

April 08, 2025

Mr. Wayne Nastri
Executive Officer
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4182

Dear Mr. Nastri,

We represent communities living near the Sunshine Canyon Landfill who are being terribly affected by the air pollution from the landfill. We appreciate all that the staff at your agency have done to verify our complaints and bring this issue before the SCAQMD Hearing Board. Despite these efforts, the landfill continues to have an unacceptable impact on our communities.

Therefore, we are writing to you today with a request. We understand that your team that does monitoring for air pollution has both incredible skills, dedication, and advanced monitoring equipment. We know that the PTR-MS mobile equipment has been deployed at numerous locations over the past few years to measure air pollution at fencelines, most recently in Altadena after the fires and previously at the Chiquita Canyon Landfill. We are requesting that you bring this equipment to Sunshine Canyon for a number of days and report back to us precisely what is in our air. We are especially concerned about the levels of airborne toxins, including benzene, formaldehyde, PAHs, toluene, ethyl benzene, xylene, hydrochloric acid, methyl chloride, vinyl chloride, hexane, hydrogen sulfide, and acrylonitrile.

Our request is driven by the adverse health physical and psychological impacts members of our communities are experiencing due to the emissions from the landfill.

Since complaints began increasing exponentially in 2019 those living in closest proximity to Sunshine Canyon Landfill have been suffering from respiratory conditions known to coincide with prolonged exposures to landfill emissions. Asthmatics in the area indicate having to use their inhalers on a daily basis, sometimes multiple times per day depending how long they spend outdoors. The frequency of children with double ear infections is alarming compared to classmates who don't attend school in the area.

The impact goes beyond physical health. Neighbors frequently talk about the persistent anxiety they feel due to the uncertainty of what pollutants are in the air they and their children breathe, and the constant fear that the emissions and odors will return or never cease.

Just as one example, the Fefferman's who live on Lisette Street are one family where these impacts from the landfill have had severe consequences. Sons Max and Calvin have experienced depressed immune responses to common childhood illness, with 7 year old Calvin having to take FIVE courses of antibiotics over a period of 3 months in the Winter & Spring of 2023 when SCL emissions were starting to get out of control. While Calvin was fighting off relentless ear infections, the family dog was also diagnosed with an ear infection. With Van Gogh Charter's principal having to cite 'inclement weather' due to the overwhelming emissions impacting its campus, children have had to shelter indoors during recess and before school. Halloween parades with young children in costume are conducted under the oppressive stench.



The Sahai and Tuazon are young families who also live on Lisette Street and also send their young children to Van Gogh Charter. They report their children coming home from school with persistent and inexplicable nose bleeds.



Despite loving the teachers and staff, the conditions touched on above forced the Fefferman's to pull Calvin from Van Gogh Charter Elementary after the 2023-2024 school year so he could access public education without being subjected to constant

exposure to hazardous air. This impact is not restricted to education as Calvin can no longer play soccer at the nearby AYSO soccer fields due to the fields' similarly close proximity to SCL. The impacts from this landfill have quite literally infiltrated every part of daily life for local families and children.

As for adults with chronic medical conditions, Mr. Fefferman's usage of his inhaler for asthma has never been more frequent. Coughing has become so aggressive he has had to go to urgent care to manage his bloody cough. Mrs. Fefferman who has never suffered from cardiovascular or respiratory issues is now also suffering from a chronic barking cough. Due to the ongoing and worsening conditions at Sunshine Canyon the Fefferman's restrict use of their own backyard and have to drive Calvin and Max, 3, to parks miles away despite having Bee Canyon and O'Melveny parks a mere walk away.

The Chahayed family of five live on Meadow Wood lane, just on the other side of the mountain from the landfill. Joe and Nurha bought a lovely family home in a cul-de-sac to raise their three children. They hoped to entertain their large extended family and



friends in their backyard and enjoy the pool. As a result of the persistent and unpredictable emissions and odors, Nurha can't plan events for her family because she is panic-stricken by the idea that her time with family would be ruined because "the entire neighborhood smells like a trash can". Their daughter often gets headaches when she smells the dump. Nurha's daily routine includes sniffing outside first thing in the morning to see if she can take their dog on a walk. Nurha and her neighbors often discuss how the constant assault of emissions and odors and fear of when these airborne chemicals may appear causes extreme anxiety. It impacts her life daily, even hourly. She is not alone in that sentiment.

Inverse condemnation is happening in Granada Hills North, right now. Children and residents in the neighborhood and at local elementary schools Van Gogh Charter and El Oro Way are suffering, and this has to improve through bold, aggressive measures. At a minimum, people need to know what is in the air they breathe. This has got to stop, and we need your help. We need to do better.

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Please respond back to our point person on this request. Nurha Hindi-Chahayed can be reached at 818-522-8411 if you need any further clarification. Thank you for your kind and timely response.

Cordially,

Protect North San Fernando Valley
Nurha Hindi-Chahayed & Erick Fefferman, Co-Chairs

California Communities Against Toxics
Jane Williams, Executive Director

CC: Clerk of the Board of the Board