

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING, Thursday, September 14, 2023**

at Center for Spiritual Living, 17622 Chatsworth Street, Granada Hills, CA 91344
and online

DRAFT Minutes [to be replaced by “Approved _[Month]_ _[date]_, 202_[year]_”]

Committee Members: Jeanette Capaldi (Vice-Chair), Laine Caspi (Secretary), Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck (Treasurer), Wayde Hunter (Chair & TAC Rep), Debbie Pietraszko (Parliamentarian), Keren Waters and Jennifer Yoo.

A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of July 13, 2023 Minutes (Chair).

This hybrid meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on September 14, 2023, in Granada Hills, California and online by Chair Wayde Hunter. Mr. Hunter explained that, because this was a hybrid meeting, rules under AB2449 were in effect.

Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Five of the eight Committee Members were present: Jeanette Capaldi, Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck, Wayde Hunter and Keren Waters (online). Absent: Laine Caspi, Debbie Pietraszko and Jennifer Yoo. A quorum of at least five (there were five) Committee Members was present. One Committee Member opening was available. Landfill and government representatives present BFI/Republic Services: Michael Stewart; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Jose Gutierrez; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: Evan Cohen; L.A. County Public Works Dept.: David Nguyen; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Steven Jareb; L.A. County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath’s Office: Sophia Souvani; 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; and LAUSD District 3: Andrew Modugno. Also attended: approximately 21 residents and other guests. Mr. Hunter 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>.)

It was noted that new Committee Member Jennifer Yoo’s name needed to be added to the July 13th Minutes header.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its July 13, 2023, Meeting as corrected.

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

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

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair).
Mr. Hunter reported that he attended the SCL TAC [Technical Advisory Committee] meeting, and that they were informed that L.A. City Planner Nick Hendricks, who used to attend CAC meetings, had passed away after a long illness.
- Treasurer's Report, July 2023 - August 2023 (Treasurer).
Mr. Fleck reviewed the "SCL-CAC Financial Statement 07/01/2023 - 08/31/2023." The "Business Checking Account (for Expenses) 1234" beginning balance was \$4,438.23. Five checks were written on that account for meeting space rent; copying; meeting snacks and refreshment; printer supplies and web hosting; and post office box rental. Total deductions were \$1,345.45; the ending balance was \$3,092.78. The "Business Savings Account (for Consultants) 1582" beginning balance was \$61,455.17; \$1.06 in interest was accrued; the ending balance was \$61,456.23. The "Business Checking Account (for Consultants) 9514" beginning and ending balances both were \$36,696.98. There was \$100 in Petty Cash. There was \$0 in Other Assets. The total beginning balance for all accounts as of July 1, 2023 was \$102,690.38; debits were \$1,345.45 and deposits were \$1.06; the total ending balance for all accounts was \$101,345.99 as of August 31, 2023.

MOTION (by Ms. Capaldi, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the July - August 2023 Treasurer's Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the five eligible voters present with all five in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Capaldi, Fisk, Fleck, Hunter and Waters); 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 including NOVs, current and future disposal operations, including continuing efforts to abate odors.

Michael Stewart, 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" as follows:

Operations

- There have been no major changes to our disposal operation or location, and we continue to utilize cell CC-4-P4A/B/C. We have not needed to use our wet weather deck in the last month.
- We continue to use the Enviro-Cover for ADC and monitor its performance daily.

- During the months of May and June, a full soil cover was applied every Saturday. ADC was used for cover on weekdays. All trash was covered with either ADC or soil on all days (i.e. no trash was left exposed at any time)

Construction

- We continue to repair the site from the extensive damage caused by the rain this season, and have submitted action plans to the LEA, County Department of Public Works, AQMD and the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board.
- The implementation of these plans are well underway, which include repair of roadways and drainage channels, covering and grading of slopes, buttressing and grading work on surficial soil sloughs, as well as typical winterization activities. Additionally, the permanent repair to the terminal basin riser is on schedule to be complete by the end of July.
- We have received our grading permits for Phase 1 & 2 of the Toe Berm project. All approvals within the City have been issued for Phases 3, 4 & 5 with the City and we expect the grading permit within the next 2 weeks.
- This is an important project to enhance our odor controls on site as well as reduce the visual impact of looking up the canyon, and to ensure stability for the continued development of the landfill. Most of Phases 1 and 2 Construction have been complete – and is on schedule to be complete by the first week of August.
- Work has also begun on an internal access road through City south which will eventually connect with the full build-out of the berm, and will provide safer, paved access into the landfill. This is expected to be complete by January 2024.
- Construction of the entirety of the berm project estimated to be complete in mid-2025.
- No cell construction is planned for 2023; disposal operations will continue in the existing remaining constructed airspace for the remainder of this year. The next planned cell will be constructed in 2024.
- We continue to move through the permitting process for the installation of Flare 12 with an expected install completion target of 2024, pending approvals.
- We have secured a new location for the air quality monitoring station and have scheduled work for a new power supply in early August.

Odor update:

- The repairs of the slopes and erosion have significantly improved odors, as well as the clearing out of the network of transfer stations in the region which were backed up by the rain

- In addition, the site to date has drilled 40 vertical gas wells and installed over 6,000 linear feet of horizontal gas collectors which have also helped with gas odors.
- In early May, one NOV was issued by AQMD for alleged odors, but since that day, there have been no NOV's issued for odor complaints. Overall, May showed a significant decrease in the overall number of complaints. As of today, the data for June has not been made available, but based on our odor patrol team's observations, we expect June to be similar.
- 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 and 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. This is our most effective line of defense when get highly odoriferous at the working face.
- We are continually modifying the pilot Stationary wet and dry vapor odor neutralizer delivery system on site. We have established a partnership with a consultant developing site-specific neutralizer product and delivery systems, and we continue working with them to improve the on-site systems and tailor the product to our waste stream.

Mr. Stewart added that Tropical Storm Hilary caused a backup throughout the County. Sunshine Canyon started diverting trash to other County facilities. and limited the number of trucks entering Sunshine Canyon before Labor Day and "the waste shed is still backed up." He said, "we're taking a lot of measures to cut back vegetation . . . we minimize the amount of brush on site." The recent Ojai earthquake didn't impact the Landfill.

Mr. Hunter read aloud Mr. Stewart's September 11th email replying to the CAC request to respond to comments at the July 13, 2023 CAC meeting regarding dead animals at the Landfill. Mr. Stewart wrote that "*I believe the resident stated that he had seen 2 trucks hauling trailers that typically haul livestock in that 30-day period, not that he saw any dead animals in the trailers. We have customers that use various kinds of trailers when they need to haul to the landfill. I'm not going to assume that because those trailers that typically haul live animals somehow had dead animals in the trailer and that my gatehouse staff let them dump. My statement that the landfill doesn't take dead animals still stands. Loads such as dead animals would require an approved special waste profile manifest which would have never been approved by Republic for disposal at Sunshine. We have no records of accepting or rejecting loads of dead animals at the landfill for all of June or July.*"

2. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to report on odor complaints received and NOV's issued including any year-to-date charts,

frequency of Inspector response to reports, and any other matters within their purview.

Larry Israel, Compliance Supervisor, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; LIsrael@aqmd.gov; www.aqmd.gov], reported that “we might be delinquent . . . providing information” on the website, but the information is available. In July the AQMD received 34 complaints: with one NOV [Notice of Violation] not for “nuisance odor” but for a “fugitive dust” violation for track-out of dirt on San Fernando Road. In August there were 263 odor complaints and eleven NOVs; nine NOVs were for public nuisance; in addition, there were two “fugitive dust” violations for track-out of dirt on San Fernando Road. “In September up to today (September 14th) 73 odor complaints were received, one NOV was issued. In total there have been 46 violations issued this year, 41 for public nuisance and 5 for track-out of dirt on San Fernando Road. There have been 1,172 complaints for 2023; to put it in perspective that is the most number of complaints since 2016 and the most number of violations in a single year. We have never had more than forty.” He reviewed each day in August where there were complaints, noting the date, times, location, type of odor and AQMD response, and NOVs if issued, further specifically noting complaints from Van Gogh Charter School as well. There were violations “just about every day” in the last week of August. He itemized four days in August and September when no staff were available to verify complaints.

Mr. Fisk noted that complaints were coming from the same streets and asked if they were coming from the same addresses. Mr. Israel responded that they were. Ms. Capaldi asked if the odors were due to the rain. Mr. Israel responded that odors couldn’t be attributed to any particular source, including recent rains.

Mr. Hunter asked if, on those days where there were consecutive reports of odor, Mr. Israel had observed any particular reason such as out-gassing, digging, et cetera to which he could attribute it. Mr. Israel responded that he was only out on the weekends and that he and his staff did not observe anything unusual other than a lot of odors were detected. Mr. Hunter also asked whether, given Chiquita Canyon Landfill and the problems it was causing, Granada Hills was getting support from the AQMD staff. Mr. Israel reported that “staff is burned out” investigating complaints at multiple County facilities. Mr. Hunter observed that, while Chiquita Canyon received 1,000 complaints in three months, Sunshine Canyon has received far more complaints, yet we are unable to get an AQMD Abatement Hearing. He asked what the CAC was doing wrong; a letter was sent to the AQMD asking what the criteria was for getting an Abatement Hearing, but there was no response. Mr. Israel replied that Enforcement understands, but it is up to the AQMD’s General Council whether to have an Abatement Hearing based on their criteria. He suggested contacting Terrance Mann, Deputy Executive Officer in charge of compliance and enforcement.

Resident Meg Volk said that she concurred with resident Erick Fefferman that “these issues have been ongoing in spite of what the Landfill says they are doing... more vertical wells, and horizontal collectors... it’s not working, and for

some reason they can't divert (the trash) when these weather conditions (rain) take place." She repeated statistics given by Mr. Israel (46 NOVs issued and 1,172 odor complaints in 2023) and questioned, given this data, "why that wouldn't indicate that there is an ongoing problem that is not being addressed, that would lead to allowing an Order of Abatement to take place, because when that took place the last go around, they (Republic) had to step up to the plate and add a lot more...and it did make a difference. Do you believe that they are doing a good job of collecting the gases on-site based on the NOVs and complaints you have seen?"

Mr. Israel responded that he "hoped that they (Republic) would (do a good job), , . they are in the process of permitting additional equipment." Also, that the AQMD was still looking at August, and he thinks that they were still evaluating them, and that he was not aware of any decision being made yet. Ms. Volk responded that she believed that "Mr. Israel was being as diplomatic as possible due to the circumstances of the meeting," and that he does not have the authority to push forward on the Order of Abatement. She believed the CAC probably should get in touch with Terrance Mann and push the issue because she has read some of the letters where Nicholas Sanchez (AQMD Deputy District Attorney) had written letters saying 'we don't have to pursue abatement because we are looking at the steps the Landfill is taking,' adding that "the Landfill is in compliance, but what we are not seeing is the uptick of these NOVs and (odor) complaints... I'm not really looking at that... Larry has always done his best, and he always does."

Guest Glenn Bailey asked for clarification as to which website Mr. Israel had referred to earlier, and also that, since this was a hybrid meeting, this information could be passed on to AQMD management as a way for them to attend if they did not wish to come to Granada Hills. Mr. Hunter reported that the website was [Odor Complaints \(aqmd.gov\)](https://www.aqmd.gov/odor-complaints); instructions were given on accessing Sunshine Canyon Landfill data. Mr. Hunter thanked John Anderson for trying to expedite timely data posting, so that he (Mr. Hunter) could provide it to the Committee and public, even though it was no longer part of his job.

Resident Frank Nolan commented on how proud he felt the Landfill Manager was of his (the Manager's) handling of the situation (odors), and how he (Mr. Nolan) had laughed out loud, given what residents have had to go through (odors) the past six weeks. Mr. Fefferman asked Mr. Israel if he had personally been to Chiquita Canyon Landfill with the odors and asked Mr. Israel for a comparison. Mr. Israel reported that, at Chiquita, the AQMD had not seen this many people reporting in such a short period of time; that they are reporting many more health problems like headaches, migraines and respiratory issues; and that the odors were the worst he has ever experienced.

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

Jose Gutierrez [Code Enforcement Bureau, and Environmental Supervisor, LEA; 213-252-3348; Jose.Gutierrez@LACity.org], reported for Dave Thompson, SCL-

LEA Program Manager [213-252-3932; David.Thompson@lacity.org; www.SCLLEA.org] that the LEA issued no NOVs and that “the Landfill was quick to repair storm damage from Tropical Storm Hillary within the week.” He encouraged contacting Mr. Thompson if you have questions.

4. Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to report on any SCL matters within their purview.

Andrew Modugno, Environmental Assessment Coordinator, LAUSD Ofc. of Environmental Health & Safety (OEHS) [213-241-3926; Andrew.Modugno@lausd.net], reported that they are working with Sonoma Technologies [Inc., STI] to begin an Air Toxics Exposure Study. In June, they started odor detection with handheld monitors, including for methane, sulfur dioxide, and carbon, for one year. He indicated that staff tries to get to Van Gogh, but by the time they get there the odors are gone.

Mr. Hunter said that the CAC had not received any information on the Study, including any during the SCL-TAC meeting, and would appreciate receiving information so that the CAC can disseminate it to the public. Mr. Stewart said that the Landfill had fully funded the Study, and if there was any information available he will let Mr. Hunter know.

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

David Nguyen, Civil Engineer, L.A. County Dept. of Public Works [626-458-5189; DNgyuen@dpw.LACounty.gov; www.dpw.LACounty.gov], reported that in April he sent a letter to the Landfill “requesting corrective measures . . . The Landfill has made good progress repairing the damage, including the riser on the terminal retention basin. . . [He] will continue to monitor the progress.” August storm damage dirt “has been cleared off the street.” He described monitoring work. “Some of the repairs are still going on” and are “scheduled to be completed by October 1st” as they are waiting for a permit from the City.

Mr. Fefferman asked if the storm damage had also been repaired. Mr. Nugyen replied that more dirt had been deposited outside the Landfill and the Landfill was waiting for City permission to clear. He had since talked to Mr. Thompson of the LEA and told him that the dirt had been cleared off of the street. Also, additional monitoring (of the Landfill) was taking place monthly by an independent monitor; from an odor standpoint, Public Works was checking for additional damage to the collection infrastructure; there were still some problems with landfill gas collection.

6. County Regional Planning Department to report on any SCL matters within their purview.

Steven Jareb, Supervising Principal Planner for Special Projects, L.A. County Regional Planning Dept. [213-974-6483; SJareb@planning.LACounty.gov; <http://planning.LACounty.gov>], reported that “the focus is for Regional Planning to

work with other County agencies and the Supervisor's office (Horvath) and to have regular meetings to better coordinate to address concerns of the community between the community and the Landfill." In regard to the NOV issued on May 2nd, there was an Appeal Hearing on June 27th that was continued to November 7th for Condition #21. Staff did reach out and look into it, to see if the Hearing date could be moved up, but the date was set in the previous Hearing and there was no way to move that forward. Mr. Hunter said that he wanted to make sure that the CAC got notice of that Hearing as we would like to attend, and the public also.

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

Evan Cohen, Environmental Toxicologist, L.A. County Public Health Dept. [voicemail 626-430-9821; ECohen@ph.LACounty.gov; <http://publichealth.LACounty.gov>], reported that "we have not had any health-related complaints" since the last meeting. They brought two flyers for distribution: one contains the CAC phone number and the other has facts about landfills. He encouraged attendees that had knowledge of anyone suffering health effects from the Landfill to have them contact him. In response to Mr. Hunter, he acknowledged having spoken with resident Mr. Fefferman, who had many questions at the last CAC meeting. Mr. Cohen indicated that he was not able to address Mr. Fefferman's concerns, but "whenever we do receive health-related complaints . . . we try to address them and trace them back to a source..."

Mr. Bailey said, on behalf of those attending virtually, that a portion of Mr. Cohen's presentation on the second flyer was muted; Mr. Bailey suggested that Mr. Cohen provide contact information. Mr. Cohen said he would email information to Mr. Hunter to distribute. Mr. Nolan said he was "glad to know that there is a telephone number to report health effects, but this is the first time that I have heard of it, and to have the gentleman (Mr. Cohen) say that zero reported . . . after living here 30 years and never knew there was a way to report the things we go through with the asthma, congestion, sore throats...different things that people develop. It might be helpful to have a list of symptoms we should be looking for that are attributable to toxic landfill gas."

Mr. Fisk asked Mr. Cohen if he was involved in the Aliso Canyon Study now going on and if there was any synergy with what is going on (at Sunshine). Mr. Cohen responded that people in his office are, but he is not.

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

Sophia Souvani, Field Deputy for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Lindsey Horvath [office 213-974-3333; SSouvani@bos.LACounty.gov; ThirdDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov; <https://lacounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/lindsey-p-horvath>], reported that “we’ve met with a lot of community members, and we’re working hand-in-hand with Republic and our County agencies” to try to get a more transparent, open, and systematic system on issues to make sure we are taking care of your concerns....”.

Guest Mike Mohajer, speaking as a private person not representing any governmental or public agency and speaking solely on behalf of himself, was surprised that Mr. Cohen had not heard of the health impacts, that there were many written comments that were provided to them, and that there was previous Supervisor involvement, including by Dr. Cyrus Rangan from County Public Health. Mr. Mohajer wanted Mr. Cohen to review the previous record “so that he might have a fresh start going forward.” Mr. Hunter noted the previous health study done by the County that involved only 100 homes and that the persons assigned to evaluate the study were a husband and wife who worked for the tobacco industry; they subsequently attributed all the problems to hysterical women. He said, “that’s the health study we got because we couldn’t get a proper health study... it was fixed.” He noted that there have been a number of letters sent, including about a CAC study which was sent to the Department of Health showing the impact to the community. He said the DOH never responded to the SCL-CAC; “I am just saying there is a record which has not been addressed by County Public Health.” Ms. Souvani said “you (CAC & community) have been heard.” She described work to “simplify” communications with County agencies including Public Health. Mr. Mohajer observed that people come and go in the City and the County and that is why he had suggested providing past documentation.

Resident Ralph Kroy asked Ms. Souvani why the CAC no longer was meeting in the Knollwood Country Club, where the CAC did for many years, to which she replied that it is a “private company . . . they’re leasing the land” and are able set their rates as they like. Mr. Hunter reported that the Club “went from \$450 to \$3,000” rent per meeting, or \$18,000 a year, which he felt were usury rates. The County did not lean on them (American Golf Corp.; AGC) and AGC claims that the people that the County had the agreement with are gone. Mr. Hunter said “we tried the school (Van Gogh) but it didn’t have an audio/visual system and we had to jump through hoops for five - six months just to get the school.” There was discussion about the facilitation of these meetings and that this hybrid meeting was not for the benefit of the Commissioners but for the public, and that the CAC would consider meeting at Knollwood if Republic would fund the increase and if Knollwood had all the necessary audio/visual equipment in place..

Sharon Bronson, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 12 Councilman John Lee (818-882-1212; Sharon.Bronson@LACity.org; www.CD12.org), reported that “we are also working with a variety of agencies” including “Supervisor Horvath’s office.”

D. Committee Member and Public comments on items NOT on the Agenda. *Note: Under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that has not been agendaized; however, it may become the subject of a future meeting. Comments are limited to 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

Resident Bill Huntley stated that “we’ve come up with a new problem for your (Republic’s) dump. We have houses in the Balboa Highlands. We are an HPOZ, (Historic Preservation Overlay Zone - the Eichler homes). Our houses are getting bugged by drones, and drones are owned by insurance companies. Our residents have been getting letters now from the insurance companies, cancellation letters, because of the dirt on their roof, and they are saying that they are not taking care of their roofs (sic)... Ever since this dump has gotten the size of Mt. Baldy, and they (Republic) keep bringing in more and more dirt, and we keep getting more and more dust; and we smell the dirt in our houses. What are we going to report to the AQMD, but we should. What are you going to do about this? We are breathing dirt and dust. ... This is the worst since the beginning of this year that we have ever had dust in the house, on the roof, on the solar panels, and no one seems to be concerned that the kids in that school (Van Gogh Charter) are breathing pounds of dirt a day...” He said that he has a number of instruments and he’s measured high levels around his house. Mr. Hunter will agendaize and try to get speakers regarding dust, which he described also covers his property. Mr. Israel added that “we responded to numerous complaints . . . for trucking dirt out onto San Fernando Road . . . That’s visible dust that’s crossing the property line.” Mr. Kroy also described dirt collecting around his house.

E. Set next meeting date (November 9, 2023). Adjourn meeting if 5:00 p.m. for City, County and State participants.

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be here November 9, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. He thanked Ms. Waters for online hosting this meeting. Mr. Hunter declared and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 4:43 p.m.

F. Special Overtime Discussion of Budget, Banking & Financial Matters (if needed).

That there was no more discussion.

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>.