

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

Thursday, March 12, 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 Alt.), Josh Jordahl (Treasurer and TAC Representative) and Joe Vitti.

A. Call to Order, Roll Call and Approval of January 8, 2015 Minutes.

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:02 p.m. on March 12, 2015 in Granada Hills, California by Chair Becky Bendikson. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Four Committee Members were present: Becky Bendikson, Jeanette Capaldi, Wayde Hunter and Joe Vitti. Committee Members Ken Ashford, Gale Gundersen and Josh Jordahl arrived later. Absent: Steven Freedman. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was not yet present.

Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Patti Costa, Rob Sherman and Michael Stewart; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): David Thompson, Chris Mastro, Gerry Villalobos and Eugene Tseng; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: Dr. Cyrus Rangan; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: none; L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich's Office: Jarrod DeGonia; L.A. City Councilman Mitch Englander's Office: Millie Jones; L.A. City Planning Dept.: Nicholas Hendricks; LAUSD District 3: Barbara Jones and Bill Piazza. Also attending: 33 residents and guests.

[This Agenda Item was continued after Item #C. 4.]

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Vitti): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its January 8, 2015 Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with no objection.

B. Old Business. Discussion and possible action:

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair).
Ms. Bendikson asked everyone to sign in. 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. Hunter reported for Mr. Jordahl. Mr. Sherman of BFI/Republic reported that BFI sent the latest \$20,000 check plus \$6,000 for expenses due to the SCL-CAC.

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 March 2nd they started construction "of the temporary bypass road"; it will continue through mid-Summer. He said "we have ordered 11 new poles . . . we hope to have them installed by the end of the year . . . installed another 20 have de-watering pumps . . . by the end of the month we will be installing 20 new wells . . . we're going to continue to expand the well field." Resident Skye Michaels read aloud from a letter in which the County Dept. of Public Works (DPW) responded to a November 18, 2014 letter from BFI's Mr. Sherman about the Landfill.

Committee Member Ken Ashford arrived at this time, making a quorum of five Committee Members present. Now the Committee could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

Mr. Stewart said that BFI will again meet with the DPW about the County Solid Waste Management Committee's and the Integrated Waste Management Task Force's recommendations to BFI about improving Landfill gas collection efficiency. Mr. Hunter emphasized residents' right to question BFI's statements to government agencies, and BFI's right not to respond to questions that may relate to legal matters.

- 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.

Larry Israel, SCAQMD Compliance Lead Inspector [www.aqmd.gov], relayed Ed Pupka, SCAQMD Senior Enforcement Manager's regrets about being unable to attend this Meeting. Mr. Israel reported that "the District has finalized its review" of and awaits consultant Dr. Ramine Yazdani's study. Mr. Hunter will Agendize this.

January 7th a Notice of Violation (NOV) was issued for odors at Van Gogh Elementary School (VGES) "in the morning hours that affected both parents and faculty." He "issued four Notices of Violation in January . . . 24 odor complaints were verified . . . at the School there were faint rotting trash odors." The following Tuesday "there were seven odor complaints verified . . . a Notice of Violation was issued for that." January 17th, "nine odor complaints were verified . . . January 25th . . . eight complaints were verified."

Committee Member Gale Gundersen arrived around this time, making six Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).

February 17th “in the evening hours there were nine complaints that were verified . . . February 24th there were six odor complaints that were verified.” Mr. Israel listed other odors verified but not strong enough to cause the issuance of NOV’s. “In March so far we have 80 complaints pending”; 15 “were verified.” He relayed that VGES “staff described the odors as horrible trash odors.” He described that VGES complaints usually are in the early morning and “all complaints are responded to.” After-hours, three verified complaints within one hour or six verified complaints within 24 hours may trigger the issuance of an NOV. It was noted that Bull Creek and a horse-keeping facility may sometimes cause odors attributed to the Landfill. Mr. Israel’s nearest offices are in Santa Clarita and Reseda. Residents indicated that many times they smell Landfill odors but, for various reasons, do not call to complain. Mr. Israel said that “even if a sensor” indicates an odor, “we have to verify it.”

- 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. Barbara Jones, Chief of Staff for LAUSD District 3 Board Member Tamar Galatzan (213.241.6067; Barbara.A.Jones@lausd.net; <http://www.lausd-oehs.org/index.asp>), reported that she “spoke with the [VGES] Principal . . . since the month in which the filters were installed” she has “received no complaints from parents or students.” Bill Piazza, LAUSD Office of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) Environmental Assessment Coordinator (213.241.3926; Bill.Piazza@lausd.net), described that charcoal filters were installed. He said “we’ll probably do four change-outs . . . every year” and that “ambient air monitoring data . . . needs to be made available . . . the District is waiting for that information . . . we believe that the use of the current dust control measures . . . aren’t working.” Mr. Piazza added that “we are insisting that” the data and a report about it be made available. He reported that “the School is notifying our Office . . . I do get calls quite often from the teachers . . . we’ve not heard anything about odors in the classroom . . . we’re aware that there have been multiple occasions” when “adverse health effects” have happened. Jarrod DeGonia, Field Deputy for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Michael Antonovich (office 818-993-5170; cell 818-653-7812; JDeGonia@lacbos.org; www.Antonovich.com), said that adverse health effects are “unverified,” though the County is open to receiving information; he will put County Public Health in contact with the LAUSD. He encouraged notifying the County of complaints and problems.

- 4. Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA)** to report on SCL inspections carried out, and other matters within their purview by Dave Thompson, including an update and short video presentation on the Waste Characterization Study by Eugene Tseng, which was carried out on behalf of the CAC.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C. 5.] Dr. Cyrus Rangan, Director, Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment, L.A. County Public Health Dept. (213-738-3220; CRangan@ph.LACounty.gov; <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/TEA/aboutTEA.htm>), said they did a

“community health assessment” in 2004 that studied various health concerns that distinguished “between health outcomes and health effects.” He clarified that outcomes can include diseases; odor complaints can indicate “adverse health effects” such as “nausea . . . light-headedness . . . congestion” and more. He said “the kinds of complaints voiced today, those are threats to public health . . . I don’t need to see specific outcomes . . . to know that . . . those are public health issues.” He noted that: “The World Health Organization, and the CDC have been coming out recently with statements saying that things like odors and other things of that scale that affect people’s daily quality of life or daily living are considered Public Health issues. So it’s not just me talking, it’s real big organizations that are saying the same thing.” He added that “I’d like to come back to your future meetings to let you know” what they find, and said “odors should be minimized as much as they humanly possibly can.” Mr. Hunter then requested and Dr. Rangan agreed to attend SCL-CAC Meetings. Dr. Rangan described work to minimize odors without necessarily needing to test everything. He described the role and abilities of Health Dept. surveillance and management capabilities that can be performed in addition to research (NOTE: a transcript of Dr. Rangan’s entire speech will be made available on scl-cac.org website).

David Thompson, SCL-LEA Program Manager [www.SCLLEA.org], reported that an NOV was issued January 23rd. Also, they are doing a waste characterization study. There will be a SCL-LEA Board of Directors Meeting on April 2nd. Also that a SCL-TAC meeting will occur prior to, and at the same place.

Dr. Eugene Tseng, an environmental engineer and attorney, showed slides and reported on the waste characterization study they are doing for the SCL-CAC showing how the data was gathered. He noted that the early results showed that a large percentage of the waste from CLARTS was organic, and that a large percentage of that was water.

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

Dr. Tseng said that, in the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, there are “48 different material types . . . this is a very . . . limited study.” He also indicated that somethings are being done that have not been done before. Mr. Hunter described his personal visit to the Landfill and observed that everything is sorted and analyzed; “it was very, very impressive.” Tetra Tech’s report (with Dr. Tseng’s input) is expected within “a month and a half” and “it . . . will be made available to everybody.” Dr. Tseng indicated that the study will note from which neighborhoods trash originated.

5. **City Planning Department** to report (a) what they/City & County Public Health Officers have done under the County Health and Safety Code, Title 11, Section 11.02.300, “Nuisance”; (b) the City Planning’s basis for determining the Landfill’s compliance with its (Q) Conditions; and (c) the City Planning documenting the results of any health studies/findings which were used to substantiate the City’s

findings that *“air quality monitoring has not shown any evidence of an imminent substantial risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the local community”* as they were recently requested in a County Solid Waste Management Task Force letter to the City Planning Department dated February 2, 2015.

Nicholas Hendricks, City Planner, L.A. Dept. of City Planning (818-374-5046; Nick.Hendricks@LACity.org; www.planning.LACity.org), reminded that “the City of Los Angeles doesn’t have a health department.” However, quarterly documents about a mitigation and monitoring report of air quality requirements are available online. He distinguished “odors” and “health effects.” He explained that they work with County Planning and “issue the paperwork”; there are 191 mitigations the Landfill is supposed to perform. He clarified that “we don’t have the power to enforce the Permit that’s under the jurisdiction of the [LEA] . . . we’re waiting for the release” of the AQMD report. They have made “a number of recommendations” to further mitigate problems as they increased. He noted that “not every landfill is the same”; he described possible different conditions at others such as the Puente Hills Landfill.

Mr. Hendricks noted the “Joint Powers Agreement . . . and the Conditions of Approval . . . the land use Permit was a zone change that allowed it by right . . . I would encourage the Solid Waste Management Committee to contact the County Department of Public Health . . . I would encourage you to look at the Volatile Organic Compounds [list] sampling” available online. He distinguished between nuisances and documented health hazards (VOCs). There was extensive discussion about nuisances and health hazards. The exchange took a confrontational turn when Mr. Hendricks took umbrage at Mr. Mohajer’s questions/comments. Mr. Hunter emphasized that residents’ “welfare” is being negatively affected. That City Planning does have evidence by reading Rule 402 Citations issued by the SCAMD stating: “that they cause “injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to a considerable number of persons. This is an official agency. Why are you saying you have no evidence?” Mr. Hendricks demurred once again referring to VOCs and that they base their decision on evidence of human health effects. “There was VOC sampling that was done up to 2011. There was a 5th Annual Report released that measured chemicals that known to occur in landfill gas that were found to not be substantially not beyond the background levels that are monitored in the LA Basin . . . That’s the evidence I am referring to. We don’t have the evidence that substantiate the chemical compounds that would cause significant health diseases. That’s the evidence we want to receive, if AQMD or any other public health agency has it.” Mr. Hunter took issue with the language in the letter saying that “It doesn’t specifically refer to VOCs or anything of that nature. It’s a general statement which says the health, safety or welfare of the community. The community, their mental state of welfare is at risk because they are continually exposed.... You are cherry picking words. Mr. Hendricks replied that: “We in the Department fully understand and appreciate that there is an odor issue here. That’s why there is an abatement effort ongoing. That’s how you stop the odor issue. What we don’t have is the threat to health. Human health. I get the mental arguments that it bothers you.... But we can’t stop the odor without

all the evidence". He noted the need for experts' data to help make decisions. He said the report "may have a list of strategies to abate the odors." Mr. Vitti believed "the confrontational behavior of your responses to this committee and the people here doesn't help anybody, and doesn't do your department any service" and noted that most people do not check Planning's website. He encouraged Mr. Hendricks "to present some of that" information. Mr. Hendricks replied that "that information has been well-presented on many occasions." Another period of question and answer from the public occurred.

6. County Regional Planning Department to report on SCL matters within their purview including enforcement of the County Health & Safety Code, Title 11, Section 11.02.300, "Nuisance."

No representative was present and there was no report. Mr. DeGonia will ensure that a representative is present at the next Meeting.

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 agendaized for this meeting. If necessary, discussion and action will be agendaized for another meeting.

Millie Jones, Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander, (818-882-1212; Millie.Jones@LACity.org; <http://CD12.LACity.org>), reported that the Councilman appointed Debbie Pietraszko, resident of Granada Hills, and President of the GH Women's Club to attend SCL-CAC Meetings.

D. Public comment on items Not on the Agenda.

Roxie Deukmengan was called but indicated that her questions had already been answered. There were no other public comments at this time.

E. Set next meeting date (May 14, 2015) and adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be here May 14, 2015 at 3:00 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.

Mr. Hunter indicated that there was no more discussion.

Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Levin, Note Taker (Minutes Writer). Edited by SCL-CAC. *The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda.*

Approved May 14, 2015 Meeting