

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, January 14, 2021
Approved March 11, 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, Wayde Hunter (Chair & TAC Rep), Debbie Pietraszko (Parliamentarian) and Dr. Donna Zero.
Absent Larry Fleck (Treasurer)

A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of November 12, 2020 Minutes (Chair).

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on January 14, 2021 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, Wayde Hunter, Debbie Pietraszko and Dr. Donna Zero. Absent: Larry Fleck. 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; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Dave Thompson and Dee Hanson-Lugo; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: none; L.A. County Public Works Dept.: none; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Edgar De La Torre; L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office: none; L.A. City Councilman John Lee's Office: Sharon Bronson; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Also attended: at least six residents and other guests. A Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related SCL-CAC and Landfill documents were available at <http://SCL-CAC.org> and slides were shown.

MOTION (by Ms. Capaldi, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its November 12, 2020 Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Caspi, Fisk, Hunter, Pietraszko and Zero); zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

- **Outstanding administrative matters** (Chair/Vice Chair).

Mr. Hunter reported that he had none.

- **Treasurer's Report, November 2020 – December 2020** (Treasurer).

Mr. Hunter reviewed the financial report, which he said could be found on the scl-cac.org website homepage under Item 3 of the Committee package. The starting balance for the Business Checking Account for expenses was \$9,704.64 with one check for the Notetaker for September Minutes for \$160.00 and an ending balance of

\$9,544.64. The Business Savings Account for Consultants beginning balance was \$107,501.83 and an ending balance of \$107,505.44 with a total of \$3.61 interest for October, November, and December. The Business Checking Account for the Consultants (where the funds are transferred to in order to pay them from the savings account) remained unchanged at \$4,696.63. Petty Cash remained unchanged at \$100.00, and Other Assets remained unchanged at \$682.00. The ending balance for the year of 2020 was \$122,528.71.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Caspi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the November 2020 – December 2020 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the six eligible voters present with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Caspi, Fisk, Hunter, Pietraszko and Zero); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Mr. Hunter stated that “on Saturday, February 9th we (Larry and I) sent a letter to Chris (Coyle) and Ms. Sarah Park, who is Republic’s accountant. I did not send you a copy yet, but basically it says that, according to our MOU agreement, a payment is due the CAC on January 1st of each year. In that letter I accepted responsibility for the late transmission of that information. The letter also said “as you know COVID-19 has substantially impacted our ability to conduct meetings, however, because of the use of online virtual meetings and the posting of documents on our website, it has also resulted in decreased rental costs for a meeting place, and for the reproduction of documents for the Committee and the Public.” I attached the financial statement (November – December 2020) that I just read. The Ending Balance for 2020 shows **\$122,528.71** Total Assets with all 3 accounts rolled into one including miscellaneous. Based on the agreement of \$120,000.00 maximum for consultants + \$6,000.00 maximum for expenses that will = \$126,000.00 maximum available for all three accounts fully funded.

\$126,000.00 deduct yearend Total Assets of **\$ 122,528.71 = \$3,471.29**. Therefore, we are requesting **\$3,471.29 for CONSULTANTS**. This will bring our Total Assets starting January 1, 2021 to \$126,000.00 which is the maximum amount available for all three accounts. There is an additional note in there that says that our agreement would permit us to submit additional requests for consultants within the year, if we were to exceed \$120,000. Although we don’t expect that to occur, it would not exceed \$16,528.71 (\$20,000 - \$3,471.29 = \$16,528.71). Because we don’t go to the bank until everything is closed out, there is a delay, and we are into January. Again, Chris did his job and asked in December regarding the funding.”

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” and reported that:

“Operations

There have been no changes to our disposal operation, and we continue to utilize cell CC-4. We continue to use the Enviro-Cover machine for Alternate Daily Cover (ADC) and monitor its performance daily basis.”

“Construction.

Winter was here for a bit, but it’s 80 degrees out here today. The rain event over the holiday dropped about 1.6” of rain during that 24-hour period. It was a pretty decent storm. The site held up great. No erosions or washouts, and what little repairs we needed to do have been done. Our wet weather preparations did pay off. The roads and tipping area were in great shape, and we were able to operate normally. Unfortunately, on December 5th we did receive a NOV for nuisance odors. We received 14 complaints that day. We are not happy with that at all, but in November with a total of only 18 complaints, and in December we had 22 complaints., we feel good about our recent efforts to control odors. As far as we know, we’ve only had 4 complaints month to date in January so far. We have increased our patrols on the site and are actively managing the working face to reduce or eliminate the potential for odors to impact the neighborhood. We have initiated our plan 2020 – 2021 plan to continue to enhance our gas collection system. We continue to upgrade headers to allow the enhanced capabilities of the new blower skid to effectively distribute vacuum throughout the wellfield. The Team has completed installing 2,000-linear feet of 36-inch header. Now efforts are underway to tie existing header lines into the new 36-inch header to improve vacuum distribution and gas collection throughout the active area.

The first well schedule of 2021 is complete, and the contractor is busy procuring materials and equipment to complete the 40 new wells this quarter. Similarly, we are nearing the next lift for installation of the third phase of horizontal collectors in the CC4 Part 3 disposal cell and continue to collect any gas being produced by the recently landfilled waste. Wells are being evaluated on a regular basis 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 installation completion target date of 2021. The environmental review by the AQMD is intensive, and that is what slowed us down, and we hope that it will be approved this year. We began placing waste in the new cell CC4 Part 4A on 11/16/2020 and were filling in there for a while but the rains halted our filling. We will resume filling in the next week.”

Mr. Hunter stated that the Department of Transportation (LADOT) had been doing all the cuts in the Pass (Newhall-Saugus) and that they came up Republic’s property line with all that grading and questioned if that had caused any erosion or dust problems that Mr. Coyle was aware of. Mr. Coyle stated that he was aware “that they had stripped it and graded it due to the Saddleridge Fire and that they put in straw wattles and hydroseeded it, and had come up to the property line, and only on one day did they notice dust. We did not have any interaction with Baltazar (LADOT contractor) who is a customer of ours (Republic)... they did an average job, and only time will tell if the hydroseeding and the tackifier will hold up.” Mr. Hunter said he believed that the LADOT would not be successful in revegetating the

area because it was marine sediment, and he knows the problems that Republic has, to which Mr. Coyle agreed.

Mr. Hunter reminded him that, at the end of the last meeting, Mr. Mohajer had concerns about treated (hazardous) wood waste (being accepted into the landfill), and in closing had said that you (Republic) will make a report.... not anything special Mr. Hunter believed, but that you would report if anything that happen with your report now... Mr. Coyle responded that the Assembly Bill did sunset, so treated wood waste is now classified as hazardous waste and needs to go to a hazardous waste facility (Class I) in California or to Arizona as CalHaz waste. Republic did due diligence, and we have not accepted any treated wood waste under a special profile here in a couple of years.... We did a database search of profiles for treated wood waste and only found two (2) and both of those have been inactive for that couple of years. There was a bulletin from the waste industry that came out and we turned that into training that we distributed to all of our people for unacceptable waste identification, and we trained them up again, as we do every year, for unacceptable materials including treated wood waste... so they know what to look for, and what to call out..... we also trained our scale personnel so they can identify it before it gets to the working face. They (legislators) are still working in the legislature to get the exemption back into place, hopefully, by the end of March... we have a representative in Sacramento who is actively participating in the discussions, and briefs the General Managers, here in California at least on a weekly basis.

Mr. Mohajer cited a number of persons and organizations now working on the problem including the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), including the substantial cost to local governments, and indicated in the affirmative when asked by Mr. Hunter if Mr. Coyle's response had satisfied him as to the actions taken by SCL (landfill) to address the treated wood waste. He said that he would like to see a statement included in monthly reports, if they received any treated wood waste and what they did with it or if none received to note the same. Mr. Coyle said that would become part of Republic's report to the LEA on load checks.

Mr. Fisk asked for a definition of or what encompasses treated wood....is it creosote and other water proofing stuff? Mr. Coyle said that it was.

Meg Volk, resident, asked what the wind speeds in miles per hour (mph) would have to be before the landfill would have to close up and cover. Mr. Coyle responded that there was not a miles per hour limitation, but there were two components to consider... SCL uses four tippers which tip the transfer trailers up, which have rated wind speeds on them... one (1) unit has a 35-mph rating, and another four (4) units have a 50-mph rating on them.... There are anemometers located next to them and (when the wind speeds get too high) we must shut them down for safety. The guideline and the way the permit is written, Republic has to control the wind blown litter leaving the site... if we can't control it, we must shut down until we can. Ms. Volk also stated that she was concerned with odors, and the fact that she had been out in the early morning at 2 a.m. and 5 a.m. walking the dogs and noticed the wind carrying odors and asked if anything was going on at the landfill this morning (January 14) that would cause this. Mr. Coyle said that the

trash was covered by 6:45 p.m. the previous day with dirt and the Enviro-Cover, and the cover had remained intact overnight, so the working face was not the problem. He did say that landfill personnel had detected some odors this afternoon before he came to the meeting, and he opined that trash was coming in a little stink(y). The COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic has affected the Landfill; and the trash from the transfer stations is older than they like. They “try to take the fresh trash in the morning, and the older (stinky) stuff later when the wind is more advantageous to us..... we did pause operations today because of those odors.” Mr. Hunter stated that the landfill would also shut down if dust was a problem to which Mr. Coyle agree and stated that “the LEA is looking out for litter; and the AQMD is looking out for odors and dust.” He noted that for the previous Saturday when the winds were very high, that Republic had developed an instituted a plan, to have three additional employees and an outside contractor to run water trucks to keep down any dust problems.

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.

Larry Israel, Compliance Lead Inspector, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; LIsrael@aqmd.gov; www.aqmd.gov], reported that, in November, 18 complaints were received, with three verified. In December, 23 complaints were received, and one (1) NOV was issued on Saturday, December 5th. On that day 14 complaints were received and verified in various areas/streets (Golden Valley Lane, Courbet Street, Mission Tierra Way, Constable Street/Lane, Tennyson Place, and Orozco Street) between 10:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. The odors were trash, and the winds were light. In January so far, there were 4 complaints for trash were received between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. He noted that in 2020, 580 complaints and 12 NOVs were more than have been received than at any time since 2017, and that “the Order of Abatement didn’t come into effect until 2018.” To Mr. Hunter’s question, he responded that the AQMD has not had any problems with dust being reported from the grading in the pass (Newhall-Saugus), and reminded those present that the area in question was very unstable as a result of the 1971 Sylmar Earthquake. Mr. Hunter stated that his concern went to the winds which were legendary in that area, that they were a subject of a thesis titled “Winds of the Newhall-Saugus Pass” by Koutnik; and that winds had been recorded on the City berm, holding steady at 100-mph with winds estimated to be gusting 115 to 125-mph; that in places (adjacent to the landfill), loose dust in the area went above his knees; that he was not looking to blame the landfill for things (dust) that they were not responsible for but also to make the public aware when calling in reports, that dust may be coming from sources other than the landfill..

Ms. Volk agreed with Mr. Israel’s previous statement when he had said that 2018 and 2019 combined were lower than 2020 complaints and questioned if that time period coincided with the Order for Abatement of Odors when things were more controlled; given that the landfill is adding more wells and more horizontal collection that are tools to prevent the odors leaving the facility, what does this trend (increased complaints) mean to the community in the future. Mr. Israel reported that the last Order of Abatement was in the Fall of 2016, and really didn’t come into effect to 2017, and that it did not expire until the beginning of 2018. Mr. Coyle

believed that when the complaints started ramping up in March April and May of 2020 that it was because of the start of the Stay-at-Home Orders (COVID-19) and that is when the waste stream changed, and they started getting NOV's. The extra organics going into the residential waste stream in Los Angeles represents almost one-half of SCL's daily volume and that it was a new challenge and a learning curve for them that required investment in more misting lines, more Odor Bosses, more Monsoons and in learning how to change our operations to avoid the complaints. It was a long hot summer and 110-degrees in October, but he felt that after the first half of October (est. 85 complaints), they had significantly reduced the number of complaints in the second half (est. 35 complaints), and down to 18 and November and 22 in December; secondly, State Bill 1383 will "help pull organics out of the landfill."

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

Dave Thompson, this year's SCL-LEA Program Manager [213.252.3932; David.Thompson@lacity.org; www.SCLLEA.org] reported that he is the new program manager (as this is an odd-numbered year) and that Dee Lugo will assist him as he has done for her in the past year. He stated that: "the LEA has issued no violations to the Landfill since the last CAC meeting. . . despite the rain, the landfill held up really well." The SCL-LEA will meet in April or May 2021.

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. **Motion (if necessary): move to Item F. for further discussion.**

Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; Bill.Piazza@lausd.net], reported that, regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP), he had nothing new. Mr. Hunter indicated that he, Mr. Hunter, had reiterated the same information during the last two meetings that Mr. Piazza missed. Mr. Piazza opined that: "most of the relevant firms do business with Republic"; they "have some affiliation with Republic, and that seems to be somewhat problematic for evaluating something that might prove negative or positive for the landfill operation." He indicated that there was interest in our RFP but when companies found out who the owner/operator/facility was, they were no longer interested, and when he asked them if they could recommend somebody else, they become non-responsive. He suggested "a more general, a citywide solicitation (of the RFP) by going through the City." Mr. Hunter noted that he would need help from Mr. Piazza in doing that as he was not familiar with the process.

Mr. Fisk questioned whether or not the CAC was being taken seriously as he had notes from March 2019 on this, and we had finalized a letter a year ago this meeting. Mr. Piazza replied that we had but had not acted for the reasons he previously explained, including not having the expertise to do what we asked. He noted that STI [Sonoma Technologies Inc.] did "health assessment" work for another School District. Mr. Coyle volunteered an update on the RFP for STI whose contract expires this year and saying that the City is in the question-and-

answer period, and that Devon (Zatorski from City Planning) was asking Republic via email for specifics for monitoring some of the constituents, the equipment model numbers, however, we could not answer most of them and referred them to STI; it looks like it is moving forward and will be ready for announcement at the next TAC. Mr. Piazza asked Mr. Coyle if there was “any assessment option included in that contract or just data collection,” to which he replied that it was his understanding at this time that the RFP was for exactly the same scope of work as they are operating under now. In response to Mr. Piazza question as to whether or not the SCL-CAC was being given the opportunity to comment, Mr. Hunter said that we stated that we would like to... we were ignored... they said we will go do the contract, and it is what it is.... they heard us but have given us no seat at the table.... we don't know if they consider our suggestions viable.

Ms. Pietraszko wanted to make sure that this was our request to put the STI reports into layman's language. She stated that she believed that, as frustrating as it may be, that it may be better that STI and the other companies declined to do the work, because they were wary of being accused of bias by the public and the CAC regardless of the results.... so, it is better that we find a company who does not have a business relationship with Republic. Mr. Coyle clarified “that as far as the RFP and the STI contract, Republic is completely hands off in these processes, it is up to the regulators to ensure we comply, and we are indifferent to who gets selected, does not actively or passively participate, encourage, or discourage anything to do with our compliance.” Mr. Piazza agreed that the LAUSD's concern about that is with the City and the County, not Republic/BFI.

Mr. Piazza agreed with Mr. Fisk that, possibly, a university could do the work, but with the caveat that “only if we could narrow it down” so that they could understand, since academia and their evaluation of environmental issues is sometimes a little different. Mr. Fisk stated that he did not have any affiliation with any university and had none in mind. A discussion followed as to what had transpired at previous TAC meetings and correspondence regarding the CAC's requests to modify the STI contract and its ability to comment on it. It was decided that Mr. Hunter would write a letter on behalf of the CAC reminding the City and the County that we wished to have our request for the STI contract to be modified.

- 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.

There was no one present to represent County Public Works. Mr. Coyle volunteered and reported that Republic's request was submitted December 23rd and that they will “discuss it with the County.” He noted that “we have modified the tonnages, and that we're under our traffic count as approved in the EIR.”

- 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; <http://planning.LACounty.gov>], reported that “we have no updates at the moment, and we continue to do our monthly inspections” and sometimes we have not be

able to join Ultra Systems partly “due to COVID” and that the one remaining legal matter has been remanded back to the Hearing Officer.”

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

Dee Hanson-Lugo [213.252.3932; DLugo@ph.LACounty.gov; www.SCLLEA.org] agreed that she would email Katie Butler [Environmental Toxicologist, KButler@ph.LACounty.gov; <http://publichealth.LACounty.gov>] today about a Health Department representative “not showing up.”

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 agendaized for this meeting. If necessary, discussion and action will be agendaized for another meeting.

Sharon Bronson, CD12, reported regarding City Council File 20-1107, “installing air quality monitors on light poles, per Mr. Fisk’s inquiry at the last meeting,” that she didn’t believe it would have any synergy or apply to the Landfill.” Mr. Fisk had suggested it “as an alternative to STI monitoring,” and now he had additional questions as to how the data collected by the City would be evaluated. He requested and Ms. Bronson agreed to “follow up on that”; she requested, and Mr. Fisk agreed to further discuss it.

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

Mr. Fisk mentioned that www.Kroger.com may have COVID-19 virus vaccinations available; other information is at www.VaccinateLACounty.com.

E. Set next meeting date (March 11, 2021) & adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Hunter noted the above and that it probably would be online again.

F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking & Financial Matters.

Potential budget items FY 2021.

Mr. Hunter indicated that the above was not needed.

Mr. Hunter declared, and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 4:30 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>.