

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, November 12, 2020**  
Approved January 14, 2021

In conformity with the Governor’s Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this meeting was conducted online and telephonically.

Members: Jeanette Capaldi (Vice-Chair), Laine Caspi (Secretary), 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 10, 2020 Minutes (Chair).**

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on November 12, 2020 in Granada Hills, California by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Six of the seven Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Laine Caspi, Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck, Wayde Hunter and Dr. Donna Zero. Absent: Debbie Pietraszko. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present. Two Committee Member openings were available. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Chris Coyle and Valerie Moore; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Jack Cheng, Larry Israel and Denny Shaw; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Dave Thompson, Dee Hanson-Lugo and Eugene Tseng; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: none; L.A. County Public Works Dept.: none; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Edgar De La Torre and Diana Gonzalez; 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: none. Also attended: at least nine residents and other guests. A Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail, Draft Minutes, and other related SCL-CAC and Landfill documents were available at <http://SCL-CAC.org>.

**MOTION** (by Dr. Zero, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its September 10, 2020 Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

**B. Old Business: Discussion and Committee motions & possible action:**

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair).  
There were none.

- Treasurer’s Report, September 2020 – October 2020 (Treasurer).

Mr. Fleck reviewed the finances. The beginning balance for the expenses account was \$10,094.64; two checks were written for \$390, with an ending balance of \$9,704.64. The savings account beginning balance was \$107,499.16, with \$2.67 interest for 3 months with an ending balance of \$107,501.83. Account balances for Consultants were unchanged at \$4,696.63; petty cash \$100; and consultant retainer \$682 also remained unchanged. The ending balance was \$122,685.10. Mr. Fisk reported that,

regarding the very small amount of interest paid on the account, he approached his bank and “that it was so complicated.... Forget about it..... keep it as is.” Mr. Fleck agreed with that assessment and noted that was what Mr. Hunter had been saying.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Caspi, seconded by Mr. Hunter): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Treasurer’s Report unanimously as presented.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Caspi, Fisk, Fleck, Hunter and Zero); 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.

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>], introduced Valerie Moore, a veteran team member in a new role, recently promoted to Environmental Team Manager. She has been at the landfill for three years, knows the site well, and may sometimes report to the Committee if he is unavailable. Valerie said that she looked forward to working with the group. Mr. Coyle gave an SCL Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Update, and reported on: “Operations: There have been no changes to our disposal operation or location, and we continue to utilize cell CC-4. We continue to use the Enviro-Cover for ADC and monitor its performance daily.” “Construction: It has been a relief to have the change in the weather. We saw a slight drizzle over the weekend but hardly enough rain to impact the site. Unfortunately, with the prolonged summer heat well into October and the changes in the waste stream due to COVID, the site was issued NOV’s (Notices of Violation) for Odor Nuisance in Sept (3) and Oct (4) by the SCAQMD. We have increased our patrols and are actively managing the working face to reduce or eliminate the potential for odors to impact the neighborhood. We have not had an NOV in almost a month, so I know our efforts are paying dividends. Our wet weather preparation for the 2020-2021 rainy season is complete. It is expected to be a La Nina type winter which means colder and drier than average. We have made good progress on our plans to continue to enhance our gas collection system in 2020.

“We continue to upgrade headers to allow the enhanced capabilities of the new blower skid to effectively distribute vacuum throughout the wellfield. The Team is amid installing 2,000 linear feet of 36-inch header to improve vacuum distribution on the North County deck of the landfill. We finished well drilling for the year and as a result have added over 60 vertical collection points (wells). Similarly, we completed the installation of the second phase of horizontal collectors in Cell CC4 Part 3 disposal cell and have started to collect any gas being produced by the recently landfilled waste. Wells are being evaluated for the presence of liquid and pumps are

being installed as needed. We continue to move through the permitting process for the installation of Flare 12 with an expected install completion target of sometime in 2021, pending approvals. The new cell is complete. We received approval for CC4 Part 4A from the Water Board on November 6th. We will most likely begin placing waste in the cell next week. Two cell gabions were installed in the new cell. Gabions promote drainage of the liquids out of the waste column and allows for the more efficient collection of the gas generated by the waste. Our new enhanced odor control mitigation in the middle of the site and along the south side of the landfill is now fully functional and performing as expected. An enhanced odor control system has been designed specifically for the liner tie-in of this new cell. The combination of surface and trench collectors under a geosynthetic cover will be in use as we fill the first lifts of the cell to continue to make all efforts to minimize odors from the cover soil impacted (Cell) 3A area.”

2. **South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)** to report on odor complaints received and NOVs issued including any year-to-date charts, frequency of Inspector response to reports, and any other matters within their purview (20).

Larry Israel, Compliance Lead Inspector, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; [LIsrael@aqmd.gov](mailto:LIsrael@aqmd.gov); [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)], reported that “there was a significant increase in odor complaints.” In September, there were 105 odor complaints and three NOVs were issued for “Nuisance.” Of those complaints, 32 were in the evening hours between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., and a majority came from the Legends at the Cascades complex in Sylmar. An NOV was issued for September 9<sup>th</sup> when 16 odor complaints were verified, and another 13 complaints were verified in Granada Hills from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. including another three complaints that were verified in the evening hours at approximately 8:30 p.m. The type of odors received was “sour trash odors,” and the NOV was issued approximately one week later on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. We received nine “strong garbage odors complaints,” all of which were verified between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. in Granada Hills. The third NOV happened the next day. In October, there were 121 complaints and four NOVs were issued. Complaints especially came from Sylmar’s Cascades neighborhood. Some complaints were recorded by Mr. Israel’s backup Inspector Al Solomon.

Mr. Hunter expressed concern about the increased odors, asking for an AQMD managerial response, and stating that “we need to go back to one on one (complaints vs AQMD response), that we don’t know what is causing the odors and we are back to 2010 (odor complaints).” Jack Cheng, an AQMD Environmental Manager, responded saying that he will relay that to his executives and based on their current funding and the procedure they are following. they will continue to look at, monitor, and issue violations (NOVs), and as things change or evolve, they will make changes accordingly. Mr. Hunter pointed out that he understood (what he was saying), but that the odors went down and now they are going back up. “What are we supposed to do, sit for another five or six months? It is the AQMD’s job is to monitor and to prevent the types of things from happening... we cannot wait..... historically this is the time (of year) that reports of odors go up... September, October, November, December, January and February... these are our high months.” Mr. Coyle said that Republic was taking the odors seriously and in October, of the 121 complaints, 85 came in before the 16<sup>th</sup> and we got our odor patrol in gear, and that it came down to 35 which although better, was still not great. In November so

far, there have been 14 complaints, so they are starting to get their arms around the problem.

Resident Meg Volk stated that “she had called (AQMD) personally eight times in November... the odors are pungent and sour, and not only just in the morning and night, but on Sunday when the landfill has been closed since 2 p.m. on Saturday.” She asked Mr. Coyle if the blower skid, the vacuum and the drilling work that was going on in the first part of October had anything to do with the increased odors. He replied that he believed that it was due to cell construction and a liner tie-in, not those items. He said that, as he had explained three meetings ago, Republic had put in an enhanced collection system at a cost of \$500,000 to do with the liner tie-in.... although not designed for a tie-in, they were able to apply a vacuum to an entire slope without drilling into it, and with a trench collector (also for odors) at the bottom..... as far as odors on Sunday he said that he did not have an answer.

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

Dee Hanson-Lugo, SCL-LEA Program Manager – Even Years [213.252.3932; [DLugo@ph.LACounty.gov](mailto:DLugo@ph.LACounty.gov); [www.SCLLEA.org](http://www.SCLLEA.org)] reported that no Violations were issued, and that they continue to coordinate with NASA JPL on the methane survey flyovers. Mr. Coyle said that there had been a flyover on Monday, and that they were waiting for the results. Mr. Hunter said that Mr. Tseng had made a presentation to the Task Force (County of Los Angeles) on NASA JPL and that he had sent it to the CAC. He noted in that presentation, that there were methane emissions in July and August when Republic was laying lateral gas collection lines, and since they were supposed be under a vacuum (while under construction) why was this occurring. Mr. Coyle pointed out that you cannot put the whole trench under a vacuum, so they keep the trench to 50 to 100-feet, and the contractor performing the work keeps the area soaked using a water truck with odor neutralizer, and any tailings (spoils) coming out of the trench go into a truck, are treated with odor neutralizer, carried to the working face and buried immediately. He added that BFI’s odor mitigation work is “going over and above industry standards.” Mr. Hunter said that he still believed that the pictures showed methane emissions in excess of 100-feet. Mr. Coyle replied that he would have to look at the pictures but that it would have been stupid and not in Republic’s interest to do that since they are doing everything to reduce odors. Mr. Hunter asked Mr. Tseng if he would comment since they were his pictures. Mr. Tseng said that it looks like it is over a long area, but that did not mean that it was where it was all coming out from, but how it settled, and how it was detected..... that the pictures showed the pipe laid out and no trench, but that he would look at the pictures again. Mr. Israel noted that Republic has been very good in limited the linear footage (of trenching), that it has never been an issue, and that the AQMD would be aware of it.

Mr. Hunter asked Ms. Hanson-Lugo to clear up confusion about an email received by the CAC and County Task Force members, of which he is also a member, from Shikari Nakagawa-Ota (November 10, 2020, stating that all SCL issues/correspondence should be addressed to Ms. Hanson-Lugo. She believed that it was intended for program managers because Ms. Nakagawa-Ota was a past program manager for the SCL-LEA, and that it was not intended for the CAC. Mr.

Hunter said since Ms. Hanson-Lugo was currently serving on the Task Force and representing County Public Health it was confusing. He said he would copy her on the email and Ms. Hanson-Lugo said that she would check it out.

- 4. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)** to discuss any responses to the CAC's Request for Proposal to Review/Evaluate Air Quality Data from the 11th Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Reports for SCL & Van Gogh School. (15. Motion (if necessary): move to Item F. for further discussion and/or for the selection of a qualified bidder.

Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; [Bill.Piazza@lausd.net](mailto:Bill.Piazza@lausd.net)], was not present; there was no report. Mr. Hunter stated that "nothing has happened..... at the last meeting I reported that one consultant was interested but had a question of a conflict of interest, to which I had responded that there was not an issue..... since that time I have heard nothing from them, and I am concerned since this is the second meeting that Bill has missed, so unfortunately I have nothing to report."

- 5. County Public Works** to report on the status of Republic's request to import up to 10,000 tons/day of soil for the next 18 years in addition to their approved 12,100 tons/day of MSW and recyclables, and any SCL matters within their purview.

No representative was present; there was no report. Mr. Hunter reported that the CAC received a letter dated November 10, 2020, which he forwarded to CAC Members. It was from County Public Works, and it was addressed to Mr. Coyle at Republic and listed a series of comments requesting for more information.

- 6. County Regional Planning Department** to report SCL matters within their purview.

Edgar De La Torre, Zoning Enforcement Planner, L.A. County Regional Planning Dept. [213-974-6453; [EDeLaTorre@planning.LACounty.gov](mailto:EDeLaTorre@planning.LACounty.gov); <http://planning.LACounty.gov>], reported in response to the CAC's request from the last meeting stating "that there's only one legal matter remaining, and they are waiting on the Courts for that . . . it was regarding the NOV for Condition 45N [of the Conditional Use Permit requiring BFI/Republic to supply information to the County to assess odor complaints]." There are no other new issues to report.

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

No representative was present; there was no report. Ms. Hansen-Lugo will follow up on who represents the Department since she believes that Eugene Loi was promoted. Mr. DeGonia, who had volunteered at the last meeting to find out what happened with Public Health's scheduled representatives, reported that he had contacted them and that he had expected that they would be in attendance. He will communicate with Katie Butler, Environmental Toxicologist [[KButler@ph.LACounty.gov](mailto:KButler@ph.LACounty.gov); <http://publichealth.LACounty.gov>] about it.

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

Nicholas Hendricks, Planner, L.A. City Planning Dept. (818-374-5046; [Nick.Hendricks@LACity.org](mailto:Nick.Hendricks@LACity.org); [www.planning.LACity.org](http://www.planning.LACity.org)), was not 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.

Sharon Bronson, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; [Sharon.Bronson@LACity.org](mailto:Sharon.Bronson@LACity.org); [www.CD12.org](http://www.CD12.org)), reported, in response to a CAC request at the last meeting regarding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Amenities Trust Fund, that the \$100,000 given to the Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council by the Councilman “will not have any effect on the SCL-CAC.”

Mr. DeGonia said that he had not followed up on Mr. Fisk’s request (regarding the new contract between the City, the County and STI to monitor SCL).

Mr. Fisk said that the DWP had been tapped to monitor air pollution from their Sun Valley generating station under Council File #20-1107 in September, requiring the DWP to develop a plan to install air quality monitoring equipment on street lighting poles. He wondered if this would have any bearing on, or any synergy, and/or any advantage (application) to the Sunshine Canyon monitoring by STI [Sonoma Technologies Inc.]. Ms. Bronson will follow up on Mr. Fisk’s question regarding whether the DWP could do similar air quality monitoring on street lighting poles and monitor the Landfill. Mr. Hunter reminded Ms. Bronson and Mr. DeGonia that two CAC openings need to be filled.

#### **D. Committee Member and Public comments on items NOT on the Agenda.**

Mr. Hunter pointed out that Item D. had been changed at Mr. Fisk’s request to include Committee Member comments as well. Mr. Fisk indicated that he was having trouble printing out the Agenda, to which Mr. Hunter indicated that it was because it needed to be printed on legal size paper due to the additional amount of Zoom information and the need to physically post it in the community. He said that he would try to accommodate him in the future.

Audience member Mike Mohajer (speaking “as a private citizen” representing himself, not any group), described State legislation regarding existing “treated wood waste, that would expire on December 31, 2020, and after that, treated wood waste would be considered as hazardous, and no longer disposed of in any landfill other than a hazardous waste landfill (Class I), of which there are only two in California..... one in Kern County and one in Imperial County.” Senate Bill SB 68 would have rescinded the sunset date but unfortunately the Governor vetoed it, so he wanted to know what plans Republic had for implementing a plan to insure that treated wood waste is not disposed at SCL.

Mr. Coyle confirmed that the Landfill is allowed to and does accept treated wood waste; if Republic is not allowed to, they would not accept it. Further, that they are working with the

Treated Woodwaste Coalition and other landfills across the State to get a temporary solution, in order to get the deadline extended. He also pointed out that this only applies to California, and that Republic has several landfills in Arizona that could be used if needed. Mr. Mohajer indicated that he was concerned not only with Sunshine, but the City and County LEA too, and in the interim, only wanted to make sure that because of an estimated \$500 per ton cost to properly dispose of this waste, that it does not end up coming illegally in the waste from transfer stations and other facilities. Mr. Coyle said that any wood waste received at SCL has to go through their “special waste approvals process,” and that is their gatekeeper. He explained that Republic has a company edict at all of its transfer stations not to accept special waste/hazardous waste, and that the landfill also has checks through its “unacceptable waste load program”; “load checks” are performed every day to exclude prohibited waste. Treated wood waste would be added to the list (when appropriate), and they would refresh the employees in their training as to what is excluded. Mr. Coyle agreed with Mr. Mohajer that a program of training would be implemented to check for treated wood waste if necessary, and that he would report any changes in his next report to the CAC. Mr. Mohajer repeated his concern, pointing out that a considerable amount of tonnage had been reported to the County and other State agencies by Republic of treated wood waste being accepted (almost 5,000 tons in a 5-day working period), and that he just wanted to make sure.

**E. Set next meeting date (January 14, 2021) & adjourn at 5:00 p.m.**

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will probably again be online January 14, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. He explained his need to know in advance since he had to reserve the Knollwood Country Club dates. He also thanked Committee Member Laine Caspi for hosting all of the Zoom meetings. Mr. DeGonia for the Board of Supervisors and Mr. Coyle for Republic both confirmed that they were not looking at any physical meetings in January 2021 at this time.

**F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking & Financial Matters.** Potential budget items FY 2020.

Mr. Hunter indicated that there was no more discussion.

Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 4:24 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>.