

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, January 9, 2020

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 (Alternate TAC Rep.), 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 November 14, 2019

Minutes (Chair).

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:06 p.m. on January 9, 2020 in Granada Hills, California by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Four of the eight Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Larry Fleck, Wayde Hunter and Dr. Donna Zero. Absent: Laine Caspi, Karen Coca, Richard Fisk and Debbie Pietraszko. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was not present. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Chris Coyle; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): none; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): David Thompson and Dee Hanson-Lugo; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: Katie Butler; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Tim Stapleton; L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office: Jason Maruca; L.A. City Councilman John Lee's Office: Sharon Bronson; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Also attended: 10 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>.)

No Motion was made or vote taken to approve the Minutes because a quorum was not present.

B. Old Business. Discussion and possible action:

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair).

No such matters were mentioned.

- Treasurer's Report, November - December 2019 (Treasurer).

Mr. Fleck reviewed finances. The ending balance was \$119,270.31. The report was accepted. No Motion was made or vote taken to approve the Treasurer's report because a quorum was not present.

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.

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. He reported that "there have been no changes to our disposal operation" and "we continue to use the Enviro-Cover for ADC [Alternative Daily Cover] and monitor its performance daily." He described recent maintenance and installations for both wet weather preparation and slope stabilization (installation of cocoa matting, 60,000 linear feet of straw wattle, and hydroseeded 154.6 acres of slopes) post-Saddleridge Fire; "grass is growing all over the site." They enhanced the gas collection system by installing a new gas blower skid in late 2019 and two new 300-hp electric blowers to increase the vacuum and the amount of gas collected. "During the 1st Quarter of 2020 we plan to upgrade the gas collection headers, and wells continued to be evaluated for the presence of liquid and pumps installed as needed; we already have more than 250 pumps installed in collection wells; they "continue to move through the permitting process for the installation of Flare 12 with an expected completion date of this year (2020) pending all approvals; we achieved full compliance with the AQMD Variance on the Saddleridge Fire on December 20, 2019; cell construction has been completed and we have approvals up to the first bench; we continue to use the gabion cubes in the new cell . . . With the heavy rains, over Christmas, the winds, and a slowdown in the entire disposal market like the long wait times at the Waste Management's El Sobrante Landfill, there has been a pile up of trash at the transfer stations, and hence it is a bit more odorous." He was aware of more odor complaints and they have added more "odor suppressant at our transfer stations, and to every load of water used for dust control at the Landfill."

Resident Meg Volk said she called many times from January 1 thru yesterday about it, saying that it was gas in the morning and trash (odors) at night; Mr. Coyle noted that the equipment is operating normally, that they are now collection 19,600 scf/m in the evening and 18,000 scf/m in the morning; they added dirt where there were erosion "so I don't know what is causing the problem, however, we are still looking.... the only thing that it might be is that there are two routes into the Landfill, and we are using the longer one, which doubles them back in front of the scales but at elevation." He said that the misting system at the Landfill entrance would address any trucks entering the Landfill that were from transfer stations that were not owned by Republic. "We're still doing morning and evening odor patrols as well as . . . spot checks . . . yesterday was a rough day and we detected sic spots on the Landfill, and one faint odor in the community. He said that the Landfill was late to close over the holiday period (with LEA approval) due to three days of rain which might have contributed to any late night odor problems. Landfill grass will turn brown in the summer even though they use an approved seed mix; re-vegetation is overseen by the Vegetation Committee composed of the Los Angeles County Task Force, JMA, and Ultra Systems. Mr. Thompson opined that the mix used consists of native seeds that typically go dormant in the summer and match

the native grasses; it does not stand out as a bright green landfill with everything else dead against it. Mr. Coyle said that Republic does do brush clearance every year, but the grass remains to prevent wind and rain erosion, to act as a bio-filter against methane emissions, and as having a more attractive appearance to the alternative...dirt. Regarding using an alternative cover like Ice Plant, Mr. Thompson pointed out that you have to watch how much water you put on the Landfill because it gets into the trash (generates methane) and that is bad, plus it (the use of native grasses) is a part of the Mitigation Measures. Mr. Hunter asked if the liner in the new cell had been inspected after the fire, to which Mr. Coyle replied that it had been inspected by a certified engineer, and that documentation was submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for their approval.

- 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 any other matters within their purview.

Larry Israel, Compliance Lead Inspector, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; LIsrael@aqmd.gov; www.aqmd.gov], was not present, and there was no other representative from the AQMD present. Mr. Hunter pointed out that there were copies of all the reports on the table from the AQMD's website for the public for the period in question and they were also in the Committee packages. He reported that in 2019 there were 350 odor complaints and five NOV's (Notices of Violation) issued. In November 2019 there were fourteen odor complaints and no NOV's; in December 2019 there were 16 odor complaints and no NOV's issued.

- 3. Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA)** to reprise December 19, 2019 report to the SCL-LEA on the Saddleridge Fire and the efforts to reduce odors, 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 that Dee Hanson-Lugo [DLugo@ph.LACounty.gov] will replace him as the Program Manager. Mr. Thompson said that the Landfill had no recent violations and has quickly recovered from recent rains. The LEA Board met on December 19, 2019; Mr. Hunter had asked the LEA to present part of that meeting on the Saddleridge Fire including what we are working on with NASA (National Aeronautics & Space Administration). He said that there was very good communication during the Saddleridge Fire between the LEA and the other agencies (Sheriff, LAPD, AQMD, County Public Works, & RWQCB), and the Landfill operator. The LEA also sent the technical member of their Board, and a member of their Hearing Board to the Landfill. He showed slides of the damage and the recovery; noting that majority of the damage was to the closed City South Landfill, not the active working Landfill, and that "there was no damage to" the Landfill's "new liner system." He described firefighting work, including gas well capping. Mr. Coyle added more details such as the extended power interruption to the flares, gas-to-energy plant, and the scales, noting that Republic was fortunate to be able to bring in a rented generator to supplement the one generator that they had on hand. Mr. Thompson presented

slides about Landfill's past methane emissions in October 2016 and of the improvements the mitigation had made by October 2017 based on NASA's pictures. Methane flux had been further reduced by 60 percent by October 2018 as a result of the increased gas collection to 18,000 scf/min. Prior to the mitigations, NASA found that landfills were the highest emitters of methane in California and that Sunshine Canyon at the time, it was the sixth highest in the State and the highest in Los Angeles County. He said, "we're working closely with CalRecycle [<http://www.CalRecycle.ca.gov>] . . . we continue to work with NASA on the methane survey." The slides are available on the LEA website, which includes "any of our reports." See <https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=c2NsbGVhLm9yZ3xzY2xsZWf3ZWJzaXRlGd4OjU4ZTI3YWJkZDU0YzZkZTM>.

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 CAC Scope of Services letter to engage independent company to interpret 11 years of STI data.

Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; Bill.Piazza@lausd.net], described how the draft letter developed from a Scope of Work to a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) to interpret 11 years of data. He recommended creating links on the CAC website to the STI (Sonoma Technologies Inc.) 11th Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Report and subsequent Quarterly Reports. Mr. Hunter replied that it is not that easy to get things put on the website; he recommended including a hotlink in the RFP to the City Planning website. Mr. Piazza estimated that the consultant the CAC selected would take at least six months to interpret the data and that the study would cost at least \$25,000-\$50,000. Mr. Hunter noted that the last such study done for the CAC (a Supplemental Waste Characterization Study; see <https://www.scl-cac.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/SCL-Supplemental-Waste-Characterization-Study-Report.pdf>) cost around \$80,000 and that "we currently have \$119,000 to work with." Mr. Piazza believed that, if no company wants to or cannot interpret the data, it speaks to the quality of the data, which could prompt a request for more and better data (in the City/County's new contract with STI). He agreed with Mr. Hunter that 45 days is a reasonable limit for companies to respond to the letter/RFP. Mr. Piazza will revise the draft as discussed at this meeting and provide a list of consulting firms to the Committee.

Mr. Hunter asked Mr. Maruca to remind Jarrod 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>] that one Committee position needs to be filled, and to contact the County Health Department. Ms. Butler acknowledged that she was present for the County Health Department, and had been contacted by Mr. DeGonia.

- 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 TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) [<http://planning.lacounty.gov/agenda/scltac>] will meet January 22nd; contact him for information. The STI 4th Quarter Report was not missing anything; there was “a formatting issue.” The Landfill Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Condition 64-C that was considered to be an outstanding violation for failure to pay due to a fee disagreement was “resolved in mid-December . . . the appeal was scheduled for last Tuesday but was withdrawn; everyone’s in agreement.” If Sunshine Gas Producers LLC wants to expand the Gas-To-Energy Plant by increasing the efficiency of their motors or engines, or the size of the facility, they will need to get a new CUP. Regarding CUP Condition 64-B, the County agreed to accept a 5% rather than the 10% fee payment they were asking for, which is greater than the contested 3% they were getting; there will be some back fines paid and “the thousand dollars a day fines were removed.” The only outstanding issue in the court system is over 45-N, about which L.A. County Public Works claims that they did not get the requested documents from BFI/Republic.

- 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.

Katie Butler, Environmental Toxicologist, L.A. County Public Health Dept. [KButler@ph.LACounty.gov; <http://publichealth.LACounty.gov>], reported that she has “been following up with STI . . . a Fact Sheet would be extremely helpful . . . they agreed.” She listed multiple attempts to communicate with STI and agreed to “provide a template to STI” for them to prepare for the January 22nd TAC meeting. Mr. Piazza questioned whether or not the fact sheet would be ready for the meeting and received assurances that it would. Mr. Hunter said that he had received a notice of the TAC meeting but had not yet sent it out, in order to avoid confusion with this CAC meeting. He expressed concern that the “fact sheet” was not itemized on the TAC agenda, which would prevent it being discussed, however, since STI was on the agenda to make a presentation, that it could be introduced at that time.

- 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 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.

There were no public comments at this time.

E. Set next meeting date (March 12, 2020), & 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 4:42 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**