

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Thursday, March 1, 2012, 3 p.m.  
Knollwood Country Club  
12024 Balboa Boulevard, Granada Hills, CA 91344**

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call & Approval of Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Becky Bendikson, at 3:05 p.m.  
Roll call was called by Notetaker, Agnes Lewis.

**PRESENT: SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Members:** Becky Bendikson, Gale Gundersen, and Wayde Hunter. Late: Jeanette Capaldi, and Josh Jordahl. Absent: Maria Armoudian, Mary Anna Kienholz ,and Joe Vitti.  
Quorum was established at 3:28 PM.

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

SCL-LEA: David Thompson, Gerry Villalobos, Marty Rosen, Cindy Chen; SUPERVISOR ANTONOVICH'S OFFICE: Jarred Degonia; BFI/REPUBLIC SERVICES: David Cieply, Anthony Bertrand, and Patti Costa; SCAQMD: David Jones, Larry Israel, Jill Wynot, and Joe Cassmassi; CD 12 OFFICE Nicole Bernson; LAUSD District 3, None;. LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING: Iris Chi; LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING: None Present; MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Ralph Kroy (GHNNC), Cherie Mann, Ya-Yue Yen, Edward Headington, Andrea Provenzale, Roger Dames, Patricia Strucke, Randall Torno, Dean Michaels, Sara Dolley, and Adrian Saralon.

Ms. Bendikson thanked members of the public for attending. She asked all to sign in, but made it clear that the members of the public may remain anonymous if they so wish. Approval of the Minutes was deferred until a quorum was established later in the meeting.

**B. Old Business:**

- 1. Discussion of any outstanding administrative matters (Chair):** [this item was discussed chronologically after item D, Public Comment, because a quorum was attained later in the meeting.] **(Vice Chair):** There was some concern over the report that shows City and County Fire Departments training, where the tankers drop fire retardants over the areas they overfly. There was a correction issued – they drop water, not fire retardant. City and County representatives agreed to meet with community representatives to discuss the concern that we are getting lots of overflights. The City increased the frequency from 5-6 times a year to 20-22 times a year. We would like to see different approach routes like the MWD uses to the MWD heliport by using freeways and MWD land to minimize the noise over residential areas.
- 2. Treasurer's Report (Mr. Jordahl):** A packet of financial information was handed out. Mr. Jordahl went over January expenses. Balances are: \$3,571.61 in the consultant checking account; \$6656.09 in regular checking; \$89,354.96 in the consultant savings account; and \$100 in petty cash, for a total of \$101,182.66 (refer to separate Treasurer's Report).

### C. New Business:

1. **BFI/Republic Report:** Mr. Bertrand, Area Environmental Manager for Sunshine Canyon Landfill spoke about the landfill gas system improvements. Work was completed in 2011 for the landfill gas system: the well field collects gas generated by the landfill materials; perimeter piping takes the gas to the flare, which burns it. They conducted evaluations of the gas collection system; there are only a handful of experts in this field in the world, and they hired two of them. They installed 85 new wells, 72 in 2011, for a total of 150. They retrofitted membrane boots over the wells to prevent gas from migrating up. Installed 1200-feet of horizontal piping. The perimeter header system had two phases completed for 9200-feet of pipe, and increased the size of the collector pipes to 36-inches. They refurbished all the flare equipment so it is now more efficient. Before they used various contractors that handed off to each other, sometimes creating problems. Now one contractor, a third party company, manages it all. They changed the tuning of the system from monthly to biweekly. As part of the O&M program (operations and maintenance), they added an additional 1-foot of compact material to cover about 75% of the working face.

In 2011 they learned that their gas collection system required an upgrade. They added additional vertical wells, and also looked at capillaries, increasing them from 4-inch to 6-inch pipe. The most important part is that they did not have sufficient flare capacity; they can't get rid of the problem if they can't get rid of the gas. A lot of the odor complaints were pointing toward landfill gas. They worked with the LEA, City, and County on the AQMD stipulated Order of Abatement, which was approved in December 2011. That Order also gave a barometer as to how fast these things should be addressed. Now they (BFI/Republic) know the mileposts, and the required completion dates.

They will continue monitoring emissions, with a compressed timeline for repair from 10 days to 72 hours. They have a damage prevention work plan, involving lots of contractors, traffic, and heavy equipment. There is also a requirement for a third party environmental monitor, and third party corrective action managers available 24/7.

In 2012 they have completed installation of 72 wells on February 24<sup>th</sup>; a minimum of 70 were required. They will drill more if they find that it is required by the volume of gas. Inspection of the capillary systems showed that 5700-feet need to be upgraded. This will be completed in 2012. Horizontal collectors every 40-feet will continue throughout 2012. By July (2012) 16,000-feet of perimeter pipe will have been completed. Installation of a temporary flare was required by 2/26/2012; it was completed on 2/17/2012. There is a goal to install a permanent additional flare (#9) in June 2012. They want to get ahead of the curve, and will start another permanent flare project going, with a goal to install in 2013.

To address waste stream odors, all measures have been in place: dust bosses, orchard fans to help disperse odors, misting systems all over the entrance, fabric treatment at gate, and 1-foot of daily cover. They're investigating fabric covers. 26 different technologies have been evaluated to eliminate odors. Of the top ten, they are already using six.

SCL is also doing a source review of the third-party haulers for odiferous loads, to help come up with solutions to mitigate. They have eliminated deliveries before 9:00 a.m., and in some cases redirect loads to other facilities. They screen transfer trucks sitting at

the entrance queues. If they find odiferous loads, they get them out of line and get them to the working face faster.

The focus of the company is to solve this problem. The number one thing they're rated on is safety and compliance. They have the right team in place focused on doing the right thing. He is confident they will solve this problem.

Question (Mr. Hunter): Is the temporary flare operational now? Answer (Mr. Bertrand): Yes; it is rated at 3,000 SCFM (standard cubic feet per minute) and it is operating now at 2,500 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm).

- 2. SCAQMD Report – Larry Israel:** He is one of two compliance inspectors assigned to Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The report for complaints in January is complete; they don't have February numbers yet. In January, there were 163 odor complaints. On January 5<sup>th</sup> verified nine (9) complaints in the afternoon and early evening. An NOV (Notice of Violation) was issued. On the 6<sup>th</sup> there were seven (7) other complaints starting at 6:30 a.m. lasting to 11 p.m. All seven (7) were verified. On the 9<sup>th</sup>, verified six (6) around 10 p.m. All were landfill gas types of odors. On January 10<sup>th</sup> there were eleven (11) verified from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. On the 17<sup>th</sup> there were twenty-one (21) complaints from Van Gogh Elementary in the morning, and these were more "trash odor" in nature. In February there were one hundred and four (104) total complaints received, and there is one (1) NOV pending for the 14<sup>th</sup>, with nine (9) verified from 7:00 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. For the first time there was a verified complaint from the Cascades (residential subdivision generally north-northeast of the landfill) which is not typical. Since then there have been a number of evening complaints, which are likely caused by gas, but these did not result in a public nuisance.

Question (from the audience): regarding the status of the gas-to-energy project.  
Answer (Mr. Bertrand): This is contracted to a third party, and is a critical component of the effort to mitigate odors. The landfill is required to have backup flare capacity to burn all of the generated gas if the gas-to-energy conversion stops for any reason. They expect the system to be operational by 2013. Mr. Pupka of the SCAQMD offered to bring a speaker to the next meeting to expand on this topic. Mr. Hunter pointed out that today was the last day to respond to the Hearing Board considering approval of this project. He is very concerned that, though the emission of other gasses will be lower, the amount of particulate matter, especially the PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter of 2.5 microns in size, exactly the kind most dangerous to humans because the lungs cannot clear it). As far as the CAC is concerned, this means an increase, not a decrease in pollutants. He also referred to the AQMD letter requesting the installation of one more flares to handle the gas volume generated.

Question (from the audience): Can the particulate matter bypass the scrubbing? Is this not a "green project," not subject to conditions as tight as others? Answer (Mr. Hunter): The SCAQMD did not address the total quantity of pollutants generated by the landfill. Each item is considered on its own, but the SCL-CAC has a concern about how these interplay with each other and the total effect on the community. One hundred and fourteen thousand, six hundred and sixty-eight (114,668) metric tons of gasses will be dumped out yearly, on top

of whatever is already being generated. PM<sub>2.5</sub> is the real killer, and there will be two hundred and thirty (230) metric tons a year, in addition to what is there already.

Mr. Jones (SCAQMD): The Granada Hills and Sylmar libraries have copies of the EIR (Environmental Impact Report). Mr. Hunter: The documents that support the project is only available at the SCAQMD website. Public comment closed June 2011. Mr. Jones continued that there is a disconnect between that and the information being given to the public. The original Order of Abatement specified a meteorological study completed by the company Environ. Joe Cassmassi is the senior manager who supervises the project. There were three regional modeling groups. The study became a more complex modeling project, beyond just meteorological. The model is a box: the material flows through, emissions come up, and they measure how much they disperse in the box. They used a series of models to see how potential outflow comes from the landfill. They can simulate in a controlled manner what the impact is of changes, what the likely effect will be on the community, and what conditions can have an influence. Fall and winter mornings are the most stable. The evening cools the air, pulls it down the slopes, so they want to take in consideration the effect of the terrain. They use complex flow models, very intense computationally. They try to recreate the conditions when they get odor complaints, and test different solutions against that. The first model by Environ indeed showed a lot of flow to the community. It is difficult to assess what one person smells versus another. More recently, they looked at the elevated terrain levels and projected what the flows would be at future levels, when there may be more momentum as the flows go downhill and over their barriers; the flow trajectories do impact the area. They can alter the dispersion patterns, but there will be impacts nonetheless. They are looking at the different mixes of refuse, different times of day, and look at this all in a collective manner. The EIR provided a good representation of the issues, as required by the Order of Abatement.

Question (Mr. Hunter): What are these projected flow trajectories, and when will the study be available to the public? Answer (David Jones): Drainage occurs in the nighttime, and flows downhill. At dawn, this flow is enhanced. The latest analysis reflects the *current* conditions. The study comes into the public domain when it is completed and reviewed. Mr. Pupka (comment): It will probably be available within 90 days.

Question (Ms. Mann, audience): SCL cut down 3,000 oak trees for the landfill. Do they buffer odors? Answer (Mr. Jones): Not necessarily. Ficus trees absorb pollutants. But trees do provide a barrier, and the gas goes over them and tumbles, mixing with the clean air.

Question (Mr. Hunter): To what extent do the freeway passes nearby affect the nighttime flow? And how does this compare with the landfill at Puente Hills, which is at lower elevation? Does that make for more dramatic effect? Answer (Mr. Jones): Not a major contributor. The air will flow down canyons. In the San Fernando Valley, there is a general northerly flow, which is not the same at coastal plains (at Puente Hills).

Question (Andrea Provenzale, audience): What time frame do residents have to call in complaints? Where is that in writing? She said she got three different answers the three

times she called in. Answer (Mr. Pupka): The SCAQMD in the past responded to each individual complaint. The limited numbers of complaints were not sufficient to generate a response. Coming out at 1:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. is not practical. If they get clusters of complaints, they deploy staff. To issue a finding of a Public Nuisance, they need a cluster of six (6) different complaints from different households. To substantiate, the inspectors have to detect the odor and verify the source of the complaint. Ms. Provenzale indicated she would like to see that policy in writing. She commented that it is very stressful to live in the area adjacent to the landfill. Mr. Pupka emphasized that the SCAQMD encourages residents to call, but one or two complaints are not sufficient to issue an NOV. He will be happy to show her the policy on what constitutes a public nuisance. There is no formal policy on response times.

- 3. Report from the SCL-LEA:** (Gerry Villalobos): He is one of the supervisors at the SCL-LEA. At the last report, there was one (1) pending NOV for a perimeter probe, and that was fixed. In January (2012), they issued two (2) NOV's for litter. There was a pretty strong wind in the area at the time. The landfill did try to contain litter by suspending receipt of trucks from the community, accepting only baled matter or treated medical waste. In February (2012), there was a problem with another perimeter probe, and they are waiting for the 10-day period to re-check and see if this was cleared. The public can see the reports at [www.scllea.org](http://www.scllea.org).

Question (Mr. Hunter): There was a landslide at the site. Will this come up when the County reports? Answer (Mr. Villalobos): In the area where there is excavation for a new cell, a secondary road to access the administration building had to be closed and removed, around February 12, 2012. Since then the whole area has been excavated and everything is stabilized. They are continuing grading for the development of the expansion cell. Mr. Bertrand (comment): In the EIR there is a reference to an ancient landslide in the area. It was part of the requirements to remove it all, and re-compact the dirt. The landslide was completely anticipated. They were doing the construction in order to remove the old landslide. They had to turn off the gas collection system in the immediate area. This is to be completed in April (2012).

Question (Ms. Mann, audience): She was concerned about reports last meeting about the possibly radioactive medical waste received at the landfill. Answer (Mr. Villalobos): The County requires that all landfills be equipped with detectors for radiological waste. SCL probably has the best equipment of them all. When any radioactivity is detected, the load is run through a second detector to eliminate false positives. The load is then isolated, and the County radioactive management program is notified. They determine the type of radioactive source. 98% of the time this is radioactive Iodine-131, which has a very short half-life (a measure of how fast the isotope decays and the radioactivity goes away). The load is held through that period and then released, when it is no longer radioactive. Mr. Thompson, SCL-LEA (comment): If the matter is not iodine, then the load is removed, it is not disposed of in the landfill. It is taken off-site for proper disposition.

**4. Report from City and County Agencies:** Representatives of each said there was nothing new to report.

Mr. Hunter (comments): He reported briefly on the status of a number of legislative bills affecting waste handling in the County and the State (copies of which were included in the Committee members packets, and copies placed on the table for the public) and making a point that there are many bills which affect the waste industry. In a January 30, 2012 letter to the Department of Public Works, Fourth Quarter Report on vegetation, it indicated that the volume of trash averaged 195,000 tons per month. He also indicated that there is a letter to Mr. Cieply, General Manager of Sunshine Canyon Landfill, from Public Works, also included in the packet with copies on the table for the public, indicating that they (BFI/Republic) want to do a study of the daily cover, and that they wanted to discontinue placing the nine (9) inches of daily cover on the working face. The County indicated that it wants this to continue until the odor problem is eliminated.

NOTE: It was at this point in the meeting that the agenda went back to item B1, which had originally been deferred due to a lack of quorum at the beginning of the meeting.

**D. Public Comment:**

Question (Ms. Provenzale, audience): She asked what the sweet smell is on some of the odors, perhaps smelling a bit like fabric softener. Answer (Mr. Bertrand): He said the misting system just uses water. Ms. Costa, BFI/Republic (comment): She said that the odor patrols noticed strong seasonal flower smells. Mr. Hunter (comment): He said that when SCL tried the misting system before, they had used odorizers that smelled like Fabreze. Mr. Thompson, SCL-LEA (comment): He said that, when checking out odor complaints, they do not detect Fabreze-like smells at the landfill. Ms. Mann (comment): She requested a list of the trees that absorb odor. Mr. Cassmassi said he would provide that.

Adjourned at 4:40 p.m. to reconvene later to discuss budget issues. Representatives of government bodies were excused.

**E. Special Overtime for Discussion of Budget, Banking, and Financial Matters:** Reconvened at 5:03 p.m. Mr. Hunter said that the budget, which was first submitted in November, needs formal approval. Ms. Capaldi said she did not see any mention of the mileage reimbursement, which was discussed in previous meetings. Mr. Hunter said he will add an estimated \$500 for the year at 50 cents per mile, plus parking and any other direct expenses. It was generally agreed that what would be submitted for reimbursement would be the information on meeting attended, date and purpose; meeting agenda. A log would be sufficient

Ms. Gundersen put forth a **Motion**, seconded by Ms. Capaldi, *To accept the budget as submitted, with the \$500 item for reimbursements.* **Carried** unanimously.

Mr. Hunter brought up the need to issue a Form 1099 for the note taker, and that it needs to use the Federal tax ID. He did not know whether it was necessary to get a California

tax ID as well. This is awkward because the CAC is so far unable to be designated a 501 (c) 3 organization because of its semi-government status. There is, however, no tax liability at this point. There was further discussion on whether the City or County could provide assistance, but then the CAC is not funded by either entity.

Ms. Bendikson felt that Brown Act training for CAC members would be helpful in making sure the agendas are in full compliance. Mr. Jordahl said the CAC should approach the SCL-LEA or SCL-TAC for advice on organizational issues.

Due to concern express by the Committee over the missing, sick and/or unappointed members having just experienced the potential lack of quorum, and our ability to conduct a meeting because Ms. Capaldi had indicated that she would have to leave on-time, Mr. Hunter mentioned that there was possible of some relief as there was consideration by the County of the candidacy of Mr. Roger Dames (who was at the meeting) who is a civil engineer who lives in the area, to be appointed to the CAC to replace Mr. Larry Gray who had resigned some time ago.

The CAC adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

**Minutes by Agnes Lewis, Notetaker. Approved by Committee May 3, 2012.**