

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

Thursday, March 9, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

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

Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee Members: Ken Ashford (TAC Alternate), Jeanette Capaldi (Vice-Chair), Steven Freedman, Gale Gundersen (Secretary), Wayde Hunter (Chair), Josh Jordahl (Treasurer), Laine Caspi, Debbie Pietraszko and Joe Vitti (TAC Rep.).

A. Call to Order, Roll Call and Approval of January 12, 2017 Minutes.

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on March 9, 2017 in Granada Hills, California by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Five of the nine Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Gale Gundersen, Wayde Hunter, Debbie Pietraszko and Joe Vitti. Ken Ashford, Laine Caspi and Josh Jordahl arrived later. Absent: Steven Freedman. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present.

Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Rob Sherman; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): John Anderson, Larry Israel; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): David Thompson and Eugene Tseng; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: Eugene Loi; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Tim Stapleton; L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich's Office: Jarrod DeGonia; L.A. City Councilman Mitch Englander's Office: Millie Jones; LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Also attended: 23 residents and other guests.

MOTION (by Mr. Vitti, seconded by Ms. Pietraszko): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its January 12, 2017 Meeting as written.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Hunter added six attendees' names to the draft.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Old Business. Discussion and Board Motions & possible action:

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair).

Mr. Hunter asked everyone to sign in, though members of the public may remain anonymous. He 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>.) He also reported that computer files are being transferred. He moved on to Item C. saying that there was none at this time.

Mr. Hunter stated that the laptop computer the CAC had purchased had now become a “boat anchor thanks to Microsoft.” In upgrading from Windows 8 to Windows 10 the computer became non-functional; in order to get it working again by reformatting he lost many files, including the recording software. He is now using a digital tape recorder to record the meeting.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C. 1.]

- Treasurer’s Report (Treasurer).

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C. 1.] Mr. Jordahl reviewed finances. The total balance was \$81,229.57 as of March 1st; expenses were \$1,654.91.

MOTION (by Ms. Capaldi, seconded by Mr. Hunter): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the March 9, 2017 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

- 1. Browning-Ferris Industries/Republic Services Inc. (BFI/Republic)** to report on Sunshine Canyon Landfill activities and operations, including efforts to abate odors using Alternative Daily Cover (ADC), Intermediate Cover Project (ICE) and compliance with SCAQMD Stipulated Order of Abatement.

Rob Sherman, BFI/Republic General Manager [24-hour Landfill hotline 818-779-9170; main 818-362-2124; Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com; <http://SunshineCanyonLandfill.com>], reported that “January, February...numerous large rain events . . . 10 days over 1-inch January 17th when site received over 4-1/2 inches in a 24-hour period . . . created significant challenges.” We had 30–32 inches in a 10-week period . . . nothing like it since 1943. It rained every other day, and we saw an increase in odor complaints. He explained that many businesses and residents dumped trash into rain-filled containers, helping create smelly trash. Rains “cut through” the slopes, exposing trash; sometimes the sites were too wet on which to work. He said, “we’re working two faces at the site now.” New cell construction complete, awaiting RWQCB inspection. If approved operations will start in about a month. They need to build a 10-foot “fluff” layer of household waste, not transfer waste, to protect the bottom of the new cell which is about 4-1/2 acres and will last about 1-1/2 years. Since January they have put in 13 new gas wells and installed 60 liquid pumps. Many wells still have water in them. There are 560 wells on site and 150 of those have pumps. Some the 40 vertical gas wells and 57 pumps to be installed are replacements. On February 1st, they started spraying the Posi-Shell product for the Intermediate Cover Enhancement Project (ICE). In response to a question by Mr. Vitti, Mr. Sherman indicated that last October they identified 77 gas wells that were impacted by water” by a test called a “sounding.” Mr. Vitti expressed concern that four years ago Wayne Tsuda

of the SCL-LEA had indicated that gamma density logging should be done, and then again two years ago, to which Mr. Sherman replied that in talking to his consultants, gamma density logging is one of a number of water-identifying tools. They “put a camera down each well” to check contents and problems. The SCL-LEA’s Eugene Tseng asked, “if they’re planning to use that device” to which Mr. Sherman said that they are checking the feasibility, and that the consultant will give a technical reason as to why, what they are now using is as effective.

Committee Member Laine Caspi arrived at 3:11, making six Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).

Mr. Sherman said that he wanted to talk about the SCAQMD Abatement Order saying that effective March 20th all collection vehicles (not just transfer vehicles) are not permitted in the landfill before 9:00 a.m. The Alternative Daily Cover “held up well” during the rains. There will be a status hearing May 4th on the Stipulated Order of Abatement. In response to a question by Ms. Provenzale as to what the landfill would be doing during the three hours “that no collection vehicles” would be allowed to enter the Landfill until 9:00 a.m., Mr. Sherman said that: “we’re not extending any additional hours” to catch up because the Landfill is not allowed by its permit, except after Christmas, and that “we’re working to make sure there’s not a queuing impact.” Some landfill repairs and some work by contractors would also occur. He said, “I have about 20 operators on site, and any rescheduling that would be necessary would be addressed by his operations manager when he returned from vacation.” He said “we’re constructing Flare #11” around April to flare gas. The AQMD asked BFI/Republic “to give them an updated schedule.” Ms. Volk wanted to know why, if 33 percent of wells were watered-in three years ago, and it impacted the gas collection, why did BFIC wait so long? Mr. Sherman replied that “after 2010.... It takes a while... that we did not see any water in the new wells, but every new well we put in now has water.” She also asked “why wasn’t Republic prepared for the rains?” to which Mr. Sherman responded that he “100% disagreed, and that we had serious challenges” ... that the Abatement order said that when you come back on March 1st you need to have the Posi-Shell done, the 20 grids done...we put dirt on these slopes two and three times.... If you get two, three, four inches you are going to have breakouts, trash exposed. We cleaned out our sedimentation basins but this extra dirt that was the challenge. In response to Ms. Zero’s question “did you reduce the tonnage?” Mr. Sherman replied that he had, had reduced tonnages 15–25 percent less tonnage right now and in December, January and February which he attributed to Republic’s transfer vehicles not coming to the landfill (before 9 a.m.) starting December 19, 2016, and the rain. The Landfill used to get 8,500 tons per day; they now receive 7,200 tons per day. In response to Ms. Deukmejian question regarding odor from the Posi-Shell, Mr. Sherman said that “there’s not a heavy odor that comes off of it”.

Committee Members Josh Jordahl arrived at 3:23 and Ken Ashford arrived at 3:36, making eight Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).

- 2. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)** to report on SCL odor complaints received and NOVs issued including any year-to-date charts,

and/or any other matters within their purview including an update on any changes to the Stipulated Order of Abatement for Odors from the March 1, 2017 Hearing.

Larry Israel, SCAQMD Compliance Lead Inspector [909-396-2370; LIsrael@aqmd.gov; www.aqmd.gov]. Before he got started, Mr. Hunter stated that did not request that the AQMD's Nick Sanchez be present because of recent "big changes" at the AQMD, and will request to Mr. Sanchez to be at the next meeting. Mr. Israel reported that in January there were approximately 200 odor complaints, 119 of those were verified and 6 Notices of Violation (NOVs) issued. In February, there were 254 odor complaints; 111 were verified and 7 NOVs issued with two of those pending. So far in March, 17 odor complaints were received. Faint to distinct "sour trash" and "landfill gas" odors were detected, including at Van Gogh Charter School (VGCS) morning and evening. He listed dates and amounts of complaints. Mr. Anderson said "the Hearing Board told BFIC/Republic rather emphatically of their frustration with the process, and that they had recognized the repeated presence of community members which underscored the seriousness of the odor problem. He thanked residents for attending Hearings, saying "it means a lot when they get feedback from the community." Later, Leor Alpern, AQMD Senior Public Information Specialist (909-396-3663; LAlpern@aqmd.gov), described outreach for the Hearings. There was a request from the community to the SCAQMD that they hold a meeting in Granada Hills again. Mr. Anderson indicated that Management is considering having another town hall meeting in this area and more inspectors are being trained.

Mr. Hunter read aloud a handout in support of the below Motion.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Vitti): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee:

GIVEN that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill is a public nuisance and has received over 10,400 odor complaints since 2009, and that is 23-1/2 times worse than the 15 other landfills combined within the 10,750 square miles of the SCAQMD's jurisdiction, and

GIVEN that Los Angeles County Public Health has said that odors are a public health issue which according to Dr. Cyrus Rangan, Director, Bureau of Toxicology and Environmental Assessment, County of Los Angeles, Public Health said that: Odors actually cause adverse health effects that it can cause: eye irritation, nose irritation, mouth irritation, throat irritation, nausea, light headiness, a feeling of ick, and as a physician, he considers those to be real health effects, and real physiological effects, and

GIVEN that Sunshine Canyon Landfill received 29.64-inches of rain since October 17, 2016, with over 10-inches both in January and in the first weeks of February 2017, the landfill only closed for rain for one short 3-hour period due to flooding of the access roadway, and

GIVEN that in California, we “dry entomb” our municipal solid waste by encapsulating it with dirt and/or synthetic barriers, including liner and leachate collection systems in order to prevent the trash from contacting water because of the methane it generates, and subsequently the odors it brings if it is not properly collected and destroyed, and

GIVEN that a wet-weather deck only works from a safety standpoint to prevent disposal vehicles and/or landfill maintenance vehicles from tipping over or from sinking into the mud, and that they do not prevent the generation of methane and/or odors, and

GIVEN that these rainstorms could be reasonably anticipated and/or controlled with the advanced weather predictions available to BFIC, and that they knew as did the local residents; the day, the hour, and even the expected inches of rain, and yet they continued to accept trash during the worst rainstorms in many years.

That the SCL-CAC write a letter to all of the Local, State, and Federal agencies that oversee the landfill’s operations given the above facts, asking if they have any regulations/ordinances/conditions et cetera on the books, which would have authorized them at that time, to take any action to close down the operations (including same for fire, flood, and earthquake). Further, who in their opinion (agency or operator) was responsible to shut down landfill operations during those periods of excessive rain in order to prevent the intrusion of water into the freshly received trash, and subsequently into the waste mass, which would ultimately would produce more methane including the odors that accompanying it, and result in additional odor complaints from the community, and impact their health, safety, and welfare.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Hunter explained the Motion to determine whose decision it was to “accept trash into the Landfill during the major rainstorm.” Ms. Caspi requested time for the Committee to first review the draft letter; Mr. Hunter agreed.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with seven in favor; one opposed; zero abstained.

Mr. Hunter clarified that “the Motion is to send out the letter.” He also responded to a question from a Committee member as to how the AQMD Hearing Board live webcasts work, the semi-judicial nature of the Hearings, and how comments may be emailed in.

- 3. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)** to report on LAUSD’s efforts/actions/responses to ameliorate excessive odor complaints at Van Gogh Charter School.

Bill Piazza, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) Environmental Assessment Coordinator [213.241.3926; Bill.Piazza@lausd.net], reported that the AQMD’s response to SCL-CAC’s request to do a “health risk assessment” of the Landfill was to cite California Air Resources Board statistics. The annual toxics

from Calabasas was 151 lbs./year, Scholl Canyon 168 lbs./year, Puente Hills 421 lbs./year, BKK 966 lbs./year and Spadra (closed 2000) 444 lbs./year; all have been required to complete a health risk assessments. The total for Sunshine Canyon was 4,433 lbs.last year; no health risk assessment has ever been completed. He questioned why the AQMD has not asked or ordered the SCL to complete a health risk assessment. He will submit a draft letter for the Committee to consider sending to the SCAQMD about this. Ms. Pamela Merloni, Principal of Van Gogh Charter School [<http://vangoghcs-laUSD-ca.schoolloop.com>], reported that, since the heavy rains, there have been much stronger smells and many more complaints. She suggested the Landfill could be an AB2588 (Air Toxics Hot Spots Program) qualifier.

- 4. Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA)** to report on any inspections carried out, and other matters within their purview including a presentation on the information as presented to SCL-LEA Board of Directors meeting on February 23, 2017.

David Thompson, SCL-LEA Program Manager [213.252.3932; David.Thompson@lacity.org; www.SCLLEA.org], described reasons for NOVs issued. He reported that BFI/Republic said “all the corrections will be done by this week.” There will be an LEA Board meeting around “the end of May, beginning of June.” He showed slides and a video of the “Program Managers Report . . . March 2017.” He said that BFI/Republic “demonstrated improved LFG collection”; the LEA will be “working closely” with them. Mr. Thompson described Intermediate Cover Project (ICE) challenges and work, and “application of Posi-Shell.” Also, “odor mitigation practices at transfer stations” owned by Republic and others; the report is at www.SCLLEA.org. He reviewed the recommendations made in those reports. The LEA is working with NASA, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and CalTech. Methane level data was captured during flyovers of the Aliso Canyon gas field.

Committee Member Laine Caspi left at 4:43, making seven Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).

There was discussion of how to interpret the data.

- 5. County Regional Planning Department & County Public Health Department** to report on SCL matters within their purview including status on responses and/or NOVs issued to Republic as a result of Supervisor, Mike Antonovich’s original motion on Oct 4, 2016 BOS Agenda Item No. 8.

L.A. County Regional Zoning Enforcement Planner Tim Stapleton [213-974-6453; TStapleton@planning.lacounty.gov; <http://planning.co.la.ca.us>], reported that “the Hearing Officer granted the continuance until May 2nd of this year.” A staff report is available at <http://planning.co.la.ca.us>.

Eugene Loi, L.A. County Public Health Nurse [213.738.3220; EuLoi@ph.LACounty.gov], who works with Dr. Cyrus Rangan, clarified that the

County Public Health (CPH) Department's "Order to Abate" is different from the AQMD's "Order for Abatement." CPH's November 19th Notice of Violation requested abatement by March 30th. They met February 24th with BFI/Republic regarding compliance. CPH will report April 30th to the County Supervisors. Mr. Loi said "we do our own odor surveys . . . we're going to continue to do that . . . in the residential area . . . in the Van Gogh area . . . and east of the 405." Mike Mohajer, speaking "as a private citizen" representing himself, not any group, believed that the County Health & Safety Code, Title 11, Section 11.02.300, "Nuisance," authorizes CPH enforcement.

6. City Planning Department to report on SCL matters within their purview.

No representative was present and there was no report.

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.

There were no other reports at this time.

D. Public comment on items NOT on the Agenda.

There were no public comments at this time.

E. Set next meeting date (May 11, 2017), & adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Hunter noted the above; he declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 5:05 p.m.

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

- Potential budget items FY 2017.

Mr. Hunter indicated that there was no more discussion.

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.* Minutes are available at <http://scl-cac.org/agendas-minutes>.

Approved May 11, 2017 Meeting