SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
MINUTES OF MEETING
Thursday, January 8, 2015, 3:00 p.m.
Knollwood Country Club, 12024 Balboa Boulevard, Granada Hills, CA 91344

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

Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Patti Costa, Michael Stewart, Rob Sherman; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): David Jones, Larry Israel, Ed Pupka; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Martin Rosen, David Thompson; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: none; L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich's Office: none; L.A. County Public Works: Erick Del Bosque, Alma Fuentes, Karlo Manalo, Gabriel Esparza; L.A. City Councilman Mitch Englander's Office: Millie Jones; L.A. City Planning Dept.: Nick Hendricks; LAUSD District 3: none; LAUSD Environmental Health & Safety: Bill Piazza, Tony Espinoza, Jeanette Borden. Also attending: 23 residents and guests.

A. Call to Order, Roll Call and Approval of November 13, 2014 Minutes.

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:04 p.m. on January 8, 2015 in Granada Hills, California by Chair Becky Bendikson. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Seven Committee Members were present: Ken Ashford, Becky Bendikson, Jeanette Capaldi, Steven Freedman, Gale Gundersen, Wayde Hunter and Joe Vitti. Committee Member Josh Jordahl arrived later. Absent: none. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its November 13, 2014 Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

B. Old Business. Discussion and possible action:

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair).

  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 and status of BFI funding for 2015 (Treasurer).
  [*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C. 3.]* Mr. Jordahl reviewed balances and explained that the SCL-CAC Fiscal Year time period was changed from October 1st through September 30th to January 1st through December 31st, starting in 2014. The total balance is $95,364.94.

  MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the January 8, 2015 Treasurer's Report as presented.

  MOTION PASSED with no objection.

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

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

   Michael Stewart, BFI/Republic Area Environmental Manager, reported that in 2014 for the gas system 59 new vertical wells and 10,300 linear feet of horizontal collectors were installed. The DTE power plant, which is a separate entity, came online in September, and produces about 18-megawatts per day. A 2,200 linear-foot sewer line was also installed in San Fernando Road in September, so instead of trucking out various liquids that the Landfill produces, they now have the option of using the sewer. Drainage improvements were also made. In February or March, approximately six inches of rain fell in 48 hours; the Landfill sustained some drainage impacts, some of which was discharged onto San Fernando Road. In May, drainage infrastructure (perimeter ditches) were concreted or asphalted. The improvements were tested December 2nd, when 2.3 inches fell in 21 hours, the equivalent of a two-year storm. On December 12th the Landfill received 2.6 inches of rain in 16 hours, the equivalent of a five-year storm. The Landfill relocated the scale houses near the entrance to near the offices. The SCAQMD completed their study in July but results are not yet available.

   In 2015 BFI/Republic expects to install around 50 more vertical wells and around 17,600 linear feet of horizontal collectors (budgetary numbers only). They are planning on increasing their dewatering program for the gas extraction system. The initial major project this year will be Phase I of the temporary bypass road which will serve the Landfill during the new cell construction. In the summer they will install Cell CC3b which is a six- to eight-acre cell with construction completed hopefully by October; it should serve the Landfill through 2016 and hopefully halfway through 2017. The second major project will be Southern California Edison installing 11 new tubular steel power poles and removing 4,200 linear feet of poles (sic). All environmental documentation has been approved by the State Public Utilities Commission. The Chatsworth Mitigation Project, approximately 40 acres, awaits Army Corps of Engineers approval and an L.A. City Council vote. An EnviroCover demonstration project involving the use of synthetic panels was

approved in November 2014 by the SCL-LEA and requires other agencies' approvals. It would be a "year-long demonstration" using this product which would replace the nine inches of soil now being used; they hope to implement it in the second quarter. Mr. Hunter referred to copies made available of a number of letters that were sent and reported that the L.A. County Dept. of Public Works (DPW) had asked BFI for additional mitigations. Mr. Hunter indicated that he was not happy with Mr. Stewart's response to the DPW and that those mitigation requests were rejected out-of-hand by BFI. Mr. Stewart stated that they will meet with the DPW. Mr. Hunter said the Committee is also waiting for BFI's comments on the Waste Characterization Study; Mr. Stewart said they "will have comments to the LEA on Monday."

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

Stakeholder Meg Volk questioned whether the amount of wells being installed were enough to control the odors given the tonnage they were taking. Resident Andrea Provenzale was concerned that odors apparently from the Landfill are getting worse; "the last few days . . . nothing is working." Resident Skye Michaels believed "the only way to fix this is to shut down" the Landfill and "not dump any trash there until the gas collection system is fixed." Long-time resident Ralph Kroy said "the last few days have been some of the worst . . . it's gotten very, very severe . . . it's a matter of health and safety." A stakeholder asked why an L.A. County Health Inspector does not attend these meetings. David Thompson, SCL-LEA Program Supervisor [www.SCLLEA.org], explained that the LEA is a combination of the L.A. City Dept. of Building & Safety and the L.A. County Dept. of Public Health (Environmental Health), so that public health representatives are here. An LEA representative indicated they focus on operations; odors are handled by the SCAQMD.

There was discussion of the possibility of conducting a local health study. Mr. Hunter noted that such a study was done around ten years ago by the County Department of Health Services, which interviewed only 100 people at random in the area, not people living where residents indicated to the County that there were many cancers. Mr. Hunter indicated that, unbeknownst to the public, the study used a husband, Dr. Simon, and his wife (who used her maiden name), both of whom "worked for the waste industry"; Mr. Hunter believed the study was not accurate, and noted that the study authors attributed what people had said about odors to "hysterical women." The study's cohort group were people who lived near the Santa Susanna Labs who were exposed to radiation.

Responding to a number of public comments about public health concerns, Ms. Gundersen expressed that Van Gogh Charter School students and others are suffering; she felt that the County Dept. of Public Health should be present at the School for at least two months when students get sick from the Landfill. Mr. Thompson indicated that he, too, smells Landfill gas on the way home and that the

SCAQMD is now doing a study of Landfill issues to see what mitigation measures can be taken such as more wells, more cover and/or a different configuration. Ed Pupka, SCAQMD Senior Enforcement Manager, indicated that the study results are not yet available. Mr. Vitti requested that City and County Public Health representatives attend these Meetings. Bill Piazza, LAUSD Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) Environmental Assessment Coordinator (213.241.3926; Bill.Piazza@lausd.net), cautioned to be specific about what is requested from County Public Health. Stakeholder Mike Mohajer advised that the Landfill's Conditional Use Permit "Q" Conditions can be verified and/or revised. He read aloud a December 23rd letter from the City of Los Angeles to the LEA that said that: "the Landfill is overall in compliance with the "Q" Conditions . . . therefore, additional efforts of the Planning Department are not warranted at this time" and refers to the Landfill Technical Advisory Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Ashford, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee will invite the L.A. County Dept. of Public Health to SCL-CAC Meetings.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

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

   David Jones, SCAQMD Senior Supervisor for Compliance [www.aqmd.gov], reported for Larry Israel, Compliance Inspector, that in November they received 80 odor complaints; some were verified and Notices of Violation (NOV's) were issued. In December there were 277 complaints, including from Van Gogh School; some were verified and more NOV's were issued. Mr. Pupka said "we need to reach beyond the expertise" of the Landfill. For the first time, two contracts were entered into with consultants to evaluate causes and sources of odors, gas flow, including odor "patterns and movements . . . and what can be done to mitigate the odors." Hydro Geo Chem [http://HGCInc.com] is studying "the effectiveness of the gas collection system" and many other elements including cover and alternatives to cover, to "make recommendations and solutions." The SCAQMD has reviewed that report and provided Hydro Geo Chem with their comments. The second consultant is Dr. Ramine Yazdani, a nationally-known consultant, who is working to develop a plan for "additional mitigation measures." He is "hoping within the next 30-60 days" to have results to report. Mr. Pupka confirmed that the number and depth of the wells would be studied; he deferred discussing it until the report is released. Mr. Pupka responded to Mr. Piazza's questions that odors generated at the working face of the Landfill (from the deposition of daily waste) were also being studied. The results may "be imposed in an Order of Abatement" upon the Landfill operators; there would be public hearings. Mr. Pupka said that "your testimony is critical." Ms. Gundersen urged that "it's imperative that the hearings be in our community."

Mr. Pupka added that "this last month was one of the worst we've had in history." Regarding whether or not the Landfill could be closed down after a given number of violations (NOVs). He emphasized that he is not a lawyer and preferred that a legal representative answer, but thought that "a `cease-and-desist' order would have to go through the legal system." He noted that "the goal is to totally eliminate the odors" but it's "not possible" to eliminate all of them; however, the odors could "significantly lessen." He indicated that SCAQMD attorney Nick Sanchez could attend the next SCL-CAC Meeting. Mr. Michaels questioned the usefulness of odor abatement hearings as they did not stop the odors and that if all the odors could not be eliminated "what was he to do since he lives close to the Landfill." Mr. Pupka said their hope was to eliminate the odors, but that there may be times when problems on the Landfill would impact the community. Mr. Kroy indicated that he and others have testified here and in Sacramento without improvement in landfill odor problems, and suggested the real problem is that the City, County, and State will lose "money." There was discussion that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has referred a number of residents who were seeking help on the odor problems back to the SCAQMD. The Committee decided not to send a letter to the EPA until the Committee sees the results of the SCAQMD studies.

3. **Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)** to report on LAUSD actions/response to SCL-CAC requests for action to ameliorate excessive odor complaints at Van Gogh Charter School.

   Mr. Piazza reported that "a lot of data was collected at Van Gogh Charter School." Mr. Pupka reported that staff are evaluating the data quality and "it's still under review." He requested and Mr. Piazza agreed that more data will be collected and evaluated. Mr. Piazza stated that he had spoken to the Landfill about upgrading the air conditioning system, and that they were open to that. Van Gogh HVAC units were examined; each classroom has its own system and filters are changed three times per year. To mitigate classroom odors the LAUSD is "going to upgrade the panel filters to carbon filters" for odor immediately, and "upgrade the number of change outs to four times per year." Mr. Piazza indicated that the School is not notifying his Office of complaints. He said "staff was by" the School "every morning . . . we'll talk to the Principal again." Regarding whether the classrooms were under positive air pressure, he indicated that infiltration of odors into the classrooms was a new complaint to them, but that the resetting of timers to provide several air exchanges before class starts would help. Mr. Mohajer read from a City Planning Department response in a December 23, 2014 letter to the County in which the City Planning Dept.'s Deputy Director stated that "the air quality monitoring has not shown any evidence of imminent or substantial risk to the health, safety or welfare of the local community" (emphasis the Committee's). There was discussion of the pros and cons of asking the LAUSD to challenge the City's statement. Mr. Mohajer then asked the SCL-CAC to write a letter.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Jordahl): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee will send a letter to the L.A. City Planning Department requesting clarification of the Department Deputy Director's response in a December 23, 2014 letter to L.A. County in which the Deputy Director stated, regarding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, that "the air quality monitoring has not shown any evidence of imminent or substantial risk to the health, safety or welfare the local community."

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

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

   Mr. Thompson reported that he is the Program Manager "for this calendar year," replacing Jerry Villalobos. Since the last SCL-CAC meeting the LEA issued one NOV during the storms in November for excessive Landfill drainage and erosion, and the recent ground cover issue was corrected. They are in compliance with Title 27.

5. **LA Department of City Planning** to report on SCL matters within their purview.

   No representative was present and there was no report.

6. **LA County Department of Public Works** to report on Devil's Gate Reservoir cleanout of sediment, and its proposed disposal in Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

   Copies were distributed of slides presented about the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project. Erick Del Bosque, Civil Engineer, Water Resources Division, L.A. County Dept. of Public Works (626.458.6158; EDelBosque@dpw.lacounty.gov), reported that the Project, in Pasadena at the foot of the San Gabriel Mountains, was where sediment and debris was deposited from the large August 2009 Station Fire (160,000 acres). The County proposes to transfer 2.4 million cubic yards, or 20%, of it to the San Fernando Valley over a three- to five-year period. Covered trucks with a capacity of 20 cubic yards each would run Mondays – Fridays from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. The rest of the day 80% of it will head east to the San Gabriel Valley. The sediment has been health-related tested and will continue to be tested during the Project. He read aloud a statement that "the sediment is not considered to be hazardous." Mr. Hunter was concerned that the Project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) did not include any input by the SCL-CAC and that "it should've come to us." He indicated that Mr. Del Bosque had not previously indicated that a Supplemental EIR or anything of that nature would address the Devil's Gate Reservoir and that it should.

   Mr. Hunter said that the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council opposes the Project. He believed that the Project would violate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and he will "vigorously oppose" the transfer. Mr. Del Bosque

said "we will comply" with CEQA requirements. Mr. Hunter said "they need to address cumulative impacts" including traffic. Alma Fuentes, Civil Engineer, Water Resources Division, L.A. County Dept. of Public Works (626.458.6158; AFuentes@dpw.lacounty.gov), said "we've been doing the environmental impact assessment on this for many years . . . four other sites" have been "evaluated . . . Sunshine has a need for . . . natural sediment . . . these are naturally-occurring" chemicals. Mr. Hunter noted that in November 2014 the L.A. County Board of Supervisors approved the transfer and he was only notified individually one week before the Supervisors' vote. Mr. Del Bosque indicated that not all of the material may go to Sunshine Canyon; some of it could be transferred to another San Fernando Valley facility(ies).

Mr. Vitti reported that at a recent SCL-TAC [Technical Advisory Committee] meeting, when he had questioned why the County was going to bring 20% of the Devil's Gate sediment to the San Fernando Valley, he was told that there was no reason except "traffic." He indicated that he objected to that then and now. Mr. Del Bosque or Ms. Fuentes indicated that sediment placement limits are in the EIR Appendix and that the results are on their website.

Mr. Hunter emphatically noted that the cumulative impacts of the Devil's Gate sediment as it would be blowing off into the surrounding neighborhood, combined with the existing material outgassing from the Landfill, the largest single stationary source of greenhouse gasses and the like, must all be addressed along with the added traffic that would be necessary to bring the sediment to the Landfill.

Ms. Fuentes indicated that they just learned from one of the County's other Divisions that the Landfill needed to have soil installed daily for cover. Mr. Hunter challenged the veracity of the claim that they just learned of it, saying the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council had already told the County that they did not want the soil cover. He also pointed out that the County needs to address the effects of particulate matter $PM_{2.5}$ or PM_{10} because the County's analysis shows the Devil's Gate sediment to be granular, which will cause health problems.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Vitti): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee will send a letter to the L.A. County Dept. of Public Works objecting to their considering bringing Devil's Gate Reservoir sediment to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

Mr. Del Bosque then said "no, we're not" paying the Landfill to take the Devil's Gate sediment. Mr. Hunter challenged that statement, saying he had copies of BFI's offer to the County and that the County knew of BFI's offer while the EIR was still out being circulated. Ms. Fuentes said that "right now there isn't any agreement" to transfer sediment to Sunshine Canyon; they've "agreed to accept it free of charge . . . we will fulfill everything that CEQA . . . requires us to do."

7. **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 Agendized for this meeting. If necessary, discussion and action will be Agendized for another meeting.

   There were no other reports at this time.

D. Public comment on items not on the Agenda

Mr. Jones announced that he is retiring from the SCAQMD after 33 years; he expressed concern about Sunshine Canyon Landfill problems.

E. Set next meeting date (March 12, 2015) and adjourn at 5:00 p.m.
Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be here on the second Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 5:14 p.m.

F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking and Financial Matters.
Discussion funding for 2015 budget, including Waste Characterization Study. Staff or public presence optional.

This Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking and Financial Matters of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee was called to order at 5:24 p.m. on January 8, 2015 in Granada Hills, California. Eight Committee Members were present: Ken Ashford, Becky Bendikson, Jeanette Capaldi, Steven Freedman, Gale Gundersen, Wayde Hunter, Josh Jordahl and Joe Vitti. Absent: none. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present.

Mr. Hunter announced that "we've signed a contract" with TetraTech [http:// http://TetraTech.com] to do a supplemental waste characterization study that includes "conditions" and "scope of work." The study will cost $90,000, of which the SCL-CAC will pay $70,000; the $20,000 cost of analysis will be paid for by a grant.

Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Levin, Note Taker (Minutes Writer)
Edited by SCL-CAC.

Approved March 12, 2015 Meeting.