

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

Thursday, July 11, 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 May 2, 2013 Minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Becky Bendikson at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Bendikson explained meeting procedures. Mr. Hunter distributed to Committee Members an information packet that included a Balance Sheet, Reconciliation Detail and other related Landfill documents, and copies were made available to the public. (See <http://SCL-CAC.org>.) Roll Call was taken by the Note Taker. SCL-CAC Members present: Becky Bendikson, Jeanette Capaldi, Josh Jordahl, Wayde Hunter and Joe Vitti. Late: Maria Armoudian. Absent: Ken Ashford and Gale Gundersen. A quorum of at least five Committee Members was present.

Landfill and government representatives present: BFI/Republic Services: Anthony Bertrand and Michael Stevens; SCAQMD: Ed Pupka, Larry Israel, and David Jones;; SCL-LEA: David Thompson, Gerry Villalobos, Wayne Tsuda and Eugene Tseng; L.A. County Regional Planning Dept.: none; L.A. County Supervisor Mike Antonovich's Office: none; L.A. City Council District 12 Office: Millie Jones; L.A. City Planning Dept.: none; LAUSD District 3: none. Also attending: 18 residents and guests.

B. Old Business.

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

After conducting the opening, and having introductions around the horseshoe the Chair asked Mr. Hunter if he had any outstanding administrative matters to address. He did not.

• **Treasurer's Report (Treasurer).**

Mr. Jordahl reviewed balances and explained that income since the previous meeting was \$22,106.07. The total balance is \$120,201.80.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Capaldi): The Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee approves the July 11, 2013 Treasurer's Report as presented.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with no objections.

C. New Business.

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

Mr. Bertrand, BFI/Republic Area General Manager, distributed copies of “a summary briefing” about the “Proposed Sunshine Canyon Landfill Proposed Sewer Construction in San Fernando Road.” He explained that it would be “another place to store liquids on site” and go “from the entrance on San Fernando . . . almost to the Balboa Blvd. overpass . . . almost 2,200 feet . . . Our goal is to get it done this year . . . with the least amount of impact on San Fernando Road.” Information is available at (800) 926-0607 and Info@SunshineCanyonLandfill.com. They anticipate finishing cell construction in October and are working to “re-establish the native vegetation . . . it was substantially completed at the end of May.” They intend to complete that “by early next year.”

Committee Member Maria Armoudian arrived at this time.

Mr. Bertrand said that the front entrance berm design was submitted to the Water Board; see their website for information. BFI will install a “side slope collector . . . to help control . . . emissions that may come out of the slope . . . where we can’t get a vertical well.” In May they made “1,536 total observations . . . in 1,504 we did not detect any odors.” Odors detected were “very faint, very fleeting.” He introduced Brown & Caldwell representatives Michael Yacyshyn and Lisa Skutecki, who distributed “Sunshine Canyon Landfill Independent Environmental Monitor” (IEM) and “Independent Environmental Monitor Community Advisory Committee Presentation” handouts and related their extensive engineering experience. They were “approved by the AQMD” to be the “role of environmental monitor. Staff is “in the field seven days a week . . . their shifts are around four hours long.” Their schedule is Saturdays 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Sundays 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; and Mondays-Fridays 4:00 -8:00 p.m. They use a “Nasal Ranger” to help upload and prepare reports submitted to the AQMD. Mr. Mohajer from the public posed a series of questions to Mssrs. Bertrand & Yacyshyn covering fires, and outreach. Mr. Hunter officially requested that the CAC receive copies of those monthly reports. Mr. Yacyshyn said that “landfill odors were detected in under 4% of the operations . . . they’re steadily declining.” Their 24-hour hotline is (818) 779-9170.

Stakeholder Andrea Provenzale reported that sometimes the hotline has not worked and that recently, again, odors have been “strong.” Stakeholder Skye Michaels reported that “most of the horrible smells have been late at night and early in the morning . . . seven and eight and nine are the worst times.” Mr. Bertrand reminded that machine monitors are also monitoring in addition to the staff. He said that “most of our calls are between nine and midnight . . . we have staff out there.” Data comparisons are year-to-year, not month-to-month, for example, July 2012 to July 2013, not July 2013 to August 2013. He noted that the “lining system” is eight inches thick and “above the previous landfill estimated in the 50’s without a liner. The only “surface fire” at the Landfill he knows of was in late May – early June and was “mitigated” within one hour. Monitors “look for potential indicators” of a fire, such as smoke, which can happen when there’s “oxygen intrusion.” Well measurements are routinely taken; there was no indication that the surface fire was underground. In Mr. Yacyshyn’s experience, BFI is “doing as much or more” than other landfills to mitigate problems. Mr.

Bertrand said “we notify immediately the LEA . . . we also have to notify the AQMD.” Mr. Pupka added that “this is part of the Order for Abatement.”

2. South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to report on 2012 metrics comparing SCL with other landfills, SCL odor complaints received including charts of year-to-date, and any other matters within their purview.

Larry Israel of the SCAQMD reported that they “did an integrated survey in the beginning of May . . . we did not . . . detect anything that exceeded requirements . . . out of 46 complaints received in May . . . four were verified. In June 62 complaints were received; 19 were verified . . . on June 11th there was a Notice of Violation issued . . . for . . . trash odors . . . of the total 11 received on that day . . . six were verified . . . In July we have received 18 complaints so far; 11 have been verified.” On July 8th they received seven complaints; four were verified. Mr. Pupka explained that the AQMD is responding to complaints; an interagency committee “has additional recommendations.” He distributed and reviewed an “Odor Complaints / Landfill Comparison: Calendar Year 2012” and explained how the Sunshine Canyon Landfill “compares with other landfills operating in the District.” Ms. Provenzale from the audience questioned the veracity of Brown & Caudwell’s statements claiming that she has to keep her windows closed at night because she knows nobody will come if she calls, that she is a prisoner in her own home, and that the neighbors have seen them and that they (B&C) have never talked to them or asked them questions. Mr. Pupka deferred to Mr. Tsuda and his presentation.

3. Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) to report on the recommendations of the SCL Interagency Task Force on Community Odor Mitigation, on SCL inspections carried out, and other matters within their purview.

David Thompson, SCL-LEA Program Supervisor, reported that they’ve “continued to do daily monitoring” and “worked with the Landfill operator.”

Wayne Tsuda, Program Manager, said “in both cases, the LEA was out there in minute” after the recent “small” fire and a smoldering incident. He said “it’s not a risk to the public . . . it was put out right away.” Mr. Tsuda summarized the recommendations of the SCL Interagency Task Force in a letter to the SCL-LEA Board dated July 27, 2013 which had been canceled. He noted that “12 distinct odors have been identified . . . there are landfill gas odors and fresh trash odors.” He urged attending LEA Board Meetings (see www.SCL-LEA.org). Mr. Tsuda said “we believe that some of the Landfill gas may be emitting through the 12” cover . . .” Mr. Hunter, as President of the North Valley Coalition, wrote a letter advising the LEA “that certain steps be taken immediately” regarding Landfill operations, especially “the odor problem.” He noted that there was not a quick fix, and that no single agency could address all of the problems. He said the next SCL-LEA meeting would be August 29, 2013 at City Hall. Mr. Michaels asked if there was going to be any tonnage limits, and when and if there was going to be anything done. Mr. Tsuda said it was up to the individual agencies to established a time frame.

Mr. Hunter explained that he had sent a letter to the SCL-LEA as President of the NVC and its basic contents. He also acknowledged Mr. Williams earlier comments regarding setting limits, and said that he had asked for tonnage limits to be imposed. ~~Mr. Mohajer, as a member of the public, offered his opinion of the use of mitigation measures and “dirt” (daily 12” of daily soil cover) is in the CEQA documents, and must be complied with, and its impacts on the odors and gas generation claiming that the Interagency Task Force is not correct in its assessment.~~ Mr. Mohajer was recognized by the Chair at the September meeting. He commented on the July Minutes, and he clarified statements that were made at that meeting. After reading portions he stated that they were not correct. He said that what he did say was two (2) things:

1. The use of daily cover when there’s odors present, it is stipulated by the project’s existing documents, and as long as odor is present, and the operators or the agencies want to use something other than soil then they have to amend the existing CEQA.
2. A statement was made by Mr. Tsuda, that because of the soil cover the density of the material has increase, and that’s possibly more gas. And I questioned that, that inert material would generate more gas.

Eugene Tseng of the LEA presented slides and described the “proposed cell development” in an “ancient landslide” site that the Regional Water Quality Control Board approved. They are finishing a review with the L.A. City Building & Safety Dept., including “whether the proposed buttress is sufficient to retain the solid materials.” The LEA “will post all the information on the website.” In closing, Mr. Tseng addressed a number of questions from the audience.

Mr. Hunter idicated that he would like to introduce two motions at this time.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Armoudian): The Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee will write a letter to the SCL-LEA Board, that we (SCL-CAC) recommend that the LEA Board instruct the SCL-LEA to work with the SCAQMD and the other agencies if necessary to establish the manner, the parameters, benchmarks, quantifiable environmental metrics and timetables necessary to determine the sucess or failure of these recommendations.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Hunter, seconded by Ms. Armoudian): The Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Community Advisory Committee write a letter to the SCL-LEA Board regarding the SCL-LEA review of the Regional Water Quality Control Board’s review and recommendations for the landslide remediation, and that we support the recommendations of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the LEA, and Republic as how to handle the mitigation of the landslide which is by butressing with soil and leaving it in place.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Mr. Vitti abstained.

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

There were no reports at this time.

5. Other persons representing the City, County, or State.

No other representative spoke.

D. Public comment on items not on the Agenda (taken out of order after E).

Mr. Bill Hopkins, Granada Hills North Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Committee Chairman, announced that the GHNNC Newsletter was available and their Summer Social will be July 11th.

E. Set next meeting date (taken out of order) and adjourn main Meeting.

Mr. Hunter announced that the next Meeting will be here Thursday, September 5, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. There were no objections to the date by the Committee or agency representatives.

Ms. Bendikson declared the Meeting ADJOURNED at 5:06 p.m.

Recess. There was a brief recess at this time.

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

This discussion was convened at 5:11 p.m. Mr. Hunter explained that the SCL-CAC mailbox needs to be moved because the host, Knollwood Pharmacy, is moving 16911 San Fernando Mission Blvd, Box 412. He investigated, and provided a comparison of costs for Granada Hills Post Office, UPS, and Postal Plus. He encouraged, and it was agreed to continue using Knollwood Pharmacy at their new location due to cost, and ease of transition.

As background for hiring consultants, he explained that the SCL-CAC bank account has its maximum of \$120,000, and that it was designed for us to get us consulting help if we need it, and that we would get no more funds (up to \$20,000/year) as we had reached the maximum or until we expended it. He spoke of the fact that all we get from the public is "odors, odors, odors". That we have the AQMD here saying one thing and BFI saying another thing. The thought was how could we do something to help? In his package he had several suggestions: wind tunnel modelling-past, present, and future plus a waste characterization study. In talking to several agencies, the waste characterization study was deemed the most useful. In talking with Mr. Tseng in order to get an estimate, he suggested a study could be done in the \$60-70,000 range. Mr. Vitti encouraged looking nationwide for consultants, possibly for less money. Mr. Hunter said that he is leaning toward the LEA, and noted that we have an experienced person in Mr. Tseng who helped develop this for CalRecycle; "this would be the State standard." He said "he will try to get additional quotes." Ms. Armoudian said she would like to see a consultant for alternatives to these landfills, and if it was possible for someone to compile these like Greig Smith when he was in office. Mr. Hunter responded that was Greig's RENEW

LA Plan and explained how it worked. It was noted that Mr. Smith was consulting these days.

Mr. Hunter proposed working under the SCL-LEA's oversight as a way to ensure that the project had the proper oversight, and would be accepted. The Board wanted to make sure that we were complying with the rules. Mr. Hunter asked for approval for the project (in concept). Ms Armoudian restated that she just wanted to make sure that everything was legal. Mr. Jordahl noted that "we have to deplete the funds by October" or the SCL-CAC will not get additional funding from BFI. Mr. Hunter offered to report (prelim RFP) on the progress. No motion was made but the proposal was restated, and unanamioulsy agreed to by all.

Mr. Jordahl reported on getting a Quick Books program. He also noted that we would incur a cost for having new checks printed due to the address change.

Mr. Hunter declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 5:40 p.m.

Minutes by David Levin, Note Taker.

Approved as amended September 2, 2013 Meeting