

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, September 12, 2019**

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

Approved November 14, 2019

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

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of July 11, 2019 Minutes.  
(Chair)**

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on September 12, 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: Laine Caspi, Karen Coca, Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck, Wayde Hunter and Dr. Donna Zero. Debbie Pietraszko arrived later. Jeanette Capaldi was absent. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Chris Coyle; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel; 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 Kathryn Barger's Office: none; L.A. City Councilman John Lee's Office: none; L.A. City Planning Dept.: Nick Hendricks; LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Also attended: 11 residents and other guests.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Fisk, seconded by Dr. Zero): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its July 11, 2019 Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote; 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 Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and Landfill documents, and copies were available to the public. (See <http://SCL-CAC.org>.) He noted that the Council Office representative was not present due to the Councilman's "all staff" meeting today.

- Treasurer's Report, July – August 2019 (Treasurer).

Mr. Fleck reviewed finances. The beginning balance was \$122,240.06; \$1.85 interest was earned; expenses were \$886.47; the ending balance was \$121,355.44.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Caspi, seconded by Dr. Zero): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee accepts the Treasurer’s Report.

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

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

- 1. Browning-Ferris Industries/Republic Services Inc. (BFI/Republic)** to report on any and all Sunshine Canyon Landfill daily activities, state of infrastructure/gas collection system, notable events, current and future disposal operations, including continuing efforts to abate odors.

*Committee Member Debbie Pietraszko arrived at this time (3:09), making seven Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).*

Copies had been distributed of a “Cell Construction Status Report” from “Vu Truong, Staff”; “Independent Monitor Quarterly Site Monitoring Status Report April 1, 2019 – June 30, 2019 . . . Prepared By: UltraSystems”; “STI Sonoma Technology Forty-Sixth Quarterly Report of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring at [SCL] and Van Gogh Elementary School March 1, 2019 – May 31, 2019”; and “STI Sonoma Technology Eleven Annual Report of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring at [SCL] and Van Gogh Elementary School: An Eleven-Year Summary November 22, 2007 – November 21, 2018.”

Chris Coyle, General Manager, BFI/Republic [24-hour Landfill hotline 818-779-9170; main 818-362-2124; [Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com](mailto:Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com); <http://SunshineCanyonLandfill.com>], gave an SCL “Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Update. He stated that there have been “no changes to our disposal operation or location and we continue to utilize Cell CC-4 . . . we have continued our 6 to 7 a.m. operations . . . we have a steady run rate of 650 tons being accepted within that hour.” Their “odor patrols are active in the neighborhood during this time . . . last week we noticed a little bit of odors in the incoming waste and took some preventative measures to make sure we knocked down the odors, not only in route but as they dump. Heard from Larry [Israel] that there were some complaints this morning and last night but have not had an opportunity to find out what is driving that, but there is nothing going on that is unusual, just regular operations.”

They continue to use the Enviro-Cover for ADC and daily monitor its performance. They “are in the process of preparing the site for the 2019-2020 Winter season. Stormwater basins and channels are almost all cleaned out, and we are on track to have them clean by September 30<sup>th</sup> . . . a good portion of the Filtrex is installed and the coco-matting and straw wattles is being prepped and installed . . . the

hydroseeding application will coincide with the coco-matting and straw wattle installation, and we will be doing that the rest of this month and half of October . . . it's an erosion control tool; kind of a filter . . . We have made good progress on enhancing our gas collection system.... efforts are currently underway to install the next layer of horizontal collectors in the active fill area.” When complete, it will consist of over two miles of perforated collection pipe in a checkerboard configuration. Thirteen wellheads will convey vacuum to that collection layer through a series of lateral lines. They spent significant time preparing their 5-Year Gas Construction Plan to ensure our budget for next year and future years. They “continue to move through the permitting process for the installation of Flare 12 with an expected install completion target of sometime in 2020.

“We have complied with the Consent Agreement with the City of LA Sanitation Department regarding our leachate discharge and expect to be found in compliance shortly.” They have “successfully addressed the sulfides issue in our liquid discharge and provided Sanitation with the sample data that proves such. Sanitation has even taken their own split samples that are compliant. We will submit the final report mid-month . . . and expect a response within 30 days.

“As for cell construction, we are getting close to wrapping this up...the floor up to the first bench is complete and the upper liner installation has begun.... During liner tie-in we successfully exposed the existing liner without any odor related issues.... we expect Water Board floor approval by October 1<sup>st</sup> and approval of the entire cell by mid-October . . . the new disposal cell project includes the installation of Gabion cubes as a part of our gas collection infrastructure which is incorporated into the composite liner system, which has proved to be a very original and unique tool for getting water out of the landfill and allowing us to collect the gas.”

Mr. Coyle explained that a perforated pipe is put under plastic at the tie-in and then put under vacuum so that gas does not vent into the atmosphere; he was not aware of any the recent odor complaints had come from Van Gogh. He explained that “straw wattles” referred to an erosion control tool, which when laid on the slopes captures the sediment and allow the water to flow through.

Mr. Coyle explained that they do not have an ultimate goal regarding the gas, but that the gas-to-energy plant is maxed out at 9,000 scf/min producing 18–20 megawatts per day; that the plant is not their sole gas abatement mechanism; and that we have five other flares on site. The Pacoima Spreading Grounds is for the water; they want to expand it and are going to bring in the dirt that they dig out; they need the dirt. He explained that, as part of the Abatement Order and Legislation that is going on, the AQMD wanted the Landfill to get a jump on diverting food waste/organics. The Landfill started by having their Anaheim and L.A. transfer stations processing discarded food waste; they partnered with Food Finders to connect customers who generate edible food to distribute it to needy people.

Mr. Hunter noted that Republic's June and July reports had noted the detection of radioactive material (over 27 instances mostly from CLARTS [the City of L.A. transfer station, the Central Los Angeles Recycling and Transfer Station]) and that Republic had been doing a good job; he wondered why CLARTS was a problem. Mr. Coyle explained different reasons why radioactive materials may not be detected but did not know for sure in the case of CLARTS. Mr. Thompson responded that CLARTS did indeed have radiation detection monitoring. Mr. Hunter questioned the background levels used and asked if they needed to be changed to match the Landfill so that radioactive material would be detected and City trucks not tied up waiting for clearance from County Public Health. Mr. Coyle explained that almost all radioactive material that gets into the Landfill is from chemotherapy material in medical waste, usually I-131. Mr. Hunter said that most of the material at CLARTS is from industry/commercial and that "what happened in June and July is not acceptable." Ms. Coca said that, in the case of CLARTS, most of the trash is coming from homes in South Central Los Angeles. Mr. Hunter urged monitoring to prevent the entrance of more radioactive material into the Landfill. Mr. Thompson suggested inviting L.A. County Public Health, as the responsible agency, to the next CAC meeting. Mr. Hunter explained that their reports normally are published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month following; that that is why the CAC does not have the previous month's report and is always playing catchup.

Mr. Hunter pointed out that the report from Republic to the County, which was included in Republic's package, showed all the cells and the expected construction plan on the City side; and that we are looking at 40 million cubic yards of trash which would equate to about 32 million tons of trash somewhere between October of 2019 to 2028, so that the City is looking at even more trash than the County side. He wanted people to know what they are facing. Mr. Coyle said that he understood the concerns and opined that the mandated source reduction of organics should take care of that. Mr. Hunter agreed with him that the organics were the cause of the odors but did not believe the mandated 75 percent reduction would ever be achieved.

**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, Compliance Lead Inspector, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; LIsrael@aqmd.gov; www.aqmd.gov], reported that "since July there's been no Notices of Violation issued." In late July, there were six or seven complaints, including five on July 25<sup>th</sup>; four were verified as trash odors, mainly in the morning. In August, there were seven complaints of trash odors; zero were verified; all were early morning or late at night. September 4<sup>th</sup> there were two unverified complaints. September 5<sup>th</sup> there were three morning complaints. September 6<sup>th</sup> there were two unverified complaints. September 11<sup>th</sup>, there were six complaints, but he did not know the locations as he was not the responding Inspector. This morning there were seven complaints, mostly for morning trash odors that did

involve Van Gogh School; he did not know how many parents or teachers had called the AQMD. He said that morning odors are typically trash odors; in the evening they are mostly gas odors. Resident Michael Hemmings said this morning [September 12<sup>th</sup>] odors smelled like gas, then trash. Resident Meg Volk said she smelled gas odors around 8:45 p.m. the previous evening [September 11<sup>th</sup>] and smelled “strong” gas odors before that. Mr. Coyle stated that “we continue 6 a.m.–7 a.m. operations... we are accepting approximately 650 tons during that hour... our odor patrols are active in the neighborhood at that time... we noticed that some inbound waste last week that was odorous and so we started putting some odor control materials on it, while they are inbound and while dumping.... we stop at 7:05 a.m., that we put tarps on it, and are done about 7:30 a.m..... then we pull those tarps off just before 9:00 a.m. as we start to accept more waste.”

- 3. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)** to discuss any further correspondence and/or potential CAC responses to County Regional Planning and County Public Health Department regarding STI’s 46<sup>th</sup> Quarterly & 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Reports for SCL & Van Gogh School. **Motion:** To approve a draft CAC letter to the same Departments if available and if needed.

Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; Bill.Piazza@lausd.net], reported that he and Mr. Hunter attended the July 31<sup>st</sup> TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) meeting and expressed disagreement with STI’s 11<sup>th</sup> Report. The TAC thought that the Report had been revised and that it addressed the CAC’s concerns. The TAC renewed STI’s contract “without any modifications or changes to the prior report.” Mr. Piazza challenged the CAC to review the upcoming 47<sup>th</sup> Quarterly and 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Reports for SCL and Van Gogh School; he believed that there will be no substantive changes. Ms. Pietraszko agreed that the Report looks like previous Reports. Mr. Piazza agreed that STI modified the Report a bit... but again, there is no interpretation of the data... that at the May 2019 CAC meeting County Health’s Katie Butler agreed with the SCL-CAC and quote “we really need for STI to provide that translation of their air monitoring results.” Ms. Caspi, tired of sending letters, questioned Mr. Piazza about whether or not the CAC could hire a consultant of their own to evaluate the results. Mr. Piazza said if that was the direction the CAC wanted to go that we would first need to draft a scope of work, and he would be happy to do that for us; as for cost it is not just looking at the latest report, they would have to go back and look at other reports, and hopefully they would see the same pattern... so maybe ten or 20,000... and it would probably take about two months to pick through it. Ms. Coca was concerned that, at the last CAC meeting, County Health said that “they couldn’t interpret the data.” Mr. Piazza said that that was not true... they did not have the time, nor the expertise to evaluate it. He said the LAUSD has a least three consultants he could recommend. He suggested that he could draft a scope of work document for the SCL-CAC’s consideration to hire an independent consultant to evaluate the data from year one to year 11 of STI data to meet the

SCL-CAC's needs, and provide information relative to potential health impacts associated with that evaluation. He also could provide a letter to the County Department of Health.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Pietraszko, seconded by Ms. Coca): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee tasks Bill Piazza of the LAUSD to draft a scope of work document for the SCL-CAC's consideration to hire an independent company to interpret 11 years of STI data to meet the SCL-CAC's needs.

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

Mr. Hunter indicated that Mr. Piazza would send a draft to him; Mr. Hunter will send the draft to the other Committee Members prior to the next CAC meeting. Mr. Hunter requested that CAC Members not respond to him in any way, shape or form.... Just to make their notes until the Meeting. Mr. Piazza reported that STI's contract was extended for one year until 2020. Mr. Hendricks indicated that it takes a very long time to award a contract and if the current contract expired at the beginning of the year (2020) they would not be getting in any data until a new contract had been awarded. Ms. Coca said that what she got out of the TAC meeting was that the contract was extended one year and that they (City/County) were going to go over the RFP process again. Mr. Hunter said that the CAC requested to the City and County for the CAC to have an opportunity to comment on any new contract before it is signed. Mr. Hendricks reminded the CAC that City Planning is guided by the Environmental Impact Report and under State law there are certain requirements and guidelines that they must stay within; and that a part of that process is confidential, so the CAC cannot participate in that and its comments must be general. Mr. Piazza said that the CAC wanted to comment on the scope of work of the new contact; Mr. Hendricks agreed, providing that it happened as general comments prior to any RFP. Mr. Stapleton and Mr. Hendricks were asked to send to Mr. Hunter the necessary information that serves as the basis for the contract language. Mr. Hunter called for a rereading of the prior Motion; it was passed again as above.

**4. County Department of Public Works** to report on the status of any SCL matters within their purview.

No representative was present; there was no report.

**5. Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA)** to report on SCL matters within their purview.

Dave Thompson, SCL-LEA Program Manager [213.252.3932; David.Thompson@lacity.org; www.SCLLEA.org] reported that the LEA continues to inspect the Landfill; no NOV's were issued since the last CAC Meeting. He stated that "everything's looking good . . . they are preparing for the wet weather..."

it was just reported to me (via phone) that CLARTS is getting a new radiation monitor installed this week.” He still believes that County Public Health is the one that regulates that so his previous comment regarding calling them in still stands. He will advise the CAC of when the next LEA Board Meeting will be held; it is expected to be in late November or early December.

**6. County Regional Planning Department & County Public Works** 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>], reported that the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Condition 64-C is still considered to be an outstanding violation by BFI/Republic and is “still in negotiations”; there will be an October 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing. Approximately six million dollars is involved.

**7. County of Los Angeles Public Health Department** to report on any actions taken to work with STI to create a “fact sheet” as offered per Ms. Katie Butler, Environmental Toxicologist at the May CAC meeting, and any other SCL matters within their purview.

No representative was present; there was no report.

**8. City Planning Department** to report on SCL-TAC meeting held on July 31, 2019, and any other SCL matters within their purview.

Mr. Hendricks indicated there was nothing to report other than what was reported here in Item #3. C.

**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>], reminded of the Fair of Saturday, October 12th, 9:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m., again at the Northridge Fashion Center he listed key speakers called for any volunteers to help.

**E. Set next meeting date** (November 14, 2019), & adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Hunter noted the above.

**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 4:14 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 SCL-CAC Meeting  
November 14, 2019**