

**SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL – COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**Thursday, January 10, 2013, 3:00 p.m.**

Knollwood Country Club, 12024 Balboa Boulevard, Granada Hills, CA 91344

Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee Members: Maria Armoudian, Ken Ashford, Becky Bendikson (Chair), Jeanette Capaldi, Gale Gundersen, Wayde Hunter (Vice Chair and TAC Alt.), Josh Jordahl (Treasurer and TAC Representative) and Joe Vitti.

**A. Call to Order, Roll Call and Approval of November 1, 2012 Minutes.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becky Bendikson at 3:04 p.m. Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. SCL-CAC Members present: Becky Bendikson, Gale Gundersen, Josh Jordahl and Wayde Hunter. Late: Jeanette Capaldi. Absent: Maria Armoudian, Ken Ashford and Joe Vitti. Initially, only four Members of the needed five for a quorum were present. Ms. Bendikson noted that the Meeting would continue to hear presentations, but would not take any votes until a quorum was present.

Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Anthony Bertrand and Patti Acosta; SCAQMD: David Jones, Larry Israel and Jill Wynot; SCL-LEA: Wayne Tsuda, Gerry Villalobos and David Thompson; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: Iris Chi; L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich's Office: Jarrod DeGonia; L.A. City Council District 12 Office: Nicole Bernson; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; LAUSD District 3: none. Also attending: 25 residents and guests.

*The following Motion was made after Item #E with a quorum present.*

**MOTION** (by Ms. Capaldi, seconded by Mr. Jordahl): The Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of its November 1, 2012 Meeting pending ratification at its next Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote with no objections.

**B. Old Business, discussion and possible action:**

• **Outstanding administrative matters (Chair).**

Ms. Bendikson asked everyone to sign in, though members of the public may remain anonymous, and noted that literature and Speaker Cards were available. Mr. Hunter distributed an information package to Committee Members and made copies available to the public that included a Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related landfill documents.

• **Treasurer's Report (Treasurer).**

Mr. Jordahl, Treasurer, reviewed SCL-CAC bank balances. As of December 31, 2012 the checking account balance was \$3,910.84; the Consultants Account balance was \$3,511.27; the savings account balance was \$89,306.89; and the petty

cash balance was \$100. "Total Assets" were \$96,909.19. He noted that the Committee had just received checks from Mr. Bertrand for the annual \$20,000 for consulting and \$6,000 for expenses, totaling \$26,000 which had been due in October.

**C. New Business.** Discussion and possible Committee Motions and action to address the following:

**1. Browning-Ferris Industries/Republic Services Inc (BFI/Republic) report on Sunshine Canyon Landfill (SCL) activities and operations.**

Anthony Bertrand, BFI/Republic Area Environmental Manager, reported that David Cieply had transferred out of the area in order to be with his family back east. Eight new cells will be constructed near the scale house from February – October, with operations starting soon after. He described planned 2013 projects. Front entrance development is "probably a three-year" project in phases, with the first phase starting this Spring, to be finished by October. They are "installing an off-site sewer line" along San Fernando Road "to the front entrance of the landfill . . . right now the site doesn't have an emergency backup system." They hope to complete the Chatsworth Mitigation Program in 2013. The City's sage mitigation program will be started by February and take 30-60 days. In 2012 BFI/Republic installed more than ten miles of piping to improve the infrastructure and installed a new flare; there are now five operating flares and another will be installed. They doubled in 18 months the number of extraction wells, there was an 83% production increase.

*Note: Committee Member Jeanette Capaldi arrived at this time, making a quorum of five Committee Members. Now the Committee could take binding votes on Agendized Items.*

BFI/Republic has continued installing horizontal collectors every 40 feet "to help catch [the] gas extraction." They are installing more liquid pumping wells "to eliminate the issue [of] collecting the liquids." They have been doing "on-site" and "neighborhood odor patrols . . . finding that there are very little odors." Of the 1,100 odor complaints received in November, 39, or 3.5%, were confirmed. They are "not finding that there are any more odors that are distinct or long-lasting"; the equipment appears "to be doing its job."

Committee Member Gale Gundersen took exception to the statement that the equipment appears to be doing its job, saying that 1,485 odor reports were made; it is still a problem. There was a discussion of the significance of the statistics; there seemed to be a tacit agreement that the odor problem is "better than it was a year ago." Mr. Bertrand said that the odor team "tries to be there when they get calls." There are odor patrols from 6:00-10:00 a.m., 4:00-8:00 p.m. and 8:00-11:00 p.m. There was discussion among the Committee and the audience about whether the decreased amount of odor complaints means there is an improved odor situation, that people have given up calling to complain, or a lack of education of who to call. Mr. Bertrand described the "Nasal Ranger" scientific instrument to

measure odors; he will advise on the make and model. Most calls to the SCAQMD are coordinated with the Landfill; there can be up to a four-hour time between the complaint call and reporting from the SCAQMD to the Landfill.

**2. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to report on SCL odor complaints received including charts of year-to-date, the status of their Stipulated Order of Abatement, and any other matters within their purview.**

Jill Wynot, of the SCAQMD Engineering Compliance Division, reported for Ed Pupka that in November there were 92 complaints; “most of those were landfill gas . . . [that] resulted in two Notices of Violations” [NOV’s]. In December there were 139 complaints and four NOV’s. The December complaints represented “a very small decrease” compared to 2011. The Landfill is “meeting or exceeding the requirements of the Abatement Order.” Attendees expressed frustration that odors continue and there is no indication of when they will stop. Ms. Wynot noted that complaints can include mild and strong detections, and that reports are available through a Public Records Act request. Mr. Israel pointed out that the Order of Abatement requires odor patrols Mondays-Fridays 7:00-9:00 a.m. and “doesn’t specify the number of patrollers. Ms. Wynot added an “inter-agency task force meets every couple of months” to discuss abatement measures. She requested help to increase outreach.

**3. Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) to report on SCL inspections carried out and other matters within their purview.**

CSL-LEA Supervisor David Thompson announced that the Program Manager is now Wayne Tsuda. Since November 1<sup>st</sup>, they issued nine inspection reports and no violations.

Committee Member Mr. Hunter stated that he wanted the Joint Technical Document (JTD) to be reviewed and expressed strong opposition to the “front entrance development” that Mr. Bertrand spoke of in Item #C. 1. Mr. Bertrand indicated that the work was within the landfill footprint and that only Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) approval was needed. He indicated that trees would screen the trucks, to which Mr. Hunter stated that the SCL-CAC had not received any drawings and requested that they be supplied. Mr. Bertrand agreed. Mr. Hunter contended that “neither the City nor the County fully reviewed the Document.” Mr. Tsuda confirmed that “what Mr. Hunter said is true; the City and County did not process the solid waste facilities permit; the LEA did . . . this item does need to be studied . . . I will come back the next time; in the meantime, we will study it.” Mr. Hunter stated that Mr. Bertrand and BFI “are following the plan” that was in place before Mr. Bertrand became the General Manager; the problem is the City and County have not reviewed “the front entrance development.” Nicole Bernson, Deputy Chief of Staff for L.A. City District 12 Councilman Mitch Englander (213-473-7012; Nicole.Bernson@LACity.org), stated that “it was done . . . without considering our [City] comments.” There was agreement that the plan (JTD) “went straight to the State.” Mr. Thompson said that

the LEA will work with different agencies to ensure that “what the Landfill is doing is what’s been approved.”

**4. City and County Planning Departments to report on SCL matters within their purview.**

The County’s Iris Chi indicated that she had no report. No City Planning representative was present.

**5. 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, further discussion and action will be agendized for another meeting.**

No other representative spoke.

**D. Public comment on items not on the Agenda.**

Tania Soto, Representative for State 39th District Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra (818-504-3911; Tania.Soto@asm.ca.gov), introduced herself and offered assistance. Mr. Bertrand added that State Water Board (RWQCB)-required quarterly testing will be done of treated effluent liquid that is “much more stringent than what’s put in the sewer.” There was discussion of the need to confirm, clarify and contrast different agencies’ statistics. Ms. Wynot agreed and can do this.

**E. Set next meeting date and adjourn main Meeting.**

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be here March 7, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Bendikson declared and it was agreed to ADJOURN the Meeting at 4:58 p.m.

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

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

- Status Republic funding for continuing operations and 2013 budget.

This discussion was convened at 5:14 by Mr. Hunter. There was brief discussion of the yearly monies which were received late from BFI/Republic Services, the possibility of requesting changes to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to change the accounting period and also to request additional funds to be placed into the expenses account to cover increased costs.

Mr. Hunter declared and it was agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Minutes by David Levin, Note Taker.

**Approved by Committee March 7, 2013.**