

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

**Thursday, May 11, 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 March 9, 2017 Minutes (Chair).**

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:02 p.m. on May 11, 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. Absent: Ken Ashford, Laine Caspi, Steven Freedman and Josh Jordahl. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present.

Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Rob Sherman Michael Beaudoin; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel, Jeff Lloyd; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): David Thompson; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: none; 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; L.A. City Planning Dept.: Nicholas Hendricks; LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Los Angeles County Counsel: Andrea Ross; Also attended: 13 residents and other guests.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Vitti, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its March 9, 2017 Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** 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>.)

- Treasurer's Report (Treasurer).

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C. 8.*] Mr. Hunter reviewed finances and noted that "total assets are \$83,244.17."

**MOTION** (by Ms. Gunderson, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee accepts the May 11, 2017 Treasurer's Report as presented.

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

**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 activities and operations, including efforts to abate odors using Alternative Daily Cover (ADC), Intermediate Cover Project (ICE), and compliance with the SCAQMD's Stipulated Order of Abatement for Odors

Rob Sherman, BFI/Republic General Manager [24-hour Landfill hotline 818-779-9170; main 818-362-2124; Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com; <http://SunshineCanyonLandfill.com>], stated that they only had 1 NOV in April compared to 5 a year ago. He reported that there has been "a lot of regulatory involvement" at the Landfill. He introduced Michael Beaudoin, Director of Remedial Projects, who showed slides and stated that "we identified this as one of the highest priority projects in the country for Republic Services . . . we've hired the best consultants in the industry . . . our goal is completely to eliminate offsite odor." "We believe the primary causes of odors are landfill gas." He went on to explain that gas seeping out of the landfill and interacting with is causing the odors. Their goal is controlling the landfill gas, control waste odors onsite, and changing how the landfill is constructed and operated. He also said that the landfill was 1000-acres and was divided into three hundred, 200-foot x 250-foot grids. We know we have a fugitive gas problem because you smell it, and we smell it too. The primary solution is to improve the gas collection, the secondary solution which is temporary is to improve the cover. He described monthly readings of "fugitive emissions" and "landfill gas odor control" measurements. He said, "we're replacing a lot of wells that had some problems" .... and are adding 150 new and replacement gas wells and 250 pumps to new and existing wells to remove water, including adding 115 acres of cover to the site. He believed that "nobody has ever seen five drill rigs at one time on site at a landfill" and that it was "unprecedented in the industry." He explained how leachate water infiltrates the gas wells and stated that "we have never had this many pumps in a landfill, other than in Florida." He described "a dewatering pump installation. We have pumps that pump about 10 or 12-gallons per minute but which yield only 1-gallon per minute because the water comes out of the waste slowly. In response to a question by Mr. Vitti as to how long it would take to dewater the wells, he stated that.... "we can dewater this well, which will get 80% within four to six months . . . 100% within a couple of years." They will

enhance the intermediate cover with closure turf, with the intermediate spray on cover (PosiShell), and vegetative cover. He described “14 species” of native vegetative cover and that “we should have the most problematic areas on site covered by July, at most, this year.” For other areas, we said “we’re going to start planting in mid-October” and hope to see germination by winter. Mr. Beaudoin stated that “we’re turning the corner . . . so that you have absolutely no fugitive emissions” and that pumps, installations and activities are “ahead of schedule.” Then, Mr. Sherman narrated a short video showing the landfill operations, the gas collection, and odor prevention. He stated that <http://sunshinecanyonlandfill.com/> plus an eblast is available for more information.

- 2. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)** to report on odor complaints received and NOV’s issued including any year-to-date charts, and/or any other matters within their purview

Larry Israel, SCAQMD Compliance Lead Inspector [909-396-2370; LIsrael@aqmd.gov; www.aqmd.gov], introduced Supervisor Jeff Lloyd and described three types of odor complaints and Notices of Violation (NOV’s): “faint to distinct,” “trash” and “gas.” There were 256 complaints in March; 170 were verified, especially in mid-March, including 76 verified at Van Gogh Elementary School, and six NOV’s were issued. In April, there were 117 complaints; 36 were verified and one NOV issued; it was noted that for ten days in April there were no staff available to respond to complaints. So far in May there were seven unverified complaints. In response to a question by Mr. Mike Mohajer as to whether inspectors were available all the time, Mr. Israel responded that he was on vacation for 10 days during April and that no staff was available to respond, and acknowledged a week or so of windy weather. Ms. Provenzale registered a complaint that during his absence, that other inspectors were using their own cell phone numbers when calling and that residents did not respond as they did not know who they were. He said that “all the complaints are logged.” Mr. Hunter announced that the next SCAQMD Odor Abatement Hearing will be on November 8, 2017 and not in October based on the fact that data had been submitted which showed that January, February, and March are high months... and April, May, June, and July are all low months, and that the odor complaints start coming up again in August, September and October.

- 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 SCAQMD responded to him regarding doing a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) that “we’re not going to do it and we don’t have to do it.” He read aloud a proposed draft letter (below) that he co-wrote with the SCL-CAC that would be sent to the SCAQMD again requesting an HRA.

South Coast Air Quality Management District  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4128  
Attention: Bayron Gilchrist  
Deputy Executive Officer (Acting)

Re: SCAQMD Response to Motions SCL-CAC Meeting July 2016

Dear Mr. Gilchrist:

Your agency's letter of January 11, 2017, provides a response to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) request that the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) prepare or cause to be prepared a detailed health risk assessment (HRA) to address both acute and chronic impacts associated with point and fugitive emissions generated from operations at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

In response to SCL-CAC's request, the SCAQMD reported that HRAs are "typically prepared at the beginning of a process to help assess if an air quality concern exceeds SCAQMD thresholds" whereby it was inferred that due to the fact that the facility is already in operation and odors associated with the landfill are well documented, a subsequent HRA is not warranted.

Additionally, it was stated that both State (AB2588) and SCAQMD (Rule 1402) regulations serve as the basis to require the preparation of an HRA. It was reported that SCAQMD's reliance on these regulations and their respective thresholds were not met and therefore do not necessitate its preparation.

Although the SCL-CAC appreciates the SCAQMD's effort to respond to our request, it is clearly a response without merit. The SCAQMD is responsible to oversee and implement the AB2588 regulation and determine applicability to its provisions for facilities located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB). For example, one relevant provision is the quantity or amount of toxics generated as reported in a facility's emission inventory report.

The SCL-CAC has reviewed SCAQMD's 2016 *Annual Report on AB 2588 Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Program* which identified various landfill owner/operators subject to the regulation who have completed HRAs. A partial listing is presented below which provides the facility name, identification number and aggregate annual toxic emission summary as reported by the California Air Resources Board.

- Los Angeles County Sanitation District-Calabasas Landfill (ID 42514). 151 Pounds/Year.
  - Los Angeles County Sanitation District-Scholl Canyon Landfill (ID 45262). 168 Pounds/Year.
  - Los Angeles County Sanitation District/Whittier (ID 25070). 421 Pounds/Year.
- Note: SCAQMD staff has requested this facility update their HRA.
- BKK Corporation-BKK Landfill/West Covina (ID 800209). 966 Pounds/Year.

By comparison, the California Air Resources Board reports emissions from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill total 4,433 pounds/year. Toxic air contaminants such as benzene, 1,3-butadiene and formaldehyde predominate the inventory. All of these compounds elicit both carcinogenic and noncarcinogenic health effects.

Based upon the above referenced inventories and clear disparity between Sunshine Canyon's emissions and those of other landfills which have completed HRAs, we are at a loss as to the Executive Officer's decision to conclude that "factors SCAQMD relies upon to trigger a facility's preparation of an HRA are not present at this time."

The SCL-CAC requests clarification as to what "factors" the Executive Officer would require facilitating the preparation of an HRA and why other landfill operations were subject to AB2588 regulations.

Notwithstanding, the SCL-CAC trusts the Executive Officer will reevaluate SCAQMD's previous determination and require the preparation of an HRA.

I thank you in advanced for a timely response to our request.

Sincerely,

Wayde Hunter  
Chair, SCL-CAC  
(818) 363-3597 [WHunter01@aol.com](mailto:WHunter01@aol.com)

He said an HRA "is a tool . . . we think it will answer a lot of questions . . . it's used up and down the State and across the nation." Mr. Piazza added that the letter

would be sent to the boss (Bayron Gilchrist) of Cher Snyder, Assistant Deputy Executive Officer, Engineering and Compliance, who is no longer is with the SCAQMD.

Mr. Hunter said, “that he was not asking the CAC to approve the contents of the (draft) letter since we had a motion which was approved to send the original letter; and that we received a response which was basically non-responsive . . . and that we’re sending back another letter and some additional information and requesting that the SCAQMD please reconsider their decision not to do a HRA”. He said he would only be adding a letterhead to the letter as written, and that he would send a copy (of the final letter) to the CAC members unless there were any objections. A short discussion followed to address any Committee member questions during which Mr. Mike Mohajer noted that Puente Hills Landfill which was the second largest in the nation doing 13,200 tons per day, and yet it only had 421 lbs/year vs 4000+ lbs/year at SCL.

- 4. Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA)** to report on any inspections carried out, and other matters within their purview including response to SCL-CAC letter requesting information as to responsibility to close landfill in times of adverse weather events

Mr. Thompson [www.SCLLEA.org] reported that the LEA has not issued any violations to the landfill for things under their purview which is Title 27 Regulations and parts of the Public Resources Code. At the last CAC meeting (March 2017) we did report that there were issues with daily cover, and with drainage and erosion control and had issued violation by they (BFI/Republic) “reported back that everything [was] corrected by March.” He stated that the LEA continues to work with them (BFI/ Republic) on issues including their (SCAQMD) Abatement Order and providing whatever technical support they need. He indicated that the LEA’s response to the CAC letter (on adverse weather protocol) was on the back table and that the LEA has the authority to regulate the landfill and close it down for things that are under our regulations and authority. explained that “odor and water infiltration are under different agencies. and . . .would not fall under our jurisdiction.” In closing he reported that there would be a SCL-LEA Board Meeting on June 1, 2017 at University Los Angeles Law School, Chatsworth at 2:30 p.m. Mr. Hunter noted that there have been a total of 3 responses (LEA, CalRecycle, and County Regional Planning) to the aforementioned CAC letter. Mr. Hunter noted the importance of an “adverse weather protocol, and that it should be on every landfill here in California.”

- 5. County Regional Planning Department & County Public Works** to report on SCL matters within their purview including status of NOV Hearing on May 2, 2017, and response to SCL-CAC letter requesting information as to responsibility to close landfill in times of adverse weather events

L.A. County Regional Zoning Enforcement Planner Tim Stapleton [213-974-6453; TStapleton@planning.lacounty.gov; <http://planning.co.la.ca.us>] described NOV appeal activities. He reported that there was an appeal to the NOV was filed but that the Hearing Office denied it, and that based on Condition 11, that a \$174,000 fine was levied against BFI/Republic;

He explained that, in response to the CAC's letter that according to Conditional Use Permit #00194, there are no Conditions which would allow Regional Planning to enforce "adverse weather conditions." He noted that there will be a SCL-TAC Meeting at 9:00 a.m. June 13, 2017. In response to a CAC Committee member's question he stated that, he was not sure where the funds would go but that they would probably go to the County's General Fund. In response to another question from the Committee as to whether or not the Hearing Officer's decision was appealable he indicated that it was not, to which Mr. Sherman said "that being said...we're appealing it."

The County Public Works representative (unable to hear name) who was speaking from the audience, referred to the CAC's letter on "adverse weather conditions", and indicated that County Public Works did not have the authority to regulate the landfill, and that it believed that it should rest with the SCL-LEA. Mr. Hunter said he needed that kind of response in writing. The CPW representative said that a letter had been sent just a day or two ago. Mr. Hunter said he was not in receipt of said letter.

**6. County Public Health Department** to report on SCL matters within their purview.

Mr. Hunter commented that this was at least the second meeting in a row that we have not had a County Public Health representative present. He subsequently corrected that as reference to attendance was found in the March Minutes to Mr. Eugene Loi. Mr. Mike Mohajer as a public citizen raised questions of compliance regarding the County Health & Safety Code, Title 11, Section 11.02.300. Mr. Hunter said that he could agendaize it and the consideration of a draft letter for the next meeting. Jarrod DeGonia, Field Deputy for L.A. County District Five, Supervisor Kathryn Barger (office 818-993-5170; cell 818-653-7812; [JDeGonia@lacbos.org](mailto:JDeGonia@lacbos.org); <https://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/kathryn-barger>), indicated that he would like an opportunity to address that, and will report to Mr. Hunter regarding Landfill compliance with County Health & Safety Code, Title 11, Section 11.02.300, "Nuisance," which authorizes County Public Health enforcement.

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

L.A. City Planner Nicholas Hendricks (818-374-5046; [Nick.Hendricks@LACity.org](mailto:Nick.Hendricks@LACity.org); [www.planning.LACity.org](http://www.planning.LACity.org)), indicated that there was no report.

**8. 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

L.A. County Department of Public Works explained their written response to the SCL-CAC's letter. Mr. Hunter commented that it should be in writing, to which Public Works said they had sent one several days ago. Mr. Hunter said he was not yet in receipt of it. Mr. Jarrod DeGonia from the Supervisor's Office introduced Chris Perry, who will be the Supervisor's new County Land Use and Public Works Deputy, replacing Edell Viscara. He thanked Mr. Israel for the Landfill tour for Supervisor Barger and himself.

**D. Public comment** on items Not on the Agenda.

There were none.

Mr. Hunter then reopened Agenda Item C1 to public comment as promised.

Mr. Vitti that he was pleased and supported BFI/Republic "progress that we haven't seen in many, many years." In response to a question by Ms. Capaldi regarding what happens to the gas, Mr. Beaudoin said about 50% is flared and 50% goes to their gas-to-power facility which "provides enough electricity to power 25,000 homes." Mike Mohajer, speaking "as a private citizen" representing himself, not any group, believed that "it is a significant effort that is being made" by BFI/Republic. He asked about the other landfills previously referred to, and whether or not there were any liquids, and how they were handled. Mr. Beaudoin replied that there were 190 other landfills, and yes there were liquids in about 20% of the wells. He indicated that he felt SCL was unusual and that it is more common in southeast.... North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. Mr. Mohajer also asked about the radius of influence of each well, information he has been seeking for a long time. He also stated that as an engineer involved in landfills for 44 years that liquids in the gas collection wells in the County of Los Angeles was common. Mr. Beaudoin in response to the radius of influence question stated that it depends on the waste that it is sited in, whether or not it is on a slope and then said that "we will not stop drilling until the radius of influence overlaps." So if the spacing is 120-feet then we will be splitting that. Mr. Hunter asked how the organics in SCL waste compared with organics in other States. Mr. Beaudoin stated that based on a visual observation that: "there's probably a higher percentage of organics" in the Landfill than most other landfills and that there is absolutely no industrial waste. Mr. Hunter said that when you stated that you have increased gas collection by 30%, what is the percentage you are collecting now? Mr. Beaudoin answered that he was not sure, but when the gas collection does flatten we (Republic) should be at 95+% because we are pulling in so much more gas than we were before. Mr. Hunter then asked, why do we have to wait all these years when we talk about wells and gas collection why wasn't it done 4 years ago when it was ordered by County Public Works, the LEA, the SCAQMD to get these wells dewatered? "Do you have an answer for that?" Mr. Beaudoin replied,

“No, I don’t.” Ms. Andrea Provenzale said that she echoed the questions asked by Mr. Mohajer and Mr. Hunter as to why it had taken since 2008 to address the problems. She asked Mr. Beaudoin specifically when did he find out about it, and what did he say... “Like guys here is what we can do about it.” Mr. Beaudoin said that he had known about SCL for 2-1/2 years while with Republic but stated that “it first came to my attention in the beginning of December (2016) when he had signed an order from the SCAQMD, and that they were asking for volunteers to initially come out and get the process underway. I can’t really answer you know.

Mr. Sherman said Mike (Beaudoin) is there at 5 a.m. and sometimes as late as 8 p.m. He clarified that the Landfill has “36 grids, about 40 acres, and after the SCAQMD ordered them to put on additional dirt, Mike came back and said “No we’re going to do 115-acres.” Ms. Roxie Deukmedjian reported that “we have been experiencing this since 2009 . . . it’s on a regular basis . . . I get headaches . . . [and] congestion.” Mr. Beaudoin stated that “you will see major, major, significant improvements by this fall,” including “ We will achieve majority of the dewatering in 4 months, and 100% in four years. We will have more gas wells, so you should see significant improvements by this Fall.

**E. Set next meeting date (July 13, 2017), & adjourn at 5:00 p.m.**

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be here July 13, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 4:56 p.m.

**F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking & 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 July 13, 2017 Meeting**