

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES OF HYBRID* MEETING, Thursday, September 11, 2025
Center for Spiritual Living, 17622 Chatsworth St., Granada Hills, CA 91344 and online
Approved November 13, 2025

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

A. Call to Order, Roll Call by Notetaker, and Approval of May 8, and July 10, 2025 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 3:01 p.m. on September 11, 2025 in Granada Hills, California and online by Chair Wayde Hunter. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. Four of the seven Committee Members were present in person: Jeanette Capaldi, Richard Fisk, Larry Fleck and Wayde Hunter. Absent: John Ciccarelli, Julie Newman and Jennifer Yoo. A quorum of at least four (there were four) Committee Members was present. Two Committee Member openings were available. Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Michael Stewart and Michael Maglioni; SCAQMD (South Coast Air Quality Management District): Larry Israel and Terrance Mann; SCL-LEA (Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency): Dave Thompson and Eugene Tseng; L.A. County Public Health Dept.: Alberto Rivadeneyra; L.A. County Public Works Dept.: Michael Harmon; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Phillip Chen; L.A. County Supervisor District Three Lindsey Horvath's Office: Emily Ellison; L.A. County District Five Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office: Natalie Vartanian; L.A. City Councilmember John Lee's Office: Erich King; L.A. City Planning Dept.: Renata Ooms; LAUSD District 3: Andrew Modugno; State 40th District Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo and her Field Representative Jenna Sickenius; and Congressman George Whitesides' Office: Shannon Hurst. Also attended in person and online: approximately 21 in-person residents and other guests, and others online. A Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related SCL-CAC and Landfill documents were available in person and at www.scl-cac.org, and slides were shown.

No corrections or amendments were made to the May 8th Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Fleck, seconded by Mr. Hunter): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its May 8, 2025 Meeting.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote of the four eligible voters present with all four in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

The following corrections were made to the July 10th Minutes: page one, Item #A, "Reneta Ooms" should be "Renata Ooms"; page five, Item #C. 8., "Rhonda Owens . . . Rhonda.Owens@LACity.org" should be "Renata Ooms . . . Reneta.Ooms@LACity.org."

MOTION (by Mr. Fleck, seconded by Mr. Hunter): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its July 10, 2025 Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote of the four eligible voters present with all four in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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

- Outstanding administrative matters (Chair/Vice Chair). Officer elections if sufficient members in attendance.

Mr. Hunter indicated that there were not enough Committee members present to hold elections. Ms. Capaldi indicated that she had no report.

- Treasurer’s Report, July - August 2025 (Treasurer).

Mr. Fleck reviewed the “SCL-CAC FINANCIAL STATEMENT 07/01/2025 - 08/31/2025.” The “Business Checking Account (for Expenses) 1234” beginning balance was \$7,006.15. Three checks were written on that account: \$655 for the May 8th Meeting space; \$324.14 for reimbursing Mr. Hunter for out-of-pocket expenses for food, drink and copies for the July 10th Meeting; and \$410 for March 13th Meeting Minutes writing. Total deductions were \$1,389.14; the ending balance was \$5,617.01. The “Business Savings Account (for Consultants) 1582” beginning balance was \$67,467.08; \$2.25 in interest was accrued; the ending balance was \$67,469.33. The “Business Checking Account (for Consultants) 9514” beginning balance was \$40,000.00; a deposit of \$8,883.05 was made; the ending balance was \$48,883.05. There was \$100 in Petty Cash. There were \$0 in Other Assets. The total beginning balance for all accounts as of July 1, 2025 was \$114,573.23; debits were \$1,389.14 and deposits were \$8,885.30; the total ending balance for all accounts was \$122,069.39 as of August 31, 2025, per Mr. Fleck.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Fisk): the Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the July and August, 2025 Treasurer’s Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent of the four eligible voters present with all four in favor; 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, NOVs, current and future disposal operations, wet weather impacts, and efforts to abate odors including receipt and handling of fire-related debris.

Michael Stewart, General Manager, BFI/Republic [24-hour Landfill hotline 818-779-9170; main 818-362-2124; Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com; <http://SunshineCanyonLandfill.com>] introduced his colleague Michael Maglioni. Mr. Stewart showed slides and reported regarding Fires debris that the Army

Corps of Engineers portion of the mission ended in late August. Essentially, 90% of it was soil; dirt was added on top. He described cell construction. Ninety-eight of 130 planned cells are completed. He described the difference between radioactive material detection at the transfer station versus at the Landfill. Mr. Hunter wanted to know how trees (eucalyptus?) could grow on five-foot deep soil when at least 15 to 20 feet are required; they might be considered when an otherwise barren Landfill closes in 2037. They're working to implement microbial material and finish installing the gas collection system as soon as possible.

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

Larry Israel, Supervising Inspector, SCAQMD [909-396-2370; LIsrael@aqmd.gov; www.aqmd.gov], reported that, in July, there around 101 complaints, the most ever in July; the four NOV's [Notices of Violation] issued were also the most issued in a July. Around 64 of the complaints were in the evening or before 7:00 a.m. In August, there were 183 complaints, around 98 in the early evening to before 7:00 a.m.; four more NOV's were issued. So far in September, there were 67 complaints, 44 in early evening to 7:00 a.m., and two NOV's issued. He gave complaint details. So far in 2025, there've been 1,529 complaints made and 44 NOV's issued. There was a Rule 403 dirt trackout violation August 21st. He said that, "last year, the total was 2,200 complaints and 65 violations, and the year before was 1,700 complaints in 2023, and 61 nuisance violations issued. So, from 2023 to the present, that's 170 notices of violation for nuisance and over 5,400 complaints received by South Coast Air Quality." At the September 3rd Order for Abatement Hearing, there was public testimony and it was voted to approve continuing the Order for Abatement.

Resident Roxie Deukmejian asked why Republic did not pay the \$10,000 per NOV fine. Terrance Mann, AQMD Deputy Executive Officer for Compliance and Enforcement, from online said that violation fines can be up to \$10,000 and that "a lot goes into the settlement process . . . California Health and Safety law requires the consideration of other factors."

Long-time resident Meg Volk wanted her following emailed statement to be included in the Meeting Minutes:

"Members of the SCL-CAC Board:

Since the last meeting on July 10th, 63 days ago I have reported odors on 28 days. That is 44% of all the days since the last meeting. Since the order of Abatement on March 17th I have reported odors 47 times in 115 days. That is 40% of all days that had odors.

I have had to close my windows on all those occasions even when it was cool outside as the pungent putrid odors come into my bedroom window located

less than 0.5 miles from the landfill as the crow flies. I then have to use my Air Conditioner to sleep comfortably. My last 2 power bills have been astronomically high. It was \$949 from June 24- August 23 and is highest from 8PM to 10AM when normally the AC would not be necessary.

I think the operators should create a Stench Fund like Supervisor Kathryn Barger helped launch for the Chiquita Canyon Residents. They each received \$1000 per household for increased utility bills or relocation expenses. Why should we suffer and pay these high fees while they continue to make huge profits and acquire the locations around the country.

We are now being asked to wait while they experiment with organic solutions. In the process of examining these solutions several halogenated hydrocarbons known to be carcinogenic were found. These are known to cause damage to the nervous system and cause respiratory irritation.

Odors are up, complaints are up. We are tired of being the monitor for one of the largest landfills in the country. Our daily lives are interrupted, our sleep is disturbed and God only knows what we are breathing in. I personally have had a lung infection since last November. I still have bacterial clusters in my lower lobes and a constant hoarseness. I consider myself fit and healthy practicing Pilates and/or Yoga and walking the dog on a daily basis and yet I too have been affected. Others have breathing difficulties, asthma, COPD. Some families have moved out of the area because there is no resolution even with this current Order of Abatement.

The landfill operators have been violating our right to the safe and quiet enjoyment of our homes, parks and schools. Our health should not be collateral damage to landfill mismanagement.”

AQMD staffer Angela Shibata showed a slide stating that “to ensure that the landfill gas generated at Sunshine Canyon Landfill is collected and controlled, Sunshine Canyon Landfill is proposing to increase the permitted site-wide landfill gas combustion limit. This will be accomplished by constructing and operating additional landfill gas flares and additional electric landfill gas blowers at the Landfill. No component of this proposed project will expand the landfill capacity or increase the amount of waste that can be accepted on a daily, monthly, or annual basis.” She further described a Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) and draft Permit review; to comment, contact Jenny Loh at JLoh@aqmd.gov with “Sunshine Canyon Notice” in the subject line.

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

Dave Thompson, this year’s SCL-LEA Program Manager, [213-252-3932; David.Thompson@LACity.org; www.SCLLEA.org], reported that NOVs were issued. Probe 245B is at 7%; the regulatory standard is under 5% and is now

under review. A wet weather plan is due from the Landfill and will be posted online.

- b. Provide brief update on the September 3, 2025 AQMD Hearing on the progress of implementation of the AQMD Stipulated Order of Abatement of Odors 3448-18 which was approved on March 19, 2025

Dr. Eugene Tseng, an environmental engineer and attorney working for the LEA [818-889-8628; ETseng@aol.com; www.SCLLEA.org], showed slides and reported that it took around seven months to implement the original Abatement Order, which implements the latest national and international practices; he expects odor improvements soon. He said there “are basically the six reasons that I'm finding that there's odors, because first of all, there's so much construction related to the new disposal cell. And there's lots of design changes and cell sequencing issues that I'll cover. Second, they are doing a lot of trenching for horizontal collectors, which increases the efficiency of the gas collection system. And then third, they're putting in 130 to 135 new wells. I think Michael said they're at about 96 right now, so at least another month. And then because of the rain, we had long-term damage or erosion to the intermediate cover, which is really essential to the efficient operation of the landfill gas system. So, if you want to know why you have smells at night, it's because the landfill gas is escaping. At night, the temperature is lower, the barometric pressure is lower, so more gas tends to escape from the surface of the Landfill.

And then one of the really innovative things that's being done now is we're installing waffles or pancakes along with what we call bottom-up wells. We don't wait 'til there's 100 feet of trash. And then before you put a well in, we're putting wells in from the bottom up before the trash even goes in. So as soon as trash goes in, we can start collecting gas. And another source of odors is the leachate seeps. And that's basically the moisture or the infiltration of the water, the rainfall, and it's coming out the sides of the landfill. So how do I know this is going to work? Well, it's based on past history of all the successful things that were done in 2016 and 2017. So, we've incorporated all those things into the current Abatement Order. And since that was 2016-17, we've had about eight to nine years of additional research and industry practices at the federal, international, or local level. So, everything I could find new has been incorporated into this Abatement Order. And this Abatement Order is a collaborative effort between our LEA, Republic, and AQMD. So, we started literally in November, October-November of 2024, to draft this Abatement Order. So, I expect pretty significant improvements one to two months right after all the wells are put in. The smells at night are probably the most disgusting, but that is landfill gas. And you have to understand; all Landfills have to operate under positive pressure. That means, by law, we have to let landfill gas come up through the surface of the landfill. You don't want to apply too much vacuum, because you would be sucking air into the landfill, and that will cause an underground fire, and you don't want that.” They may even “reduce reliance on landfills.” He said they're making BFI use “wet weather

practices year-round.” The Landfill has three drilling rigs operating simultaneously, which he’s never seen before. Dr. Tseng finished by noting that the AQMD can send notification of SEIR for additional flares.

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 two NOVs were issued at Van Gogh Charter School and one NOV was issued at El Oro Way Elementary School. The LAUSD is proposing to replace the school’s air monitor by early next year.

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 including reports of receipt of fire-related debris.

Michael Harmon, Sr. Civil Engineering Asst., L.A. County Dept. of Public Works [626-458.6986; MHarmon@dpw.LACounty.gov; www.dpw.LACounty.gov], reported that BFI submitted a report that is being reviewed regarding the ADC [Alternative Daily Cover] pilot. Monitoring and reporting were continuing. He said, “as you heard, approximately 386,000 tons of material was delivered to Sunshine, primarily from the Eaton Fire area. And in relation to the other Landfills, that is about 14% of all the debris that was disposed of from these disaster areas. We have Calabasas receiving around 10% of that material, Simi Valley taking the lion's share at around 71%, and Azusa Land Reclamation at 5%. Currently, the Board's waiver for the expanded tonnage at Landfill for this disaster debris is set to expire next month.”

Ms. Volk said “I'm just curious why Simi Valley would get the lion's share. Is there any reason that you're aware of why they would get so much of the fire debris?” Mr. Harmon replied that “Simi Valley is outside the county area out of LA County, and they do have different permit requirements. They also did not have a similar maximum capacity requirement as the local Landfills do. So, their proximity to the Palisades area primarily was the contributing factor to why they received so much material.” Ms. Volk asked “in addition, is there anything about the fact that they're not located in a community of homes so that they wouldn't impact people that lived in the area because it's really isolated over there off Madera.” Mr. Harmon replied that “Correct, yeah. That may have affected it.” Ms. Volk concluded, “And they've never had any complaints or issues that I'm aware of and I've been researching it.”

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

Phillip Chen, Planner, L.A. County Regional Planning Dept. [213-974-6483; PChen@planning.LACounty.gov; <http://planning.LACounty.gov>], reported that they “continue to conduct monthly inspections.”

- 7. County Public Health Department** to report on any matters within their purview including any additional health impacts resulting from taking fire-related debris at SCL.

Alberto Rivadeneyra, Public Health Nurse of the Department's Office of Environmental Justice and Climate Health, reported virtually that a community health complaints phone number is available. He stated that "we are planning also on providing the Committee with updates on the number of complaints that are received." Mr. Hunter stated that "the issue was raised at the Abatement hearing on September 3rd as to whether or not the community had requested a health study at Sunshine Canyon Landfill. And at the time, I didn't have the proof. However, I will be submitting our previous request to County Health, asking from this Committee, asking for a health study to be made. So, I just want to give you a heads-up. You guys may be getting a call from somebody to do actually do something."

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

Renata Ooms, Planner, L.A. City Planning Dept. (818-374-9911; Renata.Ooms@LACity.org; www.planning.LACity.org), reported virtually that STI [Sonoma Technologies Inc.] is "setting up a new third [monitoring] station . . . sometime this month."

- 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.

Erich King, Deputy Chief of Staff for L.A. City Councilmember John Lee [(818) 882-1212; Erich.King@LACity.org; <https://cd12.LACity.gov>], reported regarding San Fernando Road widening that a contract was in development; construction may begin "we hope sometime early next year." Mr. Hunter requested that intersections be made of concrete, not asphalt. Mr. King replied that "concrete streets – the City doesn't do that anymore." Mr. Fisk recommended that the City seek federal funding.

State 40th District Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo said that "we have to act as quickly as possible with Sunshine." She sponsored legislation to require Landfills to quickly act to prevent fires such as is happening at Chiquita Canyon Landfill. She reported that health problems from residents of that Landfill area "are a huge concern to" her, saying "I would like to hear more from community members . . . to address the issues that are happening." She encouraged email comments on Landfill odor problems, health issues, additional utilities costs, etc. (see this meeting's video) to be sent to Jenna Sickenius, a Field Representative for Assemblywoman Schiavo [Jenna.Sickenius@asm.ca.gov; (661) 286-1565; a40.asmdc.org]. The Assemblywoman said that "we cannot have another Chiquita Canyon over at Sunshine." A community benefits fund "would seem to

be beneficial here.” She understood that resident Roxie Deukmejian and others are paying very high utility bills to keep out odors and emissions.

Emily Ellison, Associate Policy Deputy for Supervisor Horvath (EEllison@bos.LACounty.gov), encouraged contacting her for help. 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; KathrynBarger.LACounty.gov], reported that a community benefits fund was required for Chiquita Canyon Landfill; a lawsuit is “still ongoing” regarding that funds’ distribution. Shannon Hurst, a Field Deputy for U.S. 27th District of California Congressman George Whitesides [ofc. 661-568-4855; Shannon.Hurst@mail.house.gov; <https://whitesides.house.gov>], reported that the Congressman “is very aware of the issue that’s happening at Sunshine.”

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

There were no Committee Member or public comments at this time.

E. Set next meeting date (November 13, 2025).

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.

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 video recording of this meeting is at <https://youtu.be/Hgig1dwxW0Y>. The SCL-CAC Meeting Minutes page is <http://scl-cac.org/agendas-minutes>.