

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**  
**MINUTES OF HYBRID\* MEETING, Thursday, September 12, 2024**  
Center for Spiritual Living, 17622 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, CA 91344 and online  
Approved November 14, 2024

Committee Members: Jeanette Capaldi (Vice-Chair), John Ciccarelli, Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck (Treasurer), Wayde Hunter (Chair & TAC Rep), Natalie Khooda, Julie Newman and Jennifer Yoo.

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of July 11, 2024 Minutes (Chair).**

This \*hybrid (both in-person and online) meeting of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee (SCL-CAC) was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on September 12, 2024 in Granada Hills, California and online by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Five of the eight Committee Members were present in person: John Ciccarelli, Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck, Wayde Hunter and Natalie Khooda (all in person). Jeanette Capaldi (in person) arrived later. Absent: Julie Newman 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): Lilit Baghumyan and Eugene Tseng; LAUSD District 3: Andrew Modugno; L.A. County Public Works Dept.: Emiko Thompson; ; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Edgar De La Torre and Steven Jareb; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: none; L.A. City Planning Dept.: Claudia Rodriguez and Renata Ooms; L.A. County Supervisor District Three Lindsey Horvath's Office: Savannah Portillo; L.A. County District Five Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office: Natalie Vartanian; L.A. City Councilmember John Lee's Office: Erich King; Also attended in person and online: approximately 30 residents and other guests.

A Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related SCL-CAC and Landfill documents were available in person, at [www.scl-cac.org](http://www.scl-cac.org). Later, Mr. Hunter thanked Laine Caspi for setting up the online technology.

No corrections or amendments were made to the Minutes.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its July 11, 2024 Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote with all five in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Ciccarelli, Fisk, Fleck, Hunter and Khooda); zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair). Mr. Hunter noted that the Vice Chair was running late, and that he was rescheduling officer elections to November meeting.
- Treasurer's Report, July 2024 - August 2024 (Treasurer). Mr. Fleck reviewed the financial report stating that the beginning balance was \$121,122.10 and the ending balance of \$119,843.18. Mr. Hunter noted that there was a copy of the financial report in the Committee's package.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Ciccarelli, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the July 2024 - August 2024 Treasurer's Report as presented.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote with all five in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Ciccarelli, Fisk, Fleck, Hunter and Khooda); 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 all Sunshine Canyon Landfill daily activities, state of infrastructure/gas collection system, notable events including NOVs, current and future disposal operations, wet weather impacts, and efforts to abate odors.

Michael Stewart, 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>] updated as follows:

*Committee Member Jeanette Capaldi arrived in person at this time (3:11), making six Committee Members present in person (the SCL-CAC quorum is five).*

Mr. Stewart made an audio/visual unnumbered slide presentation titled SCL-CAC Update:

**Slides 1 - 4**

He started off with a number of pictures of the Open House that they held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> commenting that it was attended by 75 to 100 persons, that they had informational booths on the observation deck, that Caterpillar who is one of their vendors was there, and the LEA too. They plan to make it an annual event but will hold it in June before it gets too hot.

**Slide 5**

The bypass road has been completed and operational since May. It is paved and has helped to keep dust down and enable them to get the traffic in and out as efficiently as possible and to allow them to get as many runs as possible, to keep the transfer stations as clean as possible.

### **Slide 6**

He noted that they have been constructing Cell CC5-A for the past two months and have about three weeks left before they are done. It is about a 15-acre cell with a bottom-up collection system (gabion cubes) where they can get a vacuum to the cell, and that they will be able to start collecting gas pretty quickly as soon as they start accepting trash, whereas in the past they had to get up to a certain height before they could start drilling vertical wells. They think that this is going to be a great improvement.

### **Slide 7**

Under the title GCCS Expansion, he noted that the gas collection system will end up with 110 new vertical wells at the end of the year, and that they have drilled approximately 90 year to date. They have installed 1,800-feet of header pipe, installed 66 new pumps as needed, and installed approximately 10,000-feet of horizontal collectors. The horizontal collectors are perforated pipes installed over gravel in a 4-foot trench near the working face and other parts of the landfill and are intended to capture any gas not captured by the vertical wells where their last 20 – 30-feet do not have any perforations.

### **Slide 8**

Under Winterization Activities Underway he noted that all of the basins have been cleaned out and regrading completed. Erosion controls such as straw wattles and jute matting have been installed to hold the soil in place and also to allow vegetation to grow through it. They are doing some odor prevention procedures such as Posi-Shell and some mulch to work as a bio-filter which should be done by the end of October, and they should see improvement in our emissions pretty soon.

### **Slide 9 - 10**

Included a picture of the weather monitoring station for the benefit of the attendees describing its approximate location on the landfill and concluded his presentation.

Mr. Fisk noted that in the reports submitted by Republic, that batteries were found, and asked what kind they were and how they were found. Mr. Stewart reported that most batteries found are vehicle batteries; that they can be found by the Scale House's camera system when weighing in, by the "spotters" who direct the trucks where to park and then observe them when dumping, and finally the landfill equipment operators.

Mr. Fisk asked about SB707 Responsible Textile Recovery Act on the Governor's desk and asked if textiles and clothing were a problem at the landfill. Mr. Stewart said not "a lot" of textiles, such as clothing, are found, probably much "less than

1%” of processed waste.” If a truckload of clothing or textiles were to come in, it would be considered a “special waste” and would be rejected and/or would have to be signed off by him. Mr. Hunter commented that he had not seen anything in any of Republic’s reports and stated that he has been going to County Public Works since 2009 and he “didn’t remember anyone ever raising an issue about textiles.”

LAUSD’s Andrew Modugno described challenges to keep odors out of Van Gogh Charter School (school yard and broken A/C units on several classrooms due to the heat), and though water trucks and odorizers should have been used. Mr. Stewart said “we did not have the second water truck ready, and we should have, we’re going to be ready next time.”

Resident Roxie Deukmedjian reported that trucks “always have dust behind them . creating a big nuisance.” Mr. Stewart replied, “We have a vacuum truck that we run when we are in operation, and if we need to increase it we’ll take a look at it.”

Resident Elizabeth Mitev asked do we know why we had NOVs five days in a row. Mr. Stewart noted that, in intense heat (115deg F) from your trash bin to the time that we get it, that trash “breaks down really quick.”

Another resident reported that “every single morning between 5 and 6 a.m., not just the hot days this week” they smelled strong odors. Mr. Stewart replied that “if you are getting odors at that time of morning it is landfill gas,” and that the improvements (as previously iterated) will take care of that.. Resident Michael Hemming said that “ he has been hearing these explanations and excuses for 15 years now: it has been stinking for 15 years. The complaints have skyrocketed in the last few months, and you keep telling the same old story. Why are you not able to run this landfill properly and protect citizens around you for what you are not supposed to do?” Mr. Stewart noted that “in the past couple of months they have done pretty well. I strive to be perfect, but we are not. I don’t want to be up here making excuses for the landfill. With the ongoing “infrastructure” and “operational” improvements the goal is to get to zero... ..we are trying any new technology out there, any new techniques. I don’t want to be a nuisance in anybody’s life”

- 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, any enforcement actions to abate odors, and any other matters within their purview.

Larry Israel, Compliance Supervisor, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; [LIsrael@aqmd.gov](mailto:LIsrael@aqmd.gov); [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov)], reported. Mr. Hunter noted that handouts were available. Mr. Israel reported that, in July, there were 47 odor complaints, and no nuisance violations (NOVs); in August, there were 65 complaints, and no NOVs were issued. He went on to break down the numbers on a daily and weekly

basis, and that the AQMD detected “primarily faint landfill gas odors.” In September, “it is not good.” Up to today (9/14) there were 162 complaints, with five NOV’s [Notices of Violation] issued, the most September complaints since 2016. On the day after Labor Day, September 3<sup>rd</sup> odors were verified at Van Gogh Charter School, “which were distinct sour, rotting trash odors.” A NOV was issued. On the next day, September 4<sup>th</sup> in the evening, odors verified by the Inspector at the landfill and in the community “on a scale of 1 thru 5, ranked them as between 4 and 5, so it was very strong landfill gas odors.” On the 5<sup>th</sup> odors reported including Van Gogh Charter School between 6:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., again trash odors. A NOV was issued. The same thing occurred on the 11<sup>th</sup> including Van Gogh with sour rotting trash odors. A NOV was issued. So far in 2024, there’ve been 1,525 complaints with 46 NOV’s; last year there were 1,720 complaints.

Mr. Ciccarelli asked Mr. Israel if he had any opinion as to why there were so many odors. Mr. Israel responded that “well, I know we’ve had a lot of hot days. I know we’ve heard that trash is being moved out as quickly from the transfer stations that’s been decomposing quickly. But again, I mean, we’ve had hot days before in previous years and maybe we haven’t seen that number in September. I can’t give a specific reason, probably a lot of factors...”

Mr. Modugno stated that “not just the hot days” but the Van Gogh Charter School principal had called three times on Monday, and he knew the AQMD was off on that day and asked if anybody was available. Mr. Israel responded that we have Inspectors on call 24/7. AQMD responses are prompted by at least three calls within one hour. During the week (Tues – Friday) you will always have somebody available.

Mr. Hunter asked Mr. Stewart “have you started doing your ADC on the weekend without dirt? When did you start?” Mr. Stewart replied on August the 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hunter continued, “OK. that was just one question. The reason I’m starting to ask is I had somebody say to me, hey, I was at the entrance to the landfill, and you can see all this stuff up there now, and what, what the heck’s going on? I see you’ve put your access road cut into the old city landfill, OK, near the top of the old City landfill. You’re bringing trucks with trash right by us. OK, those trucks smell, and one of the things is that’s got to be bringing odors to us because before the road wasn’t there, it was down in the canyon. Now you’re sitting up near the crest of the hill. Do you think that that contributes in any way, and have you put misters up there? Have you done anything along there just to make sure to stop the odors?” Mr. Stewart replied that “yeah, we’ve, added extending our missing system to cover that road. And then on the Labor Day weekend, we did a full soil cover because Labor Day we were off. And so, to follow the new guidelines, we gave a full soil cover for the weekend and then peeled it back on Tuesday.”

Mr. Hunter continued saying that “I had a couple of questions about that because I thought that could contribute to the odors, that there’s been an uptick, OK, in the

odors. And I honestly think it just is, again, my opinion. You have a landfill that's supposed to operate. I know you stand up here and apologize for it, but as Mr. Hemming pointed out, he's kind of tired of 15 years of excuses and apologies for it not working because you're not the first landfill manager that we've had here, obviously. And you're supposed to be able to operate in any conditions, and if you can't then you shouldn't be there. And we turn around and we expect the agencies to turn around and do something to mitigate what is going on. Now, I know you're trying to do everything you can, but if everything you can doesn't fix it, then obviously something more drastic has to happen. This community has been begging to get a hearing with the AQMD, because the AQMD, at least we know, will do something if we get a hearing, OK. And I told you my particular thing is you guys shouldn't be opening till 9:00 in the morning, anything, period, end the subject. That's at 9:00., you open. You don't, you don't stack any trucks. You don't do anything till 9:00 in the morning. And you also need to reduce your tonnage because you've added another 1000 tons. You were doing it around about 8400 tons a day. You're up close to 9400 tons a day now. So where did the other 1000 tons come from because the odors are getting worse. And apparently you can't handle it, and if you can't handle it, then the authorities should be coming in here and trying to do something, OK, to put some controls on it, to get you down where it comes under control again, like it did back in 2018 when we had the hearings, and all those things were done. Mr. Hunter pointed to Eugene Tseng and thanked him saying "because I know Eugene was involved in trying to help you guys (Republic) get the improvements, and I think it did come down to 200 and something, it wasn't very many (odor reports). So, we know it can be done, but the way it's going you've added tonnage, and every time it rains, it's sunny, ooh we're having a problem. It's not doing anything for us. So, we need to see the agencies step up and stop playing this game and turn around and do something drastic to bring this landfill under control again. Then you can turn around and do whatever you want, but we can't continue this way. This is the start of our bad season... September. I can show you years' worth. OK, we'll go back forever, and you can see the same pattern. The pattern is repeating right on schedule. Everything's going to hell in a handbasket.

Mr. Israel addressed Roxie Deukmejian's earlier complaint during Mr. Stewart's presentation in which he encouraged contacting AQMD about "track-out and fugitive dust" on San Fernando Road.

Mr. Hunter relayed that resident Meg Volk sent in written comments, which we say (on the agenda will be read into the record if received on time), and they are extensive and she is here, so I will ask her to read them into the record herself

Ms. Meg Volk read her letter saying: *"To the members of the SCL-CAC Board. I would like to share my experiences since the last meeting on July 11, 2024.*

*I attended the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Open House on August 3rd. Most of the attendees were impressed at the marvel of engineering of the landfill and all the*

*measures they are taking to control odors and dust. I had the opportunity at that event to speak with General Manager Michael Stewart regarding what I have been experiencing the past several days. He said that he is literally embarrassed having to make so many excuses for the problems when he speaks in front of the SCL-CAC. He promised he can get those odors under control. Since that day I have called in another 12 times ( and still counting as there are 4 more days until this meeting) on top of the calls I made on 7/18, 7/29 and 7/30. So, whatever they are doing is NOT WORKING!*

*I also spoke with Eugene Tseng who is an expert on landfills and trash in general. He was also a consultant to the LEA (Landfill Enforcement Agency) He pointed out to me exactly where the outgassing was coming from. He stated that he had recommended several additional gas collection measures which had not been followed. He mentioned the cost of these measures was in the millions.*

*The landfill is a for profit business that was reopened/expanded in 1995. They generate huge profits and should be using methods to protect the neighboring communities from landfill gas odors and other toxins. My home is 0.6 miles from the landfill as the crow flies and Van Gogh Charter School is approximately 1 mile away. The frequency of odors at the school is so bad that students cannot go outside for activities.*

*Studies show that a safe distance to live from a landfill is 3.1 miles due to methane gas, eye irritation, and breathing problems etc. . The fact that this landfill re-opened in 1995 is a travesty that was imposed upon neighbors without their consent. The landfill was closed when I moved here in June of 1991. The disclosures stated the plan was to turn it into a nature preserve. My husband and I did extensive research on the community and checked on many other locations before deciding to move here. Imagine how betrayed we felt in 1995 when the City Council voted to re-open/expand. They won by one STINKIN vote, not even a majority. Certainly, the least the operators can do is put some money into the gas collection system to make our lives more palatable.*

*Most of the odors I called about were early morning landfill gas odors. But on August 11th I was awakened due to a horrific pungent burning in my nostrils due to landfill gas at 2:00AM. I had attempted to keep the windows open and use the whole house fan to save on AC costs when we finally had some nights that were cool enough to do so. So, I got up, shut the windows but kept the fan on to get the odor out of the house and called the AQMD. This happened again on August 31st where I took a chance and had the windows open again....but at 2:15AM just like clockwork the landfill gas came wafting into my bedroom forcing me to close the windows again.*

*We were out of town on August 26-29th but on the day of our return this odor was noted again this time at 9:52 PM. Labor Day Weekend was filled with gas odors on Saturday. Sunday and Monday.*

*I have also started calling the Sunshine Canyon Hotline lately. The call was answered the first time by someone in Las Vegas, another time someone in New York and now when I ask where they are located they won't tell me. This is a very meager attempt to appear that the operators really care about the problems. Not once have I ever received a call back. On the other hand, the AQMD calls back after each complaint to give a status report.*

*We have been experiencing a dramatic heat wave during this time frame. Most residents are inside using their AC and the windows are shut. We have a dog so are up walking him early morning and later in the evening. If it seems like the number of calls had lessened, it is NOT because the situation is better. It is because people are indoors. And Van Gogh Charter school was closed in June and re-started August 12th, so no one was there to experience the odor and call it in.*

*Please put some pressure on the landfill operators and/or the AQMD to impose an Order of Abatement. The Order of Abatement was used in 2016 and made a huge difference in reduction of odors.*

*I know that there are new faces on the board who don't know the truth of the problems at hand. But for those of us who have lived here for decades and fought for clean air since 1995 when the dump re-opened/expanded, we know from daily personal experience the problems the landfill has and is still creating.*

*Please learn for yourself how the landfill is supposed to operate and note all the NOV's (Notices of Violation) they have received lately...which means they are not in compliance with what is required. Don't believe everything you hear from the operators and don't let them get away with this for the sake of our health, happiness and the ability for quiet enjoyment of our property.*

*Don't let them keep kicking the can down the road as they have the last several meetings. We literally felt like we were experiencing groundhog day over and over and over again. This board has some power and influence. Please use it for the greater good.*

SCL-LEA's Eugene Tseng stated that "one of the mitigation measures in 2016 Abatement Order was to look at all the mitigation measures, and recently the City passed a mandatory organic ordinance. I was hoping recommended measures could be done three or four years ago . . . ., 20 to 25% is food waste... . make sure you put your food waste into the green bin... ..food waste is the most putrefiable...paper should not be going into the black bin... ..I would ask you as citizens that you really can help... ..the City is the largest single source of organics going to the landfill (Sunshine Canyon Landfill)... .. We estimate that 20% to 25% of all materials of what goes into the Landfill is food waste." He urged everyone to put their waste food into green bins, not trash bins. He said, "Put the paper into the recycling bin." Green bins "are for all organics."

Resident Roxie Deukmejian declared that she did not know about putting organics in the green bin. Mr. Hunter said that City Sanitation (Department) should pay attention because “here is a person impacted by the landfill that doesn’t know the rules have changed,” and went on to describe the use of the bucket the City supplied, that it doesn’t stink in the house but it stinks when you put it in the green bin but explained that you can put grass clippings over the organic matter “to cover it up.” He asked that any City Sanitation person present to please take back, that their campaign to let the public know about what they need to be doing with the green can is not working. Ms. Capaldi commented that the City told people in her area to get a vegetable bag to put the organic garbage in, to stop the stink. Mr. Tseng commented further without the portable microphone, but his comments were unintelligible.

Ms. Elizabeth Mitev asked the AQMD (Mr. Israel) “is there any magic number we are supposed to get to (in order to get a) Notice (Order) of Abatement which we know is not a magic bullet to resolve all the issues we have, but it’s quite obvious from the graph you provided that it does have some sort of positive impact. She also said that “Mr. Terrance Mann had commented that at a previous meeting, that an Abatement Hearing was on the table, but somehow it has been months nothing has happened, and now the position has changed, and the Abatement is not even on the table.....” Mr. Hunter called on Mr. Mann to respond if he was online. He did not respond, and Mr. Hunter said, “he came here, made a very nice speech, said we are going to do something, however been there, done that, nothing happened. I will make sure he gets your question...”

Mr. Hunter stated that “we need to move on, but I think that everybody here including the agencies, can see that folks are starting to get a little bit ticked off about this. We’ve played the game, we want to see something happening, and it’s not happening fast enough.

- 3. Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA)** to report on any areas of concern, NOVs issued, and any other SCL matters within their purview.

Lilit Baghumyan [213-252-3932; [Lilit.Baghumyan@LACity.org](mailto:Lilit.Baghumyan@LACity.org); [www.SCLLEA.org](http://www.SCLLEA.org)], reported that “our role is to inspect Sunshine Canyon Landfill. pursuant to Californian Code of Regulations Title 14 and Title 27.” They’ve not issued any NOVs since the last CAC meeting. They’re still compiling their August report. Their next Board meeting will be in December.

- 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](mailto:Andrew.Modugno@lausd.net)], stated that “ Larry (Israel) has already pointed out

we had four notices (NOVs) where we (Van Gogh Elementary School) called, and as a result NOVs (issued) against Sunshine Canyon Landfill on 9/3, 9/5, 9/6 and 9/9. On 9/9 the a/c broke in the heat. . .We had to get the kids out of the classrooms because there is no filtration, and the odors could get into those classrooms before they were fixed.” He reminded those present that for air quality information, the Clarity Nodes PM 2.5 were available on the LAUSD website for areas around you including additional informational links. He asked Republic if water is being used during peel back to spray down odors and “highly recommended spraying water” during a “peel back ” at the Landfill “on high heat days.”

**5. County Public Works** to report on any SCL matters within their purview to include update of any actions to enforce compliance with the CUP.

Emiko Thompson, Assistant Deputy Director, L.A. County Department of Public Works Environmental Programs Division, [626-458-5163; [ETHompson@dpw.LACounty.gov](mailto:ETHompson@dpw.LACounty.gov); [www.dpw.LACounty.gov](http://www.dpw.LACounty.gov)], reported that the ADC pilot using EnviroCover “began August 10<sup>th</sup> and is expected to continue for one year . . . to explore all mitigation options” regarding odors. . . .note the pilot may be stopped at any time if there are issues or violations of our Public Works requirements. The first monthly report was due September 15<sup>th</sup>. She said, “Public Works will continue to monitor the pilot” and accept public comments. She added,

Mr. Ciccarelli asked, “if the pilot been done anywhere else.” Ms. Tompson replied that “actually EnviroCover is already currently being used Monday through Friday at Sunshine, even before the Saturday pilot commenced. So yes, it has been tested before. So, when it comes to odors, there are several factors that contribute cumulatively to odors, such as seasonal changes, such as the extent to which the existing gas collection and leachate collection systems are adequate, as well as cover so. It’s hard to separate and measure the extent to which just the Saturday’s daily cover, but there are mechanisms to evaluate that. which we plan to do.”

Mr. Fisk stated with respect to the peel back, does the value of that override the fact that the odors are caused when it’s covered? Then you peel it back, then the odors will rise, is there a trade off? Ms. Thompson replied that one of the benefits of the EnviroCover, or as I understand (it), is that it does not require peel back, so it stays in place. But it’s in such. It allows so like when the trucks when dozers go over it, it punctures holes in it so it provides the permeability that it needs for the next layer of trash because you want to be able to have the leachate and gases migrate to the collection systems. But at the same time does not appeal back to where, you know, large volumes of trash is exposed at once.

Mr. Fisk said “So there is other methods beside the EnviroCover that does require a peel back. So, that was my question. Does the value of peel back override the odors that emanate, that are created when it is covered?” Ms. Thompson replied “that’s a good question. That’s the one of the areas we would like to evaluate to

see you know, does the fact that peel back is not occurring, is that significantly contributing to reducing the odors. Mr. Fisk stated that "I would think that would be more valuable time to spend doing that, as opposed to doing the EnviroCover which has been being used for seven years." Ms. Thompson replied that "the one year pilot is intended to look into all of those different scenarios to see truly what has the best effect."

Mr. Hunter and stated that "I heard Michael's comment over here about the peel back", and he then addressed Mr. Stewart saying "according to you, we (Republic) had to use the AC, and we had to stop the dirt cover, the soil that was being put on because when they (the landfill) did a peel back, it caused odors. And yet, at the height of a big problem where you were having odors, and a big problem with odors and heat and stuff, he (you) did a peel back. So, obviously you weighed that, and you had to have that dirt (peel back) was more important to you than leaving it in place and preventing the odors. I think it's what Richard's asking. He's saying, hey, if you peel back, you get odors and yet you made that choice to do that during a period where we've been having problems with the odors. So, you know, you can't have your cake and eat it too. You're supposed to be doing stuff to reduce odors. He (Mr. Stewart) said peel back was a problem, we're going to do ADC, you did ADC, and then you did the peel back. So again, this is just plain bad management. I'm sorry, but that's how I see it,

Mr. Stewart responded that "So, long term, leaving soil in place damages the landfill. We've seen that from the requirement of having to leave it in place from 2010, 2011 until 2015. So, we have parts of the landfill where we cannot adequately recover the gas because there's layers of soil in there that won't let the gas get extracted or the liquid come out. What we're trying to do with the ADC is make it where we can leave it in place and place trash right on top of it. Per the pilot program, this Labor Day weekend, we were not allowed to use EnviroCover, which is fine, which we still are going to peel the soil back, so we don't clog up the system in the future.. Mr. Hunter responded that "at the time that you're referring to (2010, 2011 until 2015) you were putting 9-inches of soil daily, six days a week. They (Republic) were getting 9-inches of soil that caused a problem. We all know that, and that's not being done, you're not doing that anymore. What you are doing is one lousy 6- inches of soil once a week. And now you stop doing that, OK? Because you said.(in) your words, peel back causes the odors. And yet in a big odor problem we're having, you could you made a choice. I'm going to do a peel back anyway because it interferes with the collection of gas. Come on one lousy 6-inches layer of soil in one whole week is not what you were talking about. And what you keep talking about in 2015 and stuff was 9-inches of soil daily. It's not the same thing, and Eugene (Tseng), it isn't the same thing."

Mr. Tseng asked Mr. Stewart if he was referring to the peel back of the closure turf because you don't peel back ADC. Mr. Stewart replied that he was required to peel back on a Monday. Mr. Hunter took exception and said there was no requirement to peel back on a Monday. Mr. Tseng said he wanted to clarify that it

was a Federal and State, local industry standard of 6-inches of soil or alternative that was better. The industry standard is to always peel that back to promote trash to trash contact so the gas and leachate can move. Again, Hunter took exception saying "Wait, you all sold this (pilot project) on peel back causes odors (on Mondays), these people (attendees) are sitting there having odor problems all the time, but we are going to do a peel back... why, because they need the dirt, that's really what the answer is. They need the dirt." A heated discussion ensued between Mr. Hunter and Mr. Tseng which concluded with Mr. Tseng saying that the odors are coming from other areas within the landfill where there is no ADC. Mr. Hunter asked him why they were not doing his (the LEA) recommendations, and that he didn't care if it cost them millions of dollars because they make millions of dollars. Mr. Tseng said that he had just been given a schedule this morning of implementation for most of the LEA recommendations, and that they would be monitoring the recommendations, and that NASA was doing flyovers of the landfill using a new satellite to monitor methane. Mr. Hunter pointed out to the attendees that if he yells he actually considers Eugene a friend.

Mr. Tseng responded to one of the residents that who said that it smells bad saying that "there are a lot of landfills that smell worse." Mr. Hunter stated that "he had looked at the fifteen landfills before the Chiquita Canyon Landfill problem, and this landfill (SCL) was twenty-three and one half (23-1/2) times worse than the other fifteen landfills combined with the 10,750 square miles that the AQMD looks after. What does this tell you about this landfill, what does it tell you about all the violations (NOVs) they are getting. They are a public nuisance.. I'm sorry Eugene if there are a bunch of stinking landfills there are not a lot of people living around them because these guys (Sunshine Canyon Landfill) are the worst...." ....All I am trying to do is to get the agencies of their dead rears and start doing something for these people. I am getting sick of sitting here, and people are sick of sitting out there telling us it stinks, and nothing is happening."

Mr. Fisk asked Mr. Stewart can you tell us. There was a difference of opinion between what Eugene said and what Wayne said. What are you legally required to do? Mr. Stewart replied that "with respect to the dirt cover. If we're not going to be back in that area for greater than 48 hours, we're required to cover it with dirt and then peel it back." Mr. Fisk asked, "are you required to peel it back?" Mr. Stewart replied "yes."

Mr. Fleck So, true then, basically following the protocols mandated by the government, yes, basically, that's what I'm hearing.

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

Steven Jareb, Principal Planner, L.A. County Regional Planning Dept. [213-974-6483; [SJareb@planning.LACounty.gov](mailto:SJareb@planning.LACounty.gov); <http://planning.LACounty.gov>], reported

that Ultra Systems still is assessing and reviewing data. It's expected that they'll finish in late October. He described Regional Planning's role.

- 7. County Public Health Department to report on any SCL matters within their purview.** Motion: Write a letter stating that “the SCL-CAC feels that it is the responsibility of the Los Angeles County Health Department to conduct a medical focused analysis of the data collected to determine what health impacts, both long and short term, are incurred from the odors from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill that detrimentally affect the residents in the surrounding community and to report back, in a timely manner, with those findings.”

No representative was present; there was no report. Mr. Hunter read aloud the below Motion.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Fisk, seconded by Mr. Hunter): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee will write a letter stating that “the SCL-CAC feels that it is the responsibility of the Los Angeles County Health Department to conduct a medical focused analysis of the data collected to determine what health impacts, both long and short term, are incurred from the odors from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill that detrimentally affect the residents in the surrounding community and to report back, in a timely manner, with those findings.”

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote with all six in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Capaldi, Ciccarelli, Fisk, Fleck, Hunter and Khooda); zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

Claudia Rodriguez, Planner, L.A. City Planning Dept. (818-374-9911; [Claudia.Rodriguez@LACity.org](mailto:Claudia.Rodriguez@LACity.org); [www.planning.LACity.org](http://www.planning.LACity.org)), and Renata Ooms, Planner, [Renata.Ooms@LACity.org](mailto:Renata.Ooms@LACity.org)), reported. The air quality monitoring station contract with Sonoma Technologies [Inc., STI] is due to soon expire; RFP bids, requested around two weeks ago, are due by October 21<sup>st</sup>.

- 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.

Savannah Portillo, a Field Deputy for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Lindsey Horvath [office 213-974-3333; [SPortillo@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:SPortillo@bos.LACounty.gov); [ThirdDistrict@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:ThirdDistrict@bos.LACounty.gov); <https://LACounty.gov/government/board-of-supervisors/lindsey-p-horvath>], indicated that she had no report. Natalie Vartanian, a Field & Legislative Deputy for L.A. County District Five Supervisor Kathryn Barger [213-974-5555; <https://kathrynbarger.LACounty.gov/contact-us> or [Kathryn@bos.LACounty.gov](mailto:Kathryn@bos.LACounty.gov); [KathrynBarger.LACounty.gov](http://KathrynBarger.LACounty.gov)], reported that they

will follow up with the County Public Health Dept. Erich King, Deputy Chief of Staff for L.A. City Councilmember John Lee [(818) 882-1212; [Erich.King@LACity.org](mailto:Erich.King@LACity.org); <https://cd12.LACity.gov>], reported that “there’s an additional capital improvement project” at San Fernando Road and Balboa Blvd.

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

Resident Elizabeth Mitev asked “is there anything specific you’re looking for” regarding issuing the Landfill an Order for Abatement. She added, “You definitely said it was an option.” Terrance Mann, AQMD Deputy Executive Officer for Compliance and Enforcement, replied that “we reached a point . . . Everything we wanted the Landfill to do . . . They agreed to do everything . . . What we’ve seen for the last week or so . . . is unacceptable . . . There will be . . . an Order for Abatement . . . We are moving forward down the road to an Order for Abatement . . . We are undergoing that process now . . . We’re going to try to help this community the best we can.” Resident Ralph Kroy said “giving them a fine doesn’t really help . . . When are you going to go after them in the courts? . . . I’m speaking of the President or Vice-President of the Landfill.” Mr. Mann replied, “as a former federal prosecutor . . . Civil lawsuits is how we would proceed . . . Nothing is off the table . . . We will use every tool that is available . . . We’re not going anywhere . . . We’ll be there . . . We’re going to make use of” [an Order for Abatement]. Resident William Huntley reported that homeowners are having their homeowners insurance cancelled “because there’s so much dirt on our roofs and it’s from the Landfill.” Ms. Deukmedjian said, “we have dust on our windowsills on a daily basis.”

#### **E. Set next meeting date (November 14, 2024).** Adjourn meeting if 5:00 p.m. for City, County and State participants.

Mr. Hunter noted the above.

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

Mr. Hunter indicated that there was no more discussion.

Mr. Hunter declared, and the Committee agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 4:56 p.m.

The entire meeting can be viewed at: [https://youtu.be/s3TbF1XB\\_As](https://youtu.be/s3TbF1XB_As)

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>.