

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, November 14, 2019**

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

Approved March 12, 2020

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 September 12, 2019 Minutes (Chair).**

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:07 p.m. on November 14, 2019 in Granada Hills, California by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Five of the eight Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Laine Caspi, Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck and Wayde Hunter. Dr. Donna Zero arrived later. Absent: Karen Coca and Debbie Pietraszko. 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: Jarrod DeGonia; L.A. City Councilman John Lee's Office: Sharon Bronson; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Also attended: five residents and other guests. 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 SCL-CAC and Landfill documents, and copies were available to the public. (See <http://SCL-CAC.org>.)

**MOTION** (by Ms. Caspi, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its September 12, 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 indicated that there were no such matters.

- Treasurer's Report, September - October 2019 (Treasurer).

Mr. Fleck reviewed finances. The beginning balance was \$121,355.44; the ending balance was \$119,997.09.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Caspi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the October 2019 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. Motion: SCL-CAC to submit a written request to "all agencies" overseeing operations and permitting, that the SCL-CAC be copied on any and all correspondence to and from Republic's Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Chris Coyle, General Manager, BFI/Republic [24-hour Landfill hotline 818-779-9170; main 818-362-2124; Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com; <http://SunshineCanyonLandfill.com>], gave an SCL "Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Update," distributed copies of a "2019 Saddleridge Fire Action Plan – Update" and "Wet Weather Preparedness Plan . . . Mitigation Weatherization Plan," and reported that "there have been no changes" to their disposal operation or location. They "have continued our 6-7 a.m. operations. We are accepting approximately 650 tons of waste per day during that hour" and odor patrols are active during that time. "We continue to use the Enviro-Cover for Alternative Daily Cover and monitor its daily performance." He described the Saddleridge Fire response by Landfill staff and other first responders that included staff returning around 9:30 p.m. City and County Fire Departments readied two helicopter landing pads that within one-half hour were supporting up to five helicopters. Around 10:45 p.m., after the winds turned to the south and jumped the I-5 Freeway, the fire burned the hillside west of Balboa, then swept over the ridge by San Fernando Rd. and into the Landfill. Since the fire was then below the helipads, the Fire Departments and staff evacuated.

At 6 a.m. on Friday, BFI closed the site because no one could reach it as San Fernando Rd. was shut down, plus they had to make sure that the site was safe for employees and customers. At that time, there were three fire agencies, site management and 11 contractors present on site. Corporate was consulted and by Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 35 contractors were on site, which remained closed. On Sunday, Corporate experts arrived and 50 contractors were on-site trying to get Landfill ready. They started emergency generators for the three flares on the active Landfill by 8:30 a.m.; by 5:00 p.m. the gas-to-energy plant was running full bore with four out of five turbines operating. The fifth turbine was damaged by the outage but was restored by the following Tuesday. The Landfill remained closed as it normally does on a Sunday.

Mr. Coyle referred to a handout that he had provided to Committee members. The Fire had knocked out LADPW and SCE power, damaged on-site electrical components, on-site liquids conveyance lines and burned much of the underbrush around most of the perimeter of the site; gas collection was down for a little more than 48 hours. Generators were rented to ensure continuous power; two were going 24/7. Attempts by the Landfill to be put on an SCE special interest list for restoration of power have not been successful. "The City South Closed Landfill Gas system was approximately 85% destroyed by the fire." BFI committed to the AQMD (Hearing Board) to have everything operational by December 20<sup>th</sup>. Repairs are being done in three phases. The damaged collection system is being upgraded and improved; they are ahead of schedule and expect completion within the next two weeks. They are also stabilizing slopes both on the Landfill footprint as well as outside of that. Mr. Coyle explained underbrush re-seeding and soil stabilization work plans at "approximately 100 acres."

The new cell should be complete by Thanksgiving; the floor of the cell and the first bench was approved on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hunter expressed concern about the top deck areas

of the old City Landfill, and the Sage Mitigation area being bare and what was going to be done about them. Mr. Coyle said that the soil is not bare; there still is lots of burned sage brush, and that they want to leave them alone and monitor it; if dust blows off and/or mud flows then they would address it. Also, there has been grading that is not finished and they do not know what it will look like. Mr. Hunter asked if BFI had considered putting in small mounds or hillocks to help break up the winds, which they had previously talked about. Mr. Coyle said he had no knowledge of that. Mr. Thompson said that it was the PM10 oak trees that were to break up the wind and the other work Mr. Hunter spoke about was habitat for lizards, etc. Mr. Hunter said he did not care, had just brought it up since they were grading in the area, and that it should be brought to Ms. Betsy Landis' (County Revegetation Committee) attention.

Mr. Coyle indicated that Republic had not had any communication with oil companies in the area. Mr. Hunter had provided a copy to the public of a County letter about that; it was related to a Landfill probe 205R that was being impacted by a nearby abandoned Chevron well. Mr. Coyle said that he was not at liberty to discuss whether or not the damage to the Landfill was covered by insurance, but acknowledged that \$4.7 million of damage was done by the fire.

[*This Agenda Item was continued after Item #C. 8.*] There was extensive discussion of and a revision to the above proposed Motion.

Mr. Hunter explained that he had asked for the Motion "because I may get a letter from one of the agencies about approvals or a project at the Landfill which I know nothing about . . . we used to get a lot of documents which we don't get anymore... we do get the Monthly Reports from Republic... and so all I want is to have the agencies let me know when they have something." Ms. Caspi expressed that she was already overwhelmed by the amount of documentation that she has to review, and she did not want to see a lot more coming from the agencies. Mr. Hunter explained that the documentation would come to him and gave a number of examples of the types of information that he was talking about, so that the CAC can know what is going on at the Landfill. The agencies have been previously requested to supply the CAC with information; he believed they have to be reminded that the CAC is here and that the CAC needs information from County Public Works, County Regional Planning, City Planning, AQMD, etc..

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee to submit a written request to "all agencies" overseeing operations and permitting, that the SCL-CAC be copied on ~~any and all~~ significant official correspondence to and from Republic's Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

**MOTION FAILED** for lack of a second.

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

Larry Israel, Compliance Lead Inspector, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; LIsrael@aqmd.gov; www.aqmd.gov], reported that, in September, there were 95 complaints and one NOV [Notice of Violation] was issued. In October, there were 82 complaints and two NOVs. Code "OO" means Other, not Landfill gas. He indicated that smoke that came from the

Landfill probably should be subtracted from the total. Eight trash odor complaints were verified. In November, “five so far” odor complaints had been made that “definitely were not from the Landfill” that were from SoCal Gas repairs being done at Westbury and Balboa. They have been coming out on one call after hours since the AQMD Hearing several weeks ago, and that will probably stay in effect until the end of the year.

3. Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) to report on the Saddleridge Fire reopening of the landfill and any other SCL matters within their purview.

Dave Thompson, SCL-LEA Program Manager [213.252.3932; David.Thompson@lacity.org; www.SCLLEA.org] reported regarding the Saddleridge Fire response that “the site was experiencing extremely high winds” on Thursday. Friday he received a call that the Landfill was on fire and he proceeded there. The Landfill’s own fire truck was used until the Fire Department responded. “The Landfill contractors and their people did an excellent job . . . directing the Fire Department on critical infrastructure, and saving the gas-to-energy plant, and saving the closure turf.” Before the fire was out, an engineer was working to repair the site and order replacement equipment. Individuals used many fire extinguishers to help. He even assisted in putting out fires at individual collection wells. “There was extensive damage to the gas collection system . . . they had those . . . wells closed off . . . they were really thinking ahead.” Mr. Thompson said that he knew the other agencies would not be able to get to the Landfill, so he contacted the City Council Office, County Department of Public Works, AQMD, and the City Planning Department, and continued to give them updates, along with maintaining contact with Landfill staff. The Landfill applied for a Variance before the fire was out. A lot of “wet weather” preparations were damaged, which concerned the LEA, and it required a new wet weather plan. The LEA also asked that Landfill contractor GLA re-inspect the liner on the new cell to make sure everything was OK. “Everything they were doing . . . matched” their Solid Waste Facilities Permit and associated documents, and the LEA continues to monitor repairs to the system and site. Apart from the two days the Landfill was closed, there were no impacts on the operations of the site. Since the last CAC meeting there was one violation for litter caused by the Landfill tipper system. BFI had about 40 temporary hires pick up litter and changed their procedures for high wind events.

*Committee Member Dr. Donna Zero arrived at this time (4:00), making six Committee Members present (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).*

Mr. Hunter pointed out that audience member Mike Mohajer, who is on the County Task Force’s Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee, might want make sure that Landfills have plans and equipment in place to specifically address these wildfires. Mr. Thompson stated that a “backup generator on-site” helped to quickly re-power the system, and that getting a portable generator to the site during all the outages would be very hard. Mr. Hunter thanked him for bringing that up because the community had insisted for years that onsite backup generators be put on the Landfill; the Landfill didn’t want to do it and instead rented them. Mr. Coyle stated that “during these types of outage events, Edison rents all available generators... Republic was lucky and we got like the last one in the State... and we were looking outside of the State if we had not got that one.” Mr. Fisk referred to his previous questions as to why the power being generated at the gas-to-energy plant could not somehow be utilized, to which Mr. Coyle responded that he did not know at this time but added that “we’re buying another generator next year.”

4. 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 46th Quarterly & 11th Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Reports for SCL & Van Gogh School. Motion: To approve a draft 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.

Mr. Hunter explained that there was a copy of the draft in the Committee's document packages, that he had sent a copy to them, and that he had requested that they hold any comments until today so that the CAC would not have a serial email. Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; Bill.Piazza@lausd.net], read aloud a "Draft Scope of Services" letter which he indicated needed several minor corrections and amendments (see below deletions struck through and underlined additions).

## **“DRAFT SCOPE OF SERVICES**

Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee  
~~Annual~~ Air Quality Monitoring Reports

### **Background**

In 2001, two air quality monitoring sites were established by operators of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. One monitoring site is located on the southern edge of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Landfill site). The second site is situated on the Van Gogh Charter School campus located within the adjoining community of Granada Hills (Community site). These sites were established to monitor particulate matter less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>), black carbon (BC) as a surrogate for diesel particulate matter (DPM), wind direction and wind speed, in fulfillment of the stipulations set forth in the City of Los Angeles' Conditions of Approval for the expansion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill within the corporate boundaries of the City of Los Angeles and subsequent conditions set forth by the County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning and Public Works, governing ambient air quality monitoring for the County portion of the landfill.

Beginning in 2007, the ambient monitoring protocol was revised to incorporate continuous sample collection whereas previous monitoring was limited to four events per year. November 2018 marked the completion of 11 years of continuous monitoring and meteorology data collection at the two monitoring locations. The air quality monitoring reports are formatted in a manner that present a compilation of current and prior year monitoring events.

### **Purpose**

The Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) contends the air quality monitoring reports provide a voluminous amount of data without providing context to the extent that identified pollutant concentrations affect public health. A subsequent evaluation is required to review the available data presented in the ~~annual~~ air quality monitoring reports to characterize the impact of landfill emissions on the health of individuals who reside within the local community.

### **Assessment Protocol**

Review/evaluate the *Eleventh Annual Report of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring at Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School: An Eleven-Year Summary November 22, 2007-November 21, 2018* and associated quarterly ambient air quality monitoring reports to address the following:

### PM<sub>10</sub>

Determine the incremental contributions of PM<sub>10</sub> emissions associated with landfill operations and identify the relative extent of concentrations at the community monitoring site that contributed to an exceedance of the 24-hour California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS).

Determine the incremental contributions of PM<sub>10</sub> emissions associated with landfill operations and identify the relative extent of concentrations at the community monitoring site that contributed to the continued degradation of ambient air quality when background concentrations were in exceedance of the 24-hour CAAQS.

Provide discussion relating to the potential health impacts to individuals exposed to the reported PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations.

### BC/DPM

Determine the incremental contributions of BC/DPM emissions associated with landfill operations and identify the relative extent of concentrations at the community monitoring site.

Based upon the landfill's BC/DPM annual average contribution/concentration, provide carcinogenic risk and noncarcinogenic hazard estimates for one, eleven and thirty-year exposure scenarios.

## **Preparation of Assessment Report**

The results of the assessment shall be prepared in a standardized technical memorandum format which presents all relevant data, information and calculations related to identified observations and reported conclusions.”

It was determined that the letter would go to whoever the Committee decides that it should, and the CAC should include a request for quotation since the letter looks like a Request for Proposal. Mr. Piazza described possible consultant selection criteria; that the LAUSD maintains a list of qualified consultants; and that some of the larger more qualified ones could be provided to the CAC. There was discussion of the pros and cons of including background information, and Ms. Caspi's concerns for producing a timely report that was written in terms that the public would understand. Mr. Hunter stated that the CAC has its own money and it does not need approval from others, but by using City or County approved consultants, it would help to meet the CAC's and their requirements of engaging qualified people. Mr. Piazza agreed to provide a revised copy of the draft letter above, to receive any comments from the Committee, and to revise “those that make sense” before blind copying (bcc) the Committee so that it can be considered at the CAC's January 2020 Meeting. Mr. Hunter restated that any communication must “only” be with Mr. Piazza in order to avoid any serial emails. After further discussion it was agreed to add the phrase “as needed” and make other revisions to the proposed Motion. Mr. Kroy asked if the public could comment on the draft letter to which Mr. Hunter replied “no, not at this time.” Mr. DeGonia opined that public comment could be taken at the next meeting since the draft letter would include any additional changes as a result of this meeting. Since Mr. Kroy had made a request to comment on the document, Mr. Hunter asked him if there were any “substantive” comments that he had right now, to which Mr. Kroy replied that he did not at this time. Mr. Hunter indicated that Mr. Kroy could send the comments to him, and he in turn, if they were something important that the CAC had missed, would get them to Mr. Piazza.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Dr. Zero): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves a draft scope of services document as amended 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 and to include additional recommended changes by the Committee.

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

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

No representative was present; there was no report.

6. County Regional Planning Department to report 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 October 1<sup>st</sup> Hearing regarding the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Condition 64-C still considered to be an outstanding violation was “extended to January 7” due to ongoing negotiations. He hopes to report a resolution by then. Mr. Hunter asked Mr. Stapleton to have someone look at STI’s 47<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report on the City Planning Department’s website as it appears that several pages are missing; Mr. Stapleton agreed to check it out. Mr. Hunter would have asked Nick Hendricks if he were here.

7. County Public Health Department to report on 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. Mr. Hunter said that Ms. Butler was going to work with the TAC but that the CAC had heard nothing since and that if anyone wanted to see what was said, the CAC Minutes are very extensive. Mr. DeGonia said he would contact her.

8. City Planning Department to report on, the SCL-TAC meeting held on July 31, 2019, and any other 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 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.

Resident Bill Hopkins, President, Southern California Preparedness Foundation [<http://SoCalPrep.us>] and Chair, annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair [<http://www.ValleyDisasterFair.com>], reported that the October 12<sup>th</sup> Fair “had a great attendance”; the next will be October 10, 2020.

E. Set next meeting date (January 9, 2020) & adjourn at 5:00 p.m. (5-min. break if Item F. if needed).

Mr. Hunter noted the above. Ms. Caspi and Mr. Fisk will not be able to attend then.

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 the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 5:04 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  
March 12, 2020**