

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, January 10, 2019**

Knollwood Country Club, 12024 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills, CA 91344

Members: Jeanette Capaldi (Vice-Chair), Laine Caspi (Secretary), Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck (Treasurer), Steven Freedman (TAC Rep.), Wayde Hunter (Chair), Debbie Pietraszko and Donna Zero.

A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of November 8, 2018 Minutes (Chair).

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on January 10, 2019 in Granada Hills, California by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Six of the eight Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Laine Caspi, Richard Fisk, Wayde Hunter, Debbie Pietraszko and Donna Zero. Larry Fleck arrived later. Absent: Steven Freedman. Joe Vitti had resigned. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Josh Mills; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Jason Aspell; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): David Thompson; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: Shikari Nakagawa-Ota; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Tim Stapleton; L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office: Jarrod DeGonia; L.A. City Councilman Greig Smith's Office: Jessie Strobel; L.A. City Planning Dept.: Nicholas Hendricks; LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Also attended: 15 residents and other guests.

MOTION (by Ms. Capaldi, seconded by Dr. Zero): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its November 8, 2018 Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Old Business: Discussion and Committee 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 had distributed to Committee Members an information packet that included a Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related Landfill documents, and copies were available to the public. (See <http://SCL-CAC.org>.)

- Treasurer's Report (Treasurer).

In the absence of Mr. Fleck, the Treasurer, Mr. Hunter reviewed the finances from the November 8, 2018 meeting which had not been voted on. The total balance as of Nov. 1st was \$120,240.79.

MOTION (by Ms. Pietraszko, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the September-October 2018 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

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

Mr. Hunter reviewed the latest finances. The total balance as of Jan. 4th was \$119,799.38.

MOTION (by Dr. Zero, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the November-December 2018 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

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

- Conduct election of CAC Officers for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, TAC Rep & TAC Alternate. *Note: extend length of service of current Treasurer & TAC Rep elected 09/18, to sync with 2019 election (Vice Chair/Chair)

Mr. Hunter nominated himself as Chair. There were no other nominations. Wayne Hunter was by a voice vote unanimously re-elected as Chair.

Mr. Hunter nominated Ms. Capaldi as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations. Jeanette Capaldi was by a voice vote unanimously re-elected as Vice-Chair.

It was agreed to extend Larry Fleck’s service as Treasurer; he had been approved as Treasurer at the September 13, 2018 Meeting.

Ms. Caspi nominated herself as Secretary. There were no other nominations. Laine Caspi was by a voice vote unanimously re-elected as Secretary.

Mr. Hunter noted that the TAC Representative (himself) and the TAC Representative Alternate (Joe Vitti) recently were elected for two-year terms. Mr. Hunter mentioned Mr. Vitti’s absence due to his health problems so that City Council District 12 knows of the need to replace Mr. Vitti. Mr. Vitti recently expressed his desire to retire from the CAC and has only continued to attend meetings as his health permitted because of his support for the Chair, which Mr. Hunter said was greatly appreciated.

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 ongoing 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.

Josh Mills, Environmental Manager, BFI/Republic [24-hour Landfill hotline 818-779-9170; main 818-362-2124; cell 510.691.4337; Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com; http://SunshineCanyonLandfill.com], reported that “there haven’t been any changes to our disposal operations or location . . . we continue to use CC 4 as the active disposal area. With respect to the daily cover we’re using approved EnviroCover for ADC, and we continue to monitor it on a daily basis. In construction, with the rainy season starting, all of our efforts toward winterization have really paid off.... the cocoa-matting that we installed continues to pay off, and our storm water controls worked as expected. This past storm event, this weekend, gave us a little over two inches of rain; the site held up well and we did not experience any drainage issues. We continue to maintain and expand our vegetative cover . . . thru the summer and fall we have placed additional topsoil in areas where it has thinned and required additional nutrients to establish growth . . . We have also applied hydroseeding to those areas . . . with the rains in December and the recent rains, the seeds are already germinating . . .with respect to the Deck B, Sage Mitigation area we have completed . . . we seeded and planted approximately five acres on the City South (landfill), and now we go to the monitoring phase for the next five years. In 2018 in respect to expanding the gas collection, we installed or replaced 89 gas wells, plus 21 horizontal collectors, and 3 liner collectors. In 2019 we will continue to add to the well field . . . and expand our collection activities.” BFI received a November 14th NOV [Notice of Violation] from the AQMD and are researching the cause. The header system that surrounds the perimeter of the footprint is performing as expected allowing them to draw a good vacuum on all wells. They are moving forward on a Flare 12 application.

Regarding the Stipulated Order of Abatement for Odors, “we continue to be in compliance.” The next Hearing will be March 19, 2019. In response to questions Mr. Mills stated that yes, we have 1000 collection points and 5 flares.... that there have been no changes to the Abatement Order . . . that we do our best to seal the landfill to prevent water getting into the landfill and then into the wells, and that well casings are monitored “on a weekly or monthly basis,” and that we have not seen any increase in liquids in them due to the recent storms. In respect to November 14th Ms. Provenzale expressed disbelief that with all the people they have walking the landfill that there were no reports of any odors by them to which Mr. Mills replied that they have looked at all of their operations at that time, disposal was active and some construction activity, and that he will be looking at the contractor’s daily logs. Ms. Provenzale asked if Republic might bring back BFI employee Gloria’s log (the woman who regularly walks the landfill to detect odors that the landfill claims are immediately addressed) so that the community might compare them to the odor logs they are keeping themselves (there has been an increase in odors being detected lately) to see if there is any correlation. Mr. Mills will “look into that”; he encouraged directly calling BFI when there are odor complaints.

Committee Member Larry Fleck arrived at this time (3:20), making seven Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).

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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C. 4.] Jason Aspell, Senior Enforcement Manager [909-396-2491; JAspell@aqmd.gov], reported that the final tally for 2018 was 208 complaints. In November, two odor complaints were received; none were verified. In December, 36 complaints were received; 10 were verified. On December 14, we received fifteen complaints, eight were verified, and Inspector Begarra did respond. “One NOV was issued and trenching is under consideration as the cause.... this was the first NOV issued since January 2018 and as a result we have had internal discussions as far as complaint response procedures . . . we’ve expanded our window of what to look at to dispatch Inspectors after hours . . . we’re slightly expanding the three complaints in an hour and giving our standby supervisors more discretion to dispatch an inspector if they see a trend.” He explained verification criteria and process “leading up to that sixth” complaint within three hours. “We don’t have a policy; we adjust regarding the Inspector responses or a public nuisance event.” He distinguished between rules and procedures. There was discussion comparing the Landfill with Aliso Canyon problems and complaints. He also stated that the rules that change from one call in one hour to three calls in an hour before an inspector was dispatched was done in a December 2017 review by the Deputy Executive Officer. Ms. Provenzale complained that there is nothing in writing on the website as to the current policy of responding to complaints to which Mr. Aspell stated what he has spoken to is “guidance.” There was debate over the AQMD policy in response to Aliso Canyon versus the policy at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Mr. Aspell reported that Inspectors do go out to make checks every so often, and “we just hired a class of new Inspectors, and we will get some of them.”

3. **Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)** to discuss any correspondence and potential CAC responses to County Regional Planning/Public Health Department regarding STI’s Quarterly/Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Reports.

Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; Bill.Piazza@lausd.net], read aloud “a brief letter to the AQMD Hearing Board” from Van Gogh Charter School Principal Pamela Merloni opposing expanding Landfill operating hours (from the current late opening at 9 a.m. back to 6 a.m.). In regards to the third-party Odor Monitoring Report at Van Gogh which was completed on November 20, 2018, he noted that the Executive Summary states that “the most significant finding of the study was that the odor complaints were minimized when the landfill did not receive any trash deliveries between six and nine in the morning . . . the odor patrol data confirms this finding . . . but the next paragraph is clearly a non-starter for us and the LAUSD and the statement that in order to be sure, that maybe they should go back to an early opening and try again, and that another study be done . . . We also know that the odors had to do with transfer, delivery, and spillage, and if that is not happening, we are not getting the odors.”

Mr. Piazza stated that: “We challenged you (at last meeting) to take a look at the Executive Summary (STI’s), to see what sense you made of it, and to come back and let us know what you thought, if your original impressions were correct, and if moving forward on what we have been arguing about to see if we can get some better information (as requested in our letters) out of that monitoring report”. Mr. Fisk opined that there was no indication set out as to what they were trying to do, just a lot of numbers and facts. Ms. Pietraszko said that she had extensively reviewed information she collected since becoming a Committee Member [May 2015] and believed that what CPH recently sent “is data, it is not information.” Mr. Piazza noted that multiple health information requests to L.A. County Public Health (CPH) have not been answered, and explained that “what we’ve asked for all along is a Health Risk Assessment [HRA] . . . an HRA would answer a lot of questions”; he noted that it could show that there is “not a toxic problem”; instead there could be “an odor and a nuisance issue.” Mr. DeGonia [Field Deputy for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Kathryn Barger; office 818-993-5170; cell 818-653-7812; JDeGonia@lacbos.org; <https://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/kathryn-barger>], “will ask someone” from CPH “to re-present” at this meeting regarding health considerations and he will forward information to Mr. Hunter.

Mr. Piazza said that he and Mr. Hunter “will bring this issue up at the [next] TAC [Technical Advisory Committee] Meeting.” Mr. Hunter opined that County Regional Planning was “stonewalling” to which Mr. DeGonia objected. There was a heated discussion of the “lack of understanding” of what the CAC was asking for expressed by the County Regional Planning and whether they responded to the CAC’s September 26, 2018 letter. Mr. Hunter pointed out that Eugene Loi from County Public Health was here about eight months ago and understood what we were saying and had said that a “second letter” was being written to address our concerns but which we did not receive. Mr. DeGonia requested that Mr. Stapleton will research whether CPH responded. Mr. DeGonia will request that CPH send a representative to the January 16th TAC Meeting at City Hall Room 525.

- 4. Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA)** to present a PowerPoint of the SCL- LEA Board of Directors Program Manager’s Report 2018 dated November 29, 2018, and on any inspections carried out at the landfill, and other matters within their purview.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C. 1.] David Thompson, SCL-LEA Program Manager [213.252.3932; David.Thompson@lacity.org; www.SCLLEA.org] for 2019, stated that we inspect the landfill for compliance with Title 27 Code of Regulations; it’s the State Solid Waste regulations, and reported that “since the last CAC Meeting we have not had any violations.” He noted that the SCL-LEA Board of Directors met on November 29, 2018 and that he was giving a visual PowerPoint presentation of the Manager’s Report at the request of the CAC Chair because the public had been unable to attend. He explained that what was looked at was the data composition analysis, looking at the ADC the Intermediate Cover Enhancement (ICE), and other improvements. He showed an aerial of the landfill and a color-coded map of the various areas. In response to a

question from the public, he stated that: “closure turf” is “a plastic layer, that’s sealed, with gas collection pipes underneath. . . and gas will be captured, and then routed to the gas-to-energy plant. “It’s kind of like Astroturf . . . it’s weighted down with the sand . . . the odor complaints have done down . . . these mitigation measures seem to be working, and the vegetative layer is acting like a filter . . . this whole presentation is online.” He encouraged the public to call him “if you have any questions . . . the LEA continues to work with NASA” regarding potential areas with methane gas.” He noted a reduction in methane off-gassing and a combination of “holistic” engineering approach that has “improved the site.” Landfill gas and trash odors has significantly decreased. Mr. Beck questioned a previous chart that showed a correlation between the mitigation measures and incidents (odors) reported and he said he would be curious to see an overlay of when you started moving the trash from where it was further south to the more northern position and the transition time to see how long it took. Mr. Thompson agreed that, it did have an effect on it (the odors) also . . . moving back and lower down into the canyon definitely has (an effect). In response to Ms. Volk he stated that a 75% gas recovery is a minimum Federal goal . . . and that waterfalls that once existed are now captured in the underdrain system under the liner. Mr. Hunter added that there are also perimeter ditches around the landfill to divert those waters. A report on the Landfill’s five-year Permit application was sent by the LEA to CalRecycle [<http://www.CalRecycle.ca.gov>] by the end of 2018.

5. County Regional Planning Department to report on SCL matters within their purview.

Tim Stapleton, Zoning Enforcement Planner, L.A. County Regional Planning Dept. [213-974-6453; TStapleton@planning.LACounty.gov; <http://planning.LACounty.gov>], announced the upcoming TAC meeting. At the last CAC meeting he reported that there was an NOV issued based on the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) which regulates the landfill, and under Condition 64-C which deals with “any other kind of revenues.” “This NOV has to do with the generation of electricity at the gas-to-energy plant which began in 2014 . . . they are required to pay the County 10% of that revenue... or \$5,967,803. 02 . . .and if you multiply that by 10 it is around fifty-nine million dollars that they made between 2014 and 2017 . . . Figures for 2018 won’t be available from the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) until June 2019 . . . the NOV was issued back in August 2018 . . . they appealed it as they did the previous two NOVs... a Hearing was set on December 4, 2018 . . . they requested that the Hearing be extended until they received additional information tied to the pending legal action that is going on . . . the Hearing Officer granted them an extension, and so the Hearing has been extended until March 5, 2019... they are being charged \$1000 per day for the violation . . . he also reported that there were two other NOVs which they had appealed...” In response to a question from Ms. Provenzale he stated that there was one which was settled separately for a violation of 45N in 2016? which said that they were not giving Public Works the information on how they planned to abate the odors, a NOV which was for a failure to pay the 10% fee on the sale of gas under 64-B, and the one which was announced at the November TAC

Meeting, which was issued regarding Condition 64-C of the CUP, the Landfill's gas fee payment that was owed to the County between 2014 and 2017.

6. County Public Works to report on SCL matters within their purview.

No representative was present; there was no report.

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

Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, Environmental Health Specialist, L.A. County Public Health Dept. [626-430-5540; SOta@ph.LACounty.gov; <http://publichealth.LACounty.gov>], indicated that there was no report.

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

No representative was present; there was no report.

9. 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.

Resident Bill Hopkins, President, Southern California Preparedness Foundation [<http://SoCalPrep.us>] and Chair, annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair [<http://www.ValleyDisasterFair.com>], reported that an earthquake alert smartphone app ("ShakeAlertLA") now is available [<https://earthquake.lacity.org/shakealertla>]. The next Preparedness Fair will be October 12, 2019, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., again at the Northridge Fashion Center. Ms. Provenzale noted that the question had been raised to the Council Office (CD12) many times for at least two years (CAC and GHNNC) as to what the Sunshine Canyon Community Amenities Trust Fund balance is, what members of the community have been put on the committee (to advise the Councilman), and what those funds were spent on, and what they are earmarked for. Mr. Cotter stated that he had asked for the last two years...and that there are millions of dollars spent and no accountability. A somewhat heated exchange occurred and Ms. Strobel who is now representing CD12, agreed to report on the Fund at the next [March 14th] Committee Meeting.

E. Set next meeting date (March 7, 2019) & adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Hunter noted that the next meeting will be the usual second Thursday, March 14th, not "March 7th.as indicated on the Agenda."

F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking & Financial Matters. Potential budget items FY 2019.

Mr. Hunter indicated that there was no more discussion.

Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 5:08 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.* Minutes are available at <http://scl-cac.org/agendas-minutes>.

**Approved at SCL-CAC Meeting
May 9, 2019**