

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING, Thursday, March 10, 2022**  
Approved May 12, 2022

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), Keren Waters and Dr. Donna Zero.

A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of January 13, 2022, Minutes (Chair).

This meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on March 10, 2022 online by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. All eight of the eight Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Laine Caspi, Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck, Wayde Hunter, Debbie Pietraszko, Keren Waters and Dr. Donna Zero. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present. One Committee Member opening was available. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Chris Coyle; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel and Jack Cheng; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Dave Thompson; 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 Sheila Kuehl's Office: none; 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; and LAUSD District 3: Bill Piazza. Also attended: at least 13 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 Mr. Fisk, seconded by Ms. Caspi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its January 13, 2022 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).

Ms. Capaldi indicated that she had nothing to report. Mr. Hunter reported that he contacted L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's office [818-901-3831; <http://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/sheila-kuehl>] for an attendee; he said he was late in asking and they were unable to have anyone attend, however, they plan to be present at the May meeting. He noted that this was necessary due to recent redistricting, and that Granada Hills and the Landfill now are in Supervisor

Kuehl's District Three, not in Supervisor Barger's District Five, and that Jason Maruca was present for Supervisor Barger's office; "our appointments are good to the end of the year at least."

Mr. Fisk commented regarding the email Mr. Hunter sent to the Committee that the AQMD could not report to the Committee because the Committee is not an official agency or department. Mr. Fisk suggested that, the next time the Committee has a problem getting information from one of the agencies, instead of calling the Supervisor's office, the Committee should call a State office because air quality is a State department. Mr. Hunter clarified that the AQMD made a mistake in the November 2021 "SCL Odor Complaints Monthly Report"; he wanted to get it corrected and, though the AQMD basically said they couldn't do it and gave him a bit of a hassle, they did come good in the end. Mr. Hunter said he is used to that, anyway, and didn't think he needed to go over the AQMD's heads. He noted that the Committee is officially recognized, so if the Committee has an issue in the future maybe he can do that.

Jack Cheng (AQMD Toxics and Waste Management Manager) commented "that the way that the AQMD website works is that it is updated on a month-to-month basis, and once we have gone past that month we don't update it.... Wayde had asked for November to be updated but we had gone beyond that, but we did update it to the annual summary." Mr. Hunter stated that "Mr. John Anderson (AQMD Air Quality Analyst and Compliance Supervisor) had instructed him how to make a proper request, and the AQMD responded. I understood you couldn't go back, but it was important to the community that, that the report ("SCL Odor Complaints Monthly Report" November 2021) be generated, and I believe that Richard (Fisk) was referring to the emails that I sent (to the Committee), when I was not having any luck getting that done."

- Treasurer's Report, January 2022 – February 2022 (Treasurer).

Mr. Fleck reported. The "Business Checking Account (for Expenses)" beginning balance was \$7,687.69. Three checks were written on that account: \$210 for November meeting Minutes writing; and \$6,491.25 and \$4,800 to ECORP. The ending balance was \$42,256.44. The "Business Savings Account (for Consultants)" beginning balance was \$107,515.33; \$46,070 was transferred out; the ending balance of \$61,445.33. The "Business Checking Account (for Consultants)" beginning balance was \$8,096.63; \$1,918.35 was deposited; the ending balance was \$10,014.98. There was \$100 in Petty Cash. There was \$682 in Other Assets. The total beginning balance for all accounts as of January 1, 2022 was \$124,081.65; debits were \$57,521.35 and deposits were \$47,988.35; the total ending balance for all accounts was \$114,498.75 as of February 28, 2022 per Treasurer Larry Fleck and Mr. Hunter. Mr. Fisk asked if a Year End report was available; Mr. Fleck responded not at this time, but after the tax season. Mr. Hunter said he had looked at Mr. Fisk's request from a prior meeting because he knew Mr. Fleck would not have the time, and that since the Committee only produces financial reports every two months and there was very little activity, he was not sure

of what Mr. Fisk was looking for nor the benefits of such a report. Mr. Hunter had not forgotten him, and would have it for the next meeting.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the January 2022 – February 2022 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

**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.

Chris Coyle, General Manager, BFI/Republic [24-hour Landfill hotline 818-779-9170; 24-7 cell phone (480) 369-0024; main 818-362-2124; [Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com](mailto:Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com); <http://SunshineCanyonLandfill.com>], gave an SCL “Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Update” and reported that “there have been no changes to our disposal operation or location, and we continue to utilize cell CC-4. It has been relatively dry since we last spoke, so we have not needed to move to the wet weather deck. We continue to use the Enviro-Cover for ADC and monitor its performance daily. . . . to date, we have received 17.03” of rain. We received no rain in Feb and only 0.3” in March. The La Niña weather pattern has set in and there is no rain in the forecast for the next two weeks. We have received our grading permits for Phase 1 & 2 of the Toe Berm project. We are still in the review process for Phases 3, 4 & 5 with the City and expect approvals in early Q2. This is an important project to enhance our odor controls on site as well as reduce the visual impact of looking up the canyon. The contractor is currently installing the permanent drainage structures including the new sedimentation basin above our terminal basin. We continue construction for the new cell. We are approximately 50% through the process with 2.4 million square feet square feet of liner deployed of five million square feet total. Maintenance Shop is currently in a temporary location while we wait on permits from the County for earthwork within the already approved grading limits. As for Odor Complaints, we improved our results in February vs. January from 154 Complaints down to 84, however we are not happy with these results. Our goal is zero. We have added new odor neutralizer units on a pilot program to test and evaluate their effectiveness. They are placed near the working face to attempt to control the odors at the source. Our Odor Patrol Team is fully staffed, and the patrols are rolling smoothly. The Team is in the neighborhood during the early hours of operations around 6 a.m. until 10 a.m., then moves to spot patrols throughout the day. As they notice odors, they relay that information back to the site and we adjust the operations based on their feedback.

The winds have largely been unfavorable to start each day turning favorable usually by mid-morning. We have had a couple days where the winds have

started favorable and stay that way for the day. It looks like the winds are behaving as traditional winter/summer and we hope they flip as usual near the end of March or early April. We have started our 2022 Gas Construction activities. However, things have been slow due to the weather conditions. We do not do Gas Construction or trenching during unfavorable wind conditions to avoid creating any unnecessary odors. Approximately 40 new pumps have been installed in wells to increase gas flow. We have probably 300 pumps in wells out there. Four-inch wellheads have been installed to allow additional collection on high producing wells, and two new six-inch wells have been installed in CC4 P4A. Approximately 400 linear feet of new 18-inch and approximately 1,200 24-inch headers have been installed to ensure vacuum is available to the areas we will be filling starting in the next month. New vertical wells will be drilled beginning next month with a focus on placement in areas to control odors. We continue to move through the permitting process for the installation of Flare 12 with an expected install completion target of 2022, pending approvals.”

Mr. Fisk inquired if Mr. Coyle had seen any changes in Landfill operations due to the City ordinance moving food waste from residences to certain containers. Mr. Coyle stated that “we have seen a slight change by the City issuing food pails for organics to 25,000 residences if my numbers are correct, and then having them place the organics in the green waste cans . . . since this is green waste with food it is going to a different processor, as apposed to the processor who is just processing green waste, so we don’t get the trash and the garbage that is normally mixed in that and which they would normally send to us. So, we are seeing about 400 tons/day that we are off. Sanitation was in front of City Council today asking for \$35 million for pails and for programs.” Mr. Fisk said that “he thought it was still a pilot program of 35,000 residents and they were going to go to 100,000 residents.”

Mr. Hunter asked what cell was being constructed; Mr. Coyle replied that they are using CC4-Part 4A and that CC4-Part 4B&C were constructed last year, but currently only had half of their liners in place and that there is no new cell construction scheduled for 2022.

- 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](mailto:LIsrael@aqmd.gov); [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)], reported that in January 2022 there were 158 complaints; 67 were verified. In February there were 84 complaints; 28 were verified. In March so far, there were eight complaints; two were verified. The first violation in January was issued on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The second was issued Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> when there were 20 odor complaints; nine were verified for odor episodes that occurred from about 6:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The type of odor detected by him and the community was landfill gas and rotting trash odors in the morning, and a strong putrid trash odor was detected in the mid to late afternoon.

The next violation was Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup> between 7:40 a.m. and 9:50 a.m. There were 16 complaints received; 14 of which verified; those were sour rotting trash odors. That was primarily an early morning event. January 25<sup>th</sup> between 7:30 a.m. up until around 10 a.m. there were 15 complaints, six of which were verified; moderate to strong garbage odors were detected in the community. On Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup> about 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. there were 15 complaints, 11 of which were verified as strong to moderate sour rotting trash odors. There was one Notice of Violation (NOV) issued for Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> when 18 complaints were received between 5:20 p.m. up until 10:30 p.m., 13 of which were verified as sharp landfill gas. For January, 158 complaints received and five NOVs issued; that was the most violations issued to the landfill since 2017, and second-most number of complaints going back prior to 2013. For February, there were 84 complaints and one violation; that was the most complaints we have received since 2017. It is the first February violation since 2019. Looking at between January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> the number of violations the Landfill has been issued is six, which is the most since 2017.

Mr. Hunter asked “why in his (Larry’s) estimation are we are looking at 158 (complaints) in January; were you able to determine any kind of reason why?” Mr. Israel responded that “I don’t know if I can tell you that. I am in the community responding to complaints and verifying odors (mainly) but it could be related to the huge amount of rainfall that was received and the accelerated decomposition of trash... it could be a lot of things. I don’t know if I could tell you if it is coming from a specific working face. Most of the complaints in January with the exception of the one that occurred during the CAC Meeting (January 13<sup>th</sup>) occurred in the morning hours, and it seemed like the majority of the odors that were verified were in the higher elevated street locations. So, I was not getting odor complaints verified as much over by Mission Tierra, Constable Avenue, Canyon Ridge during those episodes. It was primarily more toward Lissette Street, Nannette Street, Jimeno Avenue. As you look at the area, where as Van Gogh is at the bottom of that little valley or bowl, this was south of that at a little higher elevation. It was also during not necessarily calm wind conditions. I was experiencing/measuring winds that were 5, 6, 7 or 8 maybe up to 10 mph. Again, the working face was primarily in the 4A (Cell) area. It wasn’t on the winter deck area or anything like that we had for the . . . December [2021] Violations.” Mr. Israel noted that the only Sunday (impacted) was January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Israel reconfirmed the current policy for issuing NOVs saying that “in a 24-hour period, aiz complaints that are received and verified with the complainant and traced back to the landfill, so that’s what constitutes a Notice Of Violation for Nuisance. And, for us to respond during normal work hours it is for any single complaint, and after hours, after 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, all day on Saturday, Sunday and Monday would be three complaints in one-hour period.”

Mr. Coyle said “he had touched on this (odors) in the January CAC (meeting), and I mentioned it earlier in my talking points that December (2022); almost 16-inches of rain. So, the solid waste system for all of LA County and the neighboring Counties was in crises and traffic was unbearable, and it was just a slow-go at the

landfills to get by, not only at Sunshine Canyon, but other regional landfills that service the greater Los Angeles area. What that does is create a backup in the transfer station, and Larry was close to on point when he said that the trash sitting on the floor and being wet at the transfer stations... it starts to decompose rapidly, and as they get the volume here (at the landfill) the trash stinks. And so, through the month of January (2022) we were battling to get our transfer stations (Republic owns six), as well as the City of LA transfer station (CLARTS), and the garbage was just stinky, that played out pretty much through January. February has just been a little bit more challenging (with) the wind aspect of it; weather conditions have not been favorable at the landfill and so those odors have been carrying to the neighborhood; it is our presumption and hence why we went out and started the pilot program that I mentioned with these three odor control devices placed near the working face; hopefully, we get good results out of it. Glad to see the odor complaints went down but we are not pleased with the results for February; I am optimistic about March based on what Larry has said so far; looking forward to getting this anomaly behind us and getting back to something more respectable, and eventually getting to zero.”

Mr. Hunter asked Mr. Coyle if the landfill was putting in any odorizers since he and his wife had been detecting a Febreze-type odor, to which Mr. Coyle replied that BFI/Republic “hasn’t used scent for a long time”; they use a neutralizer that “has no scent to it.” Mr. Israel also confirmed that he had been near the misters and they have no odor.

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

Dave Thompson [213.252.3932; [David.Thompson@lacity.org](mailto:David.Thompson@lacity.org); [www.SCLLEA.org](http://www.SCLLEA.org)] reported for Program Manager Dee Lugo [[DLugo@ph.LACounty.gov](mailto:DLugo@ph.LACounty.gov)] that “there has been no violations and the LEA continues to monitor the site. The Landfill operator is currently working on the cell and the liner, and it seems to be going well. They are doing maintenance on the wet-weather area (deck) to make sure that it is all buttoned up quickly (after the rains). Other than that everything is in compliance. Our next Board of Directors Meeting (LEA) will probably be in June, and we will let you know at the next CAC meeting.”

**4. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)** to discuss the CAC’s progress with ECORP to Review/Evaluate Air Quality Data for the 11th Annual Ambient Air Monitoring Reports for SCL & Van Gogh School and associated Quarterly Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Reports.

Bill Piazza, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OHS) [213.241.3926; [Bill.Piazza@lausd.net](mailto:Bill.Piazza@lausd.net)], said that Mr. Hunter had been trying to contact him, and that he had no objection to the invoicing; he went back and reviewed all invoices and made sure that .we were in-budget; he would send email if needed; we will set up a meeting next week to go over briefly what their status is, where they are, what they have uncovered, if they have received all the information that they requested.” Mr. Hunter confirmed that

they (ECORP) have received all the information requested. Mr. Piazza concluded by saying that they “seem to be on track” and will update the Committee of the progress at the next CAC meeting.

**5. County Public Works** to report on any SCL matters within their purview.

No representative was present; there was no report.

**6. County Regional Planning Department** to report on any 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 that “they continue to go to our third-party monitoring using Ultra-Systems at the Landfill, and we did our checkups and compliance with permits; we haven’t found any issues at the moment; the Quarter has been completed, and we should get a report from Ultra-Systems in the next month, which will be shared with the CAC.” In response to a question from Mr. Hunter he confirmed that he, along with Diana Gonzalez, would continue to represent CRP at the CAC meetings.

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

No representative was present; there was no report.

**8. City Planning Department** to report on any 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.

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)), indicated that she had nothing to report.

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

Guest Glenn Bailey suggested adding, either now or right after the June Primary election, all District 3 Supervisory candidates to the CAC meeting distribution list so that they are aware of the landfill; he believed that if you wait until December there is a whole learning curve. Mr. Hunter observed that the Committee had never invited political candidates to speak but that he would let them know if the information is sent to [whunter01@aol.com](mailto:whunter01@aol.com). Mr. Bailey said he was not suggesting that they speak as a candidate, only that they become aware of the situation, to which Mr. Hunter

agreed saying that he had only made the statement for posterity's sake because candidates typically turn up at Neighborhood Councils and speak and this (the CAC) is not that kind of forum. Mr. Bailey added that Ms. Kuehl is not running again. Ms. Pietraszko opined that she "liked the idea but felt that we should wait until after the Primary when it was down to two people, because if we sent it to everyone it might be perceived as a political move." Mr. Fisk noted that Senator Hertzberg, Senator Stern, and possibly Councilman Krekorian are running.

**E. Set next meeting date** (May 12, 2022). Motion: Whereas meeting in person would continue to present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and that State and/or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing we approve the continued use of Zoom for our meetings. Adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Caspi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee moves that, Whereas meeting in person would continue to present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and that State and/or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing we approve the continued use of Zoom for our meetings.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Fisk requested to re-Agendize this for each meeting. Ms. Caspi noted the advantages of a Zoom meeting, that the Committee's budget was large enough to pay for a Zoom account, and the time consumed driving to meetings. Mr. Bailey noted that the Governor's Executive Order expired on April 1, 2022 and that the General Manager of Neighborhood Councils said that Neighborhood Councils might have to resume in-person meetings after April unless something changes. Mr. Bailey said that Mr. Hunter's idea of checking with Counsel was a good one, and that according to the Brown Act a person could attend remotely, but only if they made their location known to the public. Mr. Hunter agreed and said that the Brown Act was a problem and that every time he gets in front of a County meeting he makes that point but because we are a City and County committee he would check (with both) because we have to comply.

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

**F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking and Financial Matters.**

Mr. Hunter indicated that there was no more discussion and declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 4:11 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.* The SCL-CAC Meeting Minutes page is <http://scl-cac.org/agendas-minutes>.