

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
MINUTES OF MEETING**

Thursday, May 8, 2014, 3:00 p.m.

Knollwood Country Club, 12024 Balboa Boulevard, Granada Hills, CA 91344

Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee Members: Maria Armoudian, Ken Ashford, Becky Bendikson (Chair), Jeanette Capaldi, Gale Gundersen, Wayde Hunter (Vice Chair and TAC Alt.), Josh Jordahl (Treasurer and TAC Representative) and Joe Vitti.

A. Call to Order, Roll Call and Approval of March 6, 2014 Minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becky Bendikson at 3:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken. SCL-CAC Members present: Becky Bendikson, Wayde Hunter, Josh Jordahl and Joe Vitti. Committee Member Maria Armoudian arrived later. Absent: Ken Ashford, Jeanette Capaldi and Gale Gundersen. The SCL-CAC quorum is five.

Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Patti Costa, Rob Shrum and Michael Stewart; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): David Jones and Larry Israel ; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Chris Mastro and Martin Rosen; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Iris Chi; L. A. County Public Works Dept.: Karlo Manalo; L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich's Office: none; L.A. City Councilman Mitch Englander's Office: none; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; LAUSD District 3: none. Also attending: 18 residents and guests.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #E.]

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Jordahl): The Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its March 6, 2014 Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Ms. Armoudian abstained.

B. Old Business. Discussion and possible action:

- Outstanding administrative matters including discussion of a possible change in meeting date from the 1st Thursday to the 2nd Thursday bi-monthly (Chair). As only four of the eight Committee Members were present, it was decided to reschedule to the next [July 10th] Meeting discussion of a possible change in the meeting date. Ms. Bendikson asked everyone to sign in, though members of the public may remain anonymous. Mr. Hunter distributed to Committee Members an information packet that included a Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related Landfill documents, and copies were made available to the public. (See <http://SCL-CAC.org>.)
- Treasurer's Report (Treasurer).
Mr. Jordahl reviewed balances; a check for \$8,105.62 from BFI/Republic was deposited. The total balance is \$124,950.48. It was agreed to accept the Treasurer's Report.

C. New Business. Discussion and possible Committee motions and action to address the following:

1. Browning-Ferris Industries/Republic Services Inc. (BFI/Republic) report on Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) activities and operations.

Michael Stewart, BFI/Republic Area Environmental Manager, introduced new General Manager Rob Shrum. There were 164 odor complaints in March and 122 odor complaints in April. Both are annual increases and attributed to the large rainfall “that removed some of the cover”; damage was remediated. They are installing more probe locations in June and expect results in September. Mr. Hunter explained that most rainwater becomes runoff and does not significantly affect or percolate into the landfill. Mr. Stewart reported that there’ve been 355 complaints so far in 2014, compared with 414 complaints in 2013. He “does expect the odor complaints to continue to go down.” He said there are “major plans” to install more wells this year and explained the need to “install around 20 to 30” wells per month over time; the wells can’t all be installed at the same time. They “can safely put in one well a day.” Ms. Costa described landfill items regularly inspected.

Committee Member Maria Armoudian arrived at this time, making five Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).

Mr. Stewart described the evaluation process for determining where to install wells. They’ve installed around 88 wells in the last year. He agreed that the number of installed wells “absolutely” affects the amount of odors. Mr. Hunter described how installation of wells can temporarily create more odors. Mr. Stewart explained that the “Surface Gas Emissions and Number of Odor Complaints” chart was created by the Dept. of Public Works, not BFI/Republic. He explained that plant seeds “are bound to the media” so that they don’t get carried to other areas. Ms. Costa added that vegetation removed for installation of pipelines, etc., will be replaced. Mr. Stewart indicated that there’s always a liner under the trash. Mr. Hunter stated that “Tamar Galatzan is aware that there is a problem here.” There was discussion of how the LAUSD could be more involved. Mr. Hunter noted that Committee Member Gale Gundersen is a former Van Gogh Elementary School [VGES] Principal. He clarified that “the current boundaries of the landfill are the boundaries it’s always had . . . the landfill was an illegal landfill; the City legalized it in [the 1960’s] . . . the landfill boundaries were never changed . . . at no point have they ever had any of [the] land to the south.”

2. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) report on SCL odor complaints received including charts of year-to-date including, any other matters within their purview.

Larry Israel, SCAQMD Compliance Inspector (www.aqmd.gov), indicated there was an itemized list available on the literature table of complaints received in the last two months. He reported that “there’s been a significant number of complaints,” in particular, from VGES. As a result there were four Notices of Violation for Nuisance (NOV’s) issued in the 10-day period from March 20th to March 30th, the most NOV’s they ever issued in that short a period of time. In March and April combined they issued nine NOV’s, especially after March 20th. He indicated there were many reports in the beginning and middle of March that came in at night, but no inspectors were available; that is why there were a lot of “NR”’s (no response) on the list. He said “this is the first time that Van Gogh Elementary was heavily involved,” including

“parents and teachers.” Forty-three of forty-four complaints received were verified. Calls came at 7:50 to 10:50 in the morning; he traced them back to the landfill working face (CC3a). These trash odors lingered “for a really long time,” and this is not the first event; it has occurred since then. One week later VGES parents started calling them around 8:35 a.m. about trash odors and they were verified. That same evening they had seven complaints for landfill gas odors. The total number of violations issued was ten. There were nine more complaints the next night including one from Legends at the Cascades in Sylmar. There were a total of 164 complaints in March. They were for trash odors, usually in the morning, and gas odors at night. On April 9th between 6:25 and 9:30 in the morning they got 17 trash odor complaints from VGES, 16 of which were verified. Thursday, April 10th they got nine complaints, including four from VGES. There were 122 complaints in April. Nine violations were issued, three of which involved VGES, which he indicated is a large number. He said “this is the first time that I interfaced a lot with parents about their children and the intensity of the odors”. On March 20th a teacher went to the hospital “complaining of nausea and headaches”; they were discharged and Mr. Israel has a copy of that medical report. It was the first time he has received a report like that from any complainant. He estimated that between 50 and 60 of the complaints were from VGES. He assumed that the LAUSD would be aware as “one of the complainants was the Principal of the School” and “was directly involved in the Notice of Violation.” While the 355 complaints so far this year are down from last year, Mr. Israel said they are seeing an increase in the number of trash odor complaints from VGES.

David Jones, SCAQMD Senior Supervisor for Compliance (www.aqmd.gov), described possible reasons for the increased complaints. Environ, consultant to Republic, did metrological work that indicated “wind patterns” from the north +/- 30 degrees and between three and 18 miles per hour can influence odor distribution. He explained that, in the morning, the working face odors predominate over the landfill gas odors which occur at night, and stated “this landfill presents problems that obviously have not been solved.” Mr. Israel added that they’ve had complaints from VGES in previous years. Mr. Vitti indicated that he would like to have a report from the SCAQMD that indicates that this (VGES) is an unusual situation.

MOTION (by Mr. Vitti, seconded by Ms. Armoudian): The Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee will send a letter to the L.A. Unified School District Board that includes the South Coast Air Quality Management District report of complaints by Van Gogh Elementary School which calls to their attention the number of calls in March and April 2014.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with no objection.

Mr. Israel wanted it noted that during his investigation the intensity reported by complainants as very strong did not necessarily reflect what he verified; he did not get very strong or distinct odors very often, but very faint or faint. He also wanted “on the record” that this was the first time that they had more parents calling from the school than before. Stakeholder Miriam Koenig believed that “the data is skewed” because there’s a time lag, sometimes three hours, because there is not always someone available to quickly inspect after a complaint. She indicated that the odors they smell are different and stronger than by the time someone arrives.

She commended the SCAQMD's efforts and expressed frustration that only one inspector was available, and believed that the number of citations would be much larger if they had sufficient staff. Mr. Jones added that in March their response rate was down to 65% and in those they responded to, in 77% they smelled an odor, which is considered high. He said "In April we got help from a couple of other inspectors and responded 72% of the time, and in those 70% of the time we detected an odor . . . trash smells predominated . . . we keep the names of complainants confidential."

3. Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) to report on SCL inspections carried out, and other matters within their purview.

Mr. Mastro reported that "there were nine weekly inspections that were done" and that Notices of Violations issued "were in relation to the rain."

4. City and County Planning Departments report on SCL matters within their purview.

L.A. County Regional Planner Iris Chi reported that there will be a Technical Advisory Committee Meeting June 4th. She explained that "we regulate the land use Permit" and that she sent Mr. Hunter "a copy of the revocation process . . . we're not initiating anything."

5. 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 agendaized for this meeting.

No other representative spoke.

D. Public comment on items not on the Agenda

There were no more comments at this time.

E. Set next meeting date (July 10, 2014) and adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Bendikson announced that the next Meeting will be here July 10, 2014 at 3:00 p.m., six days after the Independence Day holiday. Ms. Armoudian announced that this is her last Meeting as a Committee Member.

F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking and Financial Matters.

Ms. Bendikson indicated that there was no more discussion.

MOTION to ADJOURN (by Ms. Armoudian, seconded by Mr. Hunter).

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 4:52 p.m.

Minutes by David Levin, Note Taker.

Approved July 10, 2014 Meeting