garcia): there was notification when landslides occurred. (Hunter): Has seen no application for the County part. (Garcia): all agencies were notified. A letter was sent by Susan Jennings to the CAC before she left; he will find and forward a copy. Mr. Hunter reiterated again the request that the SCL-CAC be added as a "cc" to all letters sent to regulatory agencies. Question from the public (Kroy): have they completed the removal of leachate facilities? Answer (Costa): done in September (2010).

**SCAQMD Report: (Jones)**: Copies of 4 reports were handed out. One was a Notice of Public Hearing (case number 3448-13) on the Order of Abatement. Another chart had complaints from November and December (2010), including date, time, week, and description of odor. In November there were 76 complaints, compared to 163 in the previous year. In December, there were 79, compared with 13 in 2009. They verified odors, and noted a violation on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. And "blowing trash" on December 14<sup>th</sup>; they also issued a Notice. Two notices would trigger condition #12 in the Order of Abatement, and a required meeting with the SCAQMD. They are in the process of setting this up. At the last TAC (Technical Advisory Committee), the Department of Public Works required they use dirt to cover the landfill; this had certain impacts. Their legal counsel feels that they need to return; there will be a meeting January 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. (at the SCAQMD Hearing Board) to discuss a possible amendment to the Order of Abatement. The fourth report had a list of leachate studies and their due dates. Mr. Jones said Larry Israel was unable to attend this SCL-CAC meeting, and so Mr. Jones read his notes, and went over the November Notice of Violation. On January 1, 2011 the landfill was open and received 33 tons of trash due to the unusually wet weather and pile-ups at transfer stations. On complaints, he noted 4 new complaints from the northeast section; the complainant said this was not the first time he had noted the odors, but previously had not known whom to call.

Question from the public (Mann): doesn't the SCAQMD look at neutralizers? Answer: no; they rely on the Water Board. They have considered this issue before and didn't see a problem, but will ask the County health officer to take a look. (Jones): look at the chemicals listed in the legislation: NOx, SOx, etc. But possibly could take action through the nuisance standards. It's somewhat of a crude tool, but somebody like County Public Health could take immediate action.

Comment (Thompson): Federal OSHA or CalOSHA looks at products before they come to the landfill. SCL depends on the testing done by manufacturers. Mr. Hunter commented that driving near Orozco Street; he could smell what appeared to be laundry smells, apparently from the neutralizers. He did not find the smell offensive, so he did not report it, but the smell was quite noticeable. MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) addresses health issues but doesn't address nuisance factor.

Comment (Mohajer): Everything has its pluses and minuses. The company is trying to address the problems, and should be commended for doing the job.

- 2. SCL-LEA Report (Thompson):** Every year the program manager of the SCL-LEA switches from City to County and back. Wayne Tseuda will be the new manager. He could not be at this meeting. At the last TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) meeting, they began to form an Odor Subcommittee. So that there will be no conflict between all these different agencies and SCL staff, the Department of Public Works will be scheduling meetings. Another goal will be to work with the operator to improve the gas system to prevent problems this year. Another goal will be to improve outreach – they're working on a website where all the documents, information, and reports will be available to all. They will also develop a contact list, so that every time the SCL Board has a meeting, the CAC will be informed. The next meeting of the LEA Board will be at the end of January/beginning of February. Wayne has appointed Dave (Thompson) as POC (point of contact) reachable at 213-252-3348.

There were three violations at location 207A, with high readings of methane in November and December. This was re-checked on 12/23, and now reads 0%. Inspectors detected odors of trash in the neighborhood; at the next check the week after, there was still a slight odor. The site had an incredible amount of rain in December, and the landfill did extremely well, much better than last year.

A letter was sent to CalRecycle in connection with the Mitigation Monitoring Plan. The primary responsible lead agency is the Planning department for both City and County. On odor issues, LEA must rely on AQMD. On vegetation, LEA has clear role, and would rely on the Planning department to check compliance with their approved vegetation plans.

Comment from the public (Mohajer): LA County Task Force got involved on 6/17/2008 to avoid jurisdictional issues. He is glad to see the agencies are meeting.

3. **City and County Planning Departments:** Comment from Mr. Hunter – It is ironic that they are the primary agencies, but are not in attendance, although Maria Macis (County) sent an email regretting her absence.
4. **Other representatives from the City, County, and State:** Biologist Wesley Colvin spoke of a long-term photo monitoring station, and improving CSS (Coastal Safety Scrub) recruitment (for sage mitigation). Comment (Mohajer): The Governor has made an appointment for a manager of CalRecycle, and will make another for director.
5. **Bull Creek Restoration Update (Kroy):** Mr. Kroy asserted that BFI had done its job with the required restoration of Bull Creek, but that the City has not lived up to its obligation. Millie Jones and their legal staff are looking into the County role.

**D. Public Comment:**

Ms. Mann: Is there a berm in the landfill, or does the trash go above the ridge? .Answer: All is enclosed, but wind can take trash out of the landfill. That's why there are some meteorological studies being done.

Comment (Vitti): This is an "advisory" group; it does not regulate anything, nor is it in a position of approving anything. For example, the leachate treatment position change was mentioned six months ago, and that is sufficient notice. He thinks BFI is really trying to solve the odor problem, and deserves some recognition for that.

Question from the public: Is there an updated aerial view of the landfill? Answer (Garcia): There will be an over-flight in March, so a new map should be available in April.

At 4:45 p.m. the Chair advised that the main meeting was adjourned, and after a 5 minute break a Special Budget Meeting would follow.

**E. Special Budget Meeting:**

The Budget meeting reconvened at approximately 4:55 p.m. Attending were Bendikson, Capaldi, Gray, Hunter, Jordahl, Kienholz, Vitti, so a quorum was maintained.

Mr. Hunter reported that they sent out an RFP to a number of people for bookkeeping and accounting services, with only one response, from Chris' Crew. This was a referral to Ms. Bendikson from an acquaintance at Church, so she does not know them personally. They supply their own facilities. The rate is \$30/hour. The budget has a cap for these services of \$2500 to \$3,000 annually. The problem is that there is still no money from SCL, though they have been paying for copying services. The CAC expects the money next week via a check, not a wire transfer. There was discussion of putting out another RFP to get more responses. Mr. Hunter pointed out that the bookkeeping firm will not have any access to the money; they will simply report on what is spent. He proposed that they accept this RFP. After some more discussion, a vote was taken on a **Motion to accept the RFP. It carried 6-0-1.**

**F. Adjournment at 5:15 p.m.**

**Minutes by Agnes Lewis. Approved by Committee as amended March 3, 2011**