

James Chavez

From: Patty Glueck [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 3:48 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written comment for abatement order re: Southcoast AQMD vs Browning-Ferris Industries of California Sunshine Canyon Landfill Case #3448-18

Thank you for listening to the public regarding the Sunshine Canyon landfill.

As a resident of the north San Fernando Valley, I implore the hearing board to issue an abatement order for remedying nuisance problems caused by the facility. I was horrified to learn that a landfill located downwind from several homes, schools, parks, and a water reservoir that serves at least a third of Los Angeles city residents, has been receiving a large number of odor complaints that have resulted in the SCAQMD issuing numerous notices of violations.

Between 2016, when an abatement order was issued, and February 2025, there has been a total of 17,604 complaints, with 391 NOVs issued. It was reported on March 13th, that there had been 139 complaints with 3 public nuisance violations in the first two weeks of March 2025.

Each time there's strong odors reported, this means that children can't play on their school playgrounds or families can't enjoy a day at a nearby park.

It seems obvious to those of us who live south of the landfill or in an adjacent community, that Republic has not done a decent job in containing odors that vastly impact people.

In addition to the noxious odors, I am concerned that these emissions may contain harmful chemicals. I would like any abatement order to include independent air quality monitoring to measure chemicals such as hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, benzene, and other VOCs. I also would suggest a true health study (not just a risk assessment) be conducted. Both of these actions should to be funded by the operator of the facility, Republic Services. Again, thank you for the opportunity to present my comment.

Patricia Glueck
Porter Ranch

James Chavez

From: Andrew Rozendal [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 5:54 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello Susan Nakamura, Terrance Mann and the rest of AQMD,

I'm writing in support of an order of abatement for Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

I've lived in Granada Hills for over 20 years and SCL has been a serious problem for most of that time. They show incompetence at managing the landfill. They should not be allowed to accept fire debris, let alone continue to operate at the tonnage of MSW they're currently accepting. They have more complaints and NOVs than all other SoCal landfills combined! When is it enough? Even this order of abatement better have a serious effect, or it's pointless.

I was involved in the huge lawsuit years back that had both a settlement and a commitment to clean up the problem. And yet it still continues. And it's getting worse. How many complaints and NOVs is enough? Seriously? What's the number? If this isn't too many, then what is. Is there ever a number they can hit that is too much? And if not, what is the point of the AQMD?

And lastly.

We need to stop acting like this company (BFI/Republic) running this landfill in this location taking this debris makes sense. We're not saying there should be a way to get this toxic fire debris into the landfill without hurting us. We're not saying that BFI should be able to accept all this MSW without causing a nuisance or public health risk. We're saying it no longer is viable to allow this dump to continue.

It needs to be shut down. We need to stop skirting around that fact. There's no world where it makes sense to continue to operate this facility this close to thousands of homes.

We need to ask ourselves, if this facility didn't exist right now would we build it here in this location? Of course not! Never! So why are we keeping it running? Just because it's already here? That's throwing good money after bad. That makes no sense.

Thank you for your time.

- Andrew Rozendal
Granada Hills Homeowner, Father and Husband

James Chavez

From: [REDACTED] t
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 2:09 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Cc: Meg Volk
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case Number 3448-18

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Honorable Members of the Hearing Board,

This is not our first Rodeo. We have been in Diamond Bar before for the very same issues we were told would never be a problem again. We have trash odors in the morning and gas odors at night sometimes all night long. We have dust and toxins blowing down from the Newhall pass right into our homes, schools, parks and places of worship. The neighborhood in which I reside is located less than 1/2 mile as the crow flies from the landfill. Van Gogh Elementary school is less than a mile away.

During the last Order of Abatement hearings held on November 29, 2016, March 1, 2017, June 26, 2018, December 12, 2018 and March 19, 2019 the odor complaints decreased from their all time high of 1795 down to 208 by the end of year 2018. The landfill operators made significant changes to their hours their collection system and a decrease in overall tonnage of trash accepted.

Well here we are now in 2025 with a record of 2187 complaints for 2024 and 65 Notices of violation, a new record for this landfill. It appears that the operations and collection systems need to be re-examined and re-worked as what ever they are doing is obviously not working. We have heard the excuses that the torrential rains were to blame and then the extreme heat and of course the organic material that is being deposited into the landfill. This is one of the largest landfills in the United States and they should have the technology to fix the problem. There are landfills all over the country that deal with rain, snow, wind, tornado's, hurricanes and organics. We are in Southern California for Pete sake where we barely have a temperature change of 30 degrees throughout the entire year. And everyone was warned about an atmospheric river coming into the area in 2022. That would have been the time to prepare for wet weather not during and after it occurred.

We are tired of their excuses and tired of not being able to enjoy our backyards, have barbecues with friends and family for fear of putrid and noxious gas odors. We are tired of not being able to cool off our homes at night as we can't open the window because of intense gas odors. We are forced to use the Air Conditioning 24/7 which ran up a \$2000 bill in August of 2024 for my 2500 sf 2 story home.

I have personally been calling in odor complaints for over 2 decades. I have lived here for 33 years just below a landfill closed in 1991 and promised to residents be returned to open space and recreational land. We moved here in 1991 after researching communities within a 25 mile radius from our places of employment. We decided this was a good choice given the beautiful parks, freeway access, no new developments, Metropolitan Water District on one side of Balboa and hillside with abundant wildlife on the other. My son was able to walk along a stream in Bee Canyon to Van Gogh Elementary. It was all

ideal, so we thought until the City and County and Mayor Riordan betrayed us and allowed not only the re-opening for the landfill but the merger of the city and county sides.

You of course will be reading the Independent Assessment of Odors from Ultra Systems which highlights all the measures taken to collect leachate, control odors and erosion. All good IF IT WORKS. Well this for profit MegaDump is not doing what is necessary or we would not be experiencing all the odors ongoing in the past 2 months of 2025.

This is unacceptable and the landfill needs to be held to the highest standards regardless of what the industry standard is. Residents should not be suffering eye, nose and breathing issues because they need to make a profit. We should be able to enjoy our homes, yards, parks and schools.

Please help them to work out some measures that will work and will make our lives livable again.

Meg Volk


James Chavez

From: Daniel Sanders [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 11:37 AM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Balboa Highlands

Hi,

My name is Daniel Sanders. I own [REDACTED], Granada Hills, CA 91344. I bought it in 2020 after living in DTLA for 15 years. I guess I was one of the residents involved in DTLA's gentrification - bought my loft there in 2005 and sold it in 2020. After 13 or so years there I felt worn down by the noise and craziness of DTLA and started looking for a house to buy, with the money I had saved from working in software in the LA area all this time - at Sony Pictures, Verizon, & Paramount. I bought this fantastic mid-century modern Joseph Eichler house built in 1962 and moved in in August 2020. The street is full of these iconic houses and we constantly have film crews filming shows, commercials etc in these awesome looking houses.

I'm writing now to tell you that the one major blight on the neighborhood is the recurring stink from the landfill. It has been getting worse year by year and it's very normal to have an otherwise pleasant evening or morning spoiled by the odd chemical smell wafting over into our neighborhood. I have been to the landfill's open house day and seen that there are smart people involved in managing it, and that there are measures taken to do the right thing. I'm telling you now though that it is not working and that you need to pause activities, rethink what you're doing, because what you're doing is creating an environmental disaster, damaging property values, making people want to move.

To whom it may concern.

My name is Daniel Sanders, and I am a resident of [REDACTED], Granada Hills, CA 91344. I moved to this fantastic mid-century modern Joseph Eichler home in August 2020, after living in Downtown Los Angeles for 15 years.

I'm writing to express my growing concern about the recurring odor from the landfill. It has become increasingly worse over time, frequently disrupting otherwise pleasant mornings and evenings with an unpleasant chemical smell.

I understand that the landfill management takes measures to mitigate environmental impact, and I have witnessed this firsthand during the landfill's open house day. However, I must emphasize that the current measures are not adequately addressing the issue. The persistent odor is creating an

environmental hazard, negatively affecting property values, and diminishing the overall quality of life in our neighborhood.

I urge you to consider pausing current landfill activities and reevaluating your operational procedures. It's crucial to take decisive action to prevent further environmental damage and preserve the well-being of our community.

In addition we are now hearing about and seeing (i've seen the trucks myself) fire debris from other areas being driven into the landfill (having luckily evaded fire damage ourselves, for now, from the Hurst Fire) and clearly this is not going to make things any better. Just piling on more garbage. You need to face the facts. What you're doing now is not working anyway - and now you're going to make it worse.

I think about the property taxes I pay every year (\$13,000) every time I smell that acrid disgusting chemical smell...once a week.

Sincerely,
Daniel Sanders

Dear To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Daniel Sanders, and I am a resident of [REDACTED], Granada Hills, CA 91344. I moved to this fantastic mid-century modern Joseph Eichler home in August 2020, after living in Downtown Los Angeles for 15 years.

I'm writing to express my growing concern about the recurring odor from the landfill. It has become increasingly worse over time, frequently disrupting otherwise pleasant mornings and evenings with an unpleasant chemical smell.

I understand that the landfill management takes measures to mitigate environmental impact, and I have witnessed this firsthand during the landfill's open house day. However, I must emphasize that the current measures are not adequately addressing the issue. The persistent odor is creating an environmental hazard, negatively affecting property values, and diminishing the overall quality of life in our neighborhood.

Furthermore, I have recently observed trucks transporting fire debris from other areas into the landfill. As a community that has, so far, been fortunate to avoid fire damage from the Hurst Fire, I am deeply concerned that this practice will only exacerbate the existing problems.

I urge you to consider pausing current landfill activities and reevaluating your operational procedures. It's crucial to take decisive action to prevent further environmental damage and preserve the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Daniel Sanders

[REDACTED]

Dear To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Daniel Sanders, and I am a resident of [REDACTED], Granada Hills, CA 91344. I moved to this mid-century modern Joseph Eichler home in August 2020, after living in Downtown Los Angeles for 15 years. It's a great neighborhood and these homes are cultural treasures, design icons, part of LA architectural history.

I am writing to express my growing concern about the recurring odor from the nearby landfill. It has become increasingly worse over time, frequently disrupting otherwise pleasant mornings and evenings with an unpleasant chemical smell.

I understand that the landfill management takes measures to mitigate environmental impact, and I have witnessed this firsthand during the landfill's open house day. However, I must emphasize that the current measures are not adequately addressing the issue. The persistent odor is creating an environmental hazard, negatively affecting property values, and diminishing the overall quality of life in our neighborhood.

Furthermore, I have recently observed an increased volume of trucks transporting (what I assume is) fire debris from other areas into the landfill. As a community that has, so far, been fortunate to avoid fire damage from the Hurst Fire, I am deeply concerned that this practice will only exacerbate the existing problems.

I urge you to consider pausing current landfill activities and reevaluating your operational procedures. It is crucial to take decisive action to prevent further environmental damage and preserve the well-being of our community.

Sincerely,
Daniel Sanders
[REDACTED]

James Chavez

From: Kasia Sparks [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 4:17 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Canyon Landfill

As a devoted mother and local resident of Granada Hills, safety is paramount to me. Not just my own safety, but the wellbeing of my family, and my neighbors who make up this beautiful community. I live a few miles away from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Since the time I bought my house 8 years ago, I have seen a huge decline in the management of that landfill. The odor violations continue to rise, and the air quality continues to plummet. Regrettably, Sunshine Canyon Landfill was never designed to handle hazardous waste, and now with the acceptance of fire debris from the recent fires we had, our community has been put at risk even more. Ever since the landfill started accepting fire debris, the horrendous odors that seep into our town have gotten progressively worse. I know many parents who removed their children from Van Gogh Elementary simply because of the poor air quality. Please, I'm asking you to help our community by adding safer guidelines for our landfill. For instance, I'm asking you if you would consider the following measures to help improve the safety of our community:

1. Reduction of daily tonnage until Sunshine Canyon can prove it has the emissions & odor issue under control (control to be defined)
2. Reduction of operating hours of municipal waste to avoid early morning and early evening prevailing wind patterns.
3. Restrictions on the size of the active open face of the landfill.
4. Additional surface monitoring at a finer grid and more often than required by the federal NESHAPs, so leaks are detected and repaired earlier.
5. The use of new technology for fence line monitoring of air toxics.
6. Add temperature probes to collection wells to monitor for potential underground chemical fires
7. The posting of data regarding the landfill's operation to a publicly available website
8. The addition of a thermal oxidizer so that landfill gases are burned at a higher rate.
9. Reporting to the public of any flare downtime, and the cause of that downtime.

Let's protect our community from avoidable health risks. We owe it to the citizens of Granada Hills, the hardworking parents who dream of a safe environment for their kids, and the generations ahead of us who will inherit this precious land.

Thank you for your time,

Kasia Sparks

James Chavez

From: Lilly Ramirez [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 3:14 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case Number 3448-18

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the ongoing and unbearable smells emanating from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Over the past few years, I have noticed a frequent and overwhelming odor coming from the landfill, which has significantly impacted my quality of life and that of my family.

The unpleasant smell is most noticeable in the mornings, and on many occasions, it lingers for several hours. This has become such a problem, and it is so severe that I am unable to enjoy basic outdoor activities such as having breakfast on my back patio or letting my children play outside in our backyard. The stench is so strong and pervasive that it often causes nausea and headaches, leaving my family and I feeling unwell.

As a result of the smell, I have been forced to keep the windows closed and use air filters inside the house in an attempt to alleviate the issue. Unfortunately, this has led to higher utility costs, which further adds to the strain this situation has placed on my household.

A year ago, promises were made to address and resolve this issue, but despite those assurances, the smells have not only persisted but have actually intensified over time. The situation has only worsened, and it feels as though little to no progress has been made to correct the problem.

I urge the AQMD to take immediate action to address the source of the odor and implement effective measures to reduce or eliminate it. The current conditions are unacceptable and continue to disrupt our daily lives.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope that the AQMD will take the necessary steps to ensure that our community can once again enjoy clean air and a safe living environment.

Lillian Ramirez
[REDACTED]

James Chavez

From: Elliott Koretz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 12:31 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Canyon Landfill

I am a longtime resident of Granada Hills (38 years) and have experienced worsening air quality conditions from the apparent constant violations and increased size of the landfill. Horrible sour smell is just about a daily occurrence. Not to mention the potential hazardous materials we all are exposed to which are exacerbated by our natural windy conditions. For the landfill to continue operating we implore you to consider these requests.

- The use of new technology for fence line monitoring of air toxics.
- The posting of data regarding the landfill's operation to a publicly available website
- The addition of a thermal oxidizer so that landfill gases are burned at a higher rate.
- Restrictions on the size of the active open face of the landfill.
- Additional surface monitoring at a finer grid and more often than required by the federal NESHAPs, so leaks are detected and repaired earlier.
- Reporting to the public of any flare downtime, and the cause of that downtime.

Thank you,

Elliott Koretz
Sent from my iPhone

James Chavez

From: Daniel Sternbaum [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 11:57 AM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Stricter Abatement Orders for Sunshine Canyon Landfill Odors

Dear AQMD,

I am writing to express my growing concern about the persistent and harmful odors emanating from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and to urge the AQMD to take more aggressive action through strict abatement orders. These odors are not just an inconvenience—they are chemicals in the air, and they are far from harmless. They are negatively impacting my quality of life, my family's health, and our ability to enjoy our home.

Living near the landfill, I am forced to keep my windows and sliders closed at all times to block out the stench, depriving my family of fresh air. Instead, I have to rely heavily on air conditioning to maintain a tolerable indoor environment, which has significantly increased my electricity bills. Worse still, the odors that do seep in leave us feeling ill—my family frequently suffers from headaches, and the constant exposure is taking a toll on our well-being. These are not minor annoyances; they are serious disruptions caused by the landfill's inadequate management of its emissions.

I understand that the AQMD has implemented measures at other sites, such as Chiquita Canyon Landfill, to address similar issues. I strongly request that you apply relevant and effective strategies from that site to Sunshine Canyon. To protect our community, I suggest the following specific actions:

- **Install new technology for fenceline monitoring of air toxics** to provide real-time data on the chemicals we're being exposed to.
- **Post landfill operational data to a publicly available website** so residents can stay informed about what's happening in our backyard.
- **Add a thermal oxidizer** to burn landfill gases at a higher rate, reducing the release of harmful emissions.
- **Restrict the size of the active open face of the landfill** to minimize the area producing odors and gases.
- **Increase surface monitoring** on a finer grid and more frequently than required by federal NESHAPs, so leaks can be detected and repaired before they worsen.
- **Report flare downtime to the public**, including the cause, so we know when and why the landfill's control systems fail.

These measures would demonstrate a serious commitment to addressing the problem and protecting residents like me who are suffering the consequences of the landfill's operations. I implore the AQMD to act swiftly and decisively. The current situation is unsustainable, and my family deserves relief from these toxic odors.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response and to seeing meaningful action taken.

Sincerely,

Daniel Sternbaum

[REDACTED], Granada Hills, CA 91344

[REDACTED]

James Chavez

From: Aviva Ebner [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 11:56 AM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Abatement hearing for SCL

The Sunshine Canyon Landfill is negativity impacting my life and my family members' lives. We bought our home when the landfill was closed. We have lived here for 31 years and this is the worst the odors have been. To be clear, odors aren't just a nuisance. Odors are volatile chemical compounds in the air. We inhale those daily.

The odors are nauseating. I get headaches, nausea, dizziness, respiratory issues, throat irritations, and vomiting from the odors. My adult daughter moved out because we suspect the landfill contributed to her autoimmune illnesses. We have large power bills due to having to keep our doors and windows closed and running the AC to avoid letting the odors in. We can't simply open the doors or windows of our own home for fresh air. We can't use our pool without inhaling those chemical compounds. We are deprived of basic enjoyment of our home and of our health. Prior mitigating guidelines do not work. Any odors are too many chemicals for us to inhale.

We are requesting:

- The use of new technology for fence line monitoring of air toxics.
- The posting of data regarding the landfill's operation to a publicly available website
- The addition of a thermal oxidizer so that landfill gases are burned at a higher rate.
- Restrictions on the size of the active open face of the landfill.
- Additional surface monitoring at a finer grid and more often than required by the federal NESHAPs, so leaks are detected and repaired earlier.
- Reporting to the public of any flare downtime, and the cause of that downtime.

Thank you for your time and attention.

James Chavez

From: jacqui cunz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 11:33 AM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] request for strict abatement orders - Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Hello. My name is Jacqui Cunz, and I live in Granada Hills, California. I am writing to request AQMD enforce more strict abatement orders of Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

My family and I have lived at our current home since 2006. At first, we never noticed any issues with the dump. It was not until around 2012 that we began to smell rotting trash smells emanating from the landfill. It was very strong odors - enough to cause our noses to burn and our eyes to water. But the frequency was not bad, so we just learned to live with it.

But as the years went by, the odors became stronger and more frequent. So much so that we are rarely able to have our windows open. We definitely run the AC more frequently, in the hopes that these noxious odors are filtered before entering our house. But sometimes - even with the windows closed - we are still overcome with the odors. And over the years - rather than enjoy our pool, zip line, and large yard - we would often opt to travel to parks farther south for our kids to enjoy "outside" time. There is no doubt that the odors emanating from Sunshine Canyon have negatively impacted our lives, and they continue to get worse. It's quite clear that as the size of the dump increases, Republic continues to be unable to manage the landfill.

Along with the now almost-constant nose-burning odors, we face constant issues with dust and dirt. And God knows what toxins are in this dirt. While it may take years to determine exactly how living 1 mile from the dump will have affected my family's health, I do know that 2 of my HEALTHY pets died of cancer within a couple of years of moving to Granada Hills. As the scale of Sunshine Canyon grows, I can now see the dump from my kitchen window.

And while I diligently call AQMD to file a complaint whenever I smell odors, what exactly does this do? Republic gets fined, AQMD collects the money, and business goes on as usual. **AQMD has to do more to protect the air quality in the areas surrounding Sunshine Canyon Landfill.** Kids at Van Gogh Street School shouldn't have to forego eating in the outdoor cafeteria or having PE outside because of these odors! Residents shouldn't have to live without the use of their backyards! Do your job and protect us from these potentially dangerous conditions!

Among other items, at the very least AQMD should enforce Sunshine Canyon to...

- use technology such as fenceline monitoring for air toxins - particularly important since all of the fire debris is now being accepted at Sunshine Canyon.
- post all the data regarding the landfill's operation to a publicly available website.
- do something to have the landfill gases burned at a higher rate
- restrict the size of the active open face of the landfill. If I can see it, that means the winds that blow through here with increasing frequency can blow that dirt and odor into our neighborhoods.
- report to the public of any flare downtime, and the cause of the downtime.
- add additional surface monitoring, more often than is required by the federal NESHAPs, so leaks are detected earlier.
- and I would personally like to know the projected date of the dump's closure. Surely the increase of daily tonnage from the fire debris will speed up the closure of the dump. I'd like a date, rather than a vague "when it's full" response.

As one of Republic's representatives said at a town hall meeting, Sunshine Canyon is "like a chemistry experiment inside an engineering experiment, inside a geology experiment." There should not be any "EXPERIMENTS" happening so close to residential neighborhoods!!! They are pushing the limits of what they know, and risking lives in the process! Short of closing Sunshine Canyon landfill permanently, AQMD needs to get better at protecting our air quality and quality of life.

Best...
Jacqui Cunz
[REDACTED]

James Chavez

From: Beth Sternbaum [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 9, 2025 9:07 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case Number 3448-18

Living near Sunshine Canyon Landfill has become unbearable. The trash odors are so overwhelming that we can't even enjoy our own home. We can't play in the backyard with our kids, we can't garden, and we certainly can't leave our windows open without the stench seeping in. Even a simple trip to the park feels impossible when the air is thick with the smell of rotting garbage.

The worst part is how it affects our children. We don't feel comfortable sending them to the local elementary school, where students are often forced to stay indoors because of the odor. My family experiences headaches, nausea, and gagging from the fumes—and we're not alone. Other parents have shared the same concerns, watching their kids suffer while being told there's nothing to worry about.

At the last hearing, landfill operators promised to address the odor issues, yet over the past year, complaints have skyrocketed. Instead of improving, the problem has only gotten worse, and this year is on track to be just as bad. Reporting the smell has become a regular part of our morning routine—just like brushing our teeth. No family should have to live like this.

We deserve clean air and a safe environment for our children. It's time for real accountability and action.

Bethany Sternbaum
Granada Hills Resident

James Chavez

From: Bonnie Yahoo [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, March 9, 2025 1:25 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Canyon Landfill - Case Number 3448-18

To whom it may concern,

I have lived near Bee Canyon Park since purchasing my home in 2001.

Over the years, I've endured the incessant, foul odor emanating from the landfill, which has resulted in debilitating headaches and respiratory symptoms. I'm a generally healthy person who is physically active. In addition to training 5x/week the gym, I walk my dog twice per day around Bee Canyon Park and in O'Melveny Park. Depending on the wind, the odor during our morning walks is horrible. It's so nauseating that I'm sometimes forced to walk in a different direction away from the parks. As a retired person, I enjoy spending quality time at home, particularly in the backyard with my dog. When the weather is nice, I prefer to keep windows open to allow fresh air in. I should also be allowed to enjoy the local parks which are walking distance from my home. That's not possible when there's a foul sickening stench.

It's my understanding that potentially toxic debris from the recent fires is being (or will be) dumped here, as well. This is unacceptable as the air is already intolerable and unhealthy.

Landfill operations should not be allowed in a residential neighborhood, especially with nearby elementary schools. This landfill has been mismanaged for years, and with a record number of complaints and violations, should be shut down, and certainly not permitted to accept toxic debris.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Ornitz
[REDACTED]
Granada Hills, CA 91344
[REDACTED]

James Chavez

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 3:11 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Cc: Meg Volk; Wayde Hunter
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Case # 3448-18

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Honorable Members of the Hearing Board,

After reviewing the Findings and Decisions of the Hearing Board I am compelled to submit another letter to you.

There are some huge problems with this document and proposal that I want to address as a member of the public who has been subjected to decades of noxious odors impacting my quality of life.

First of all on page 3 item 10 the wording "without making a finding that Respondent is in violation of a district rule or regulation" when clearly they have been in violation as stated in item 8. That is the reason we have come to this juncture as Respondent has been in heinous violation of District Rules and California H & S Code 41700 for the past 2 years in particular.

Secondly item 31 on page 6 "The District understands and believes and therefore alleges the Respondents ability to to remain in compliance with District Rules 402 and H & S Code 41700 is impacted by increasing wet weather conditions related to more commonly occurring extreme precipitation events experienced in the region and the erosion at the landfill that results from those extreme weather events" First of all everyone was warned for several weeks if not months about the atmospheric river. Most of us sand bagged our slopes to prevent mud sliding down into our pools patios and homes. This rain event occurred in December of 2023 and January of 2024. Not only were they not prepared for excessive rain....God only knows how other landfills in snow, hail ,torrential rain, tornados and hurricanes are able to operate without the tremendous problems that The Respondents complain about and have been using as an excuse for the past 8 months! Since that event over 14 months ago the Respondent has still been unable to correct the odor emission problems.

Now why all of a sudden should they be given 6 months to try some new methods that were suggested by LEA when clearly those methods could have been utilized for the past 14 months. This is like giving an addict yet another chance.

I think we are giving them far too much leeway and that they need to have stricter supervision and a shorter time frame to see if these new methods will change anything. The community has suffered for far too long and as I mentioned in my first submission this is not our first rodeo with this landfill operator.

Clearly this is a bad location, the slopes are too steep, the gas collection and covering methods are inadequate and the landfill is taking on too much tonnage. The trucks are kicking up dust on San Fernando Road and Sepulveda Blvd and creating hazardous potholes and road damage especially on Sepulveda. We have an open Reservoir serving all of LA County just to the south. We are located near

several San Andreas Fault lines (1994 Northridge Earthquake) This was never a good choice for a landfill location and as many of you may know it was an illegal dump starting in 1956. In 1988 during the Revocation Hearings BFI violated height restrictions, boundaries and came too close to the watercourse and Bradly Ave. They were also sited for trash and dust off site. The violations were considered so severe that BFI was given the only Curative Variance that was ever issued by the city. Now here we are again, same landfill and growing issues mounting regarding their operations.

I'm not clear on whose side the legal representative of the SCAQMD is on but very clearly it is not in favor of the people most negatively impacted by the poor operating methods that have been causing the worst frequency and number of odor complaints ever since records were kept from 2005 on. During the last order of Abatement the odor complaints dropped from 1795 to 208. Now they have spiked up to 2187 since that last order was completed in 2018 and the highest number ever recorded by the AQMD for this landfill!

Please think of the residents, the school children who cannot be outside because there is no fresh air. Our homes are our refuge from the hustle and bustle of the world but now we can't have a barbecue or enjoy our yards because of the stench of a HUGE FOR PROFIT MEGADUMP.

Lets have them put their money where their mouths are and fix these issues once and for all OR SHUT THEM DOWN FOREVER and let the residents finally have the open space and recreational land they were promised back in 1991 when the City Dump was closed. After of course proper closure of the landfill so we won't have ongoing seeping gas odors permeating into the community .

In all Sincerity and Pleading for Justice,

Meg Volk
Resident since 1991 0.5 miles downwind as the crow flies

James Chavez

From: Elizabeth Mitev [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2025 8:53 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding Abatement Hearing 3448-18 Wed, March 19 2025

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Susan Nakamura
Chief Operating Officer

Terrance Mann
Deputy Executive Officer, Compliance and Enforcement

South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Ms. Nakamura and Mr. Mann,

I am a very concerned resident writing to you about the urgent and ongoing violations of South Coast rules and regulations at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. My family and I live near the landfill and have grown increasingly alarmed by the long history of its violations.

In previous emails sent to Mr. Mann, we requested access to information regarding the Notices of Violation issued, the number pending payment to AQMD, the actual fine, and the amount the Republic ends up paying (if any).

As residents, we are all burdened with reporting and then waiting for an inspector to show up to confirm. Many times, this does not happen for a few hours. By then, the odors have dissipated. It is a far from perfect system to report and verify. Many residents, ourselves included, feel frustrated and unheard, and at the end of the day, even if a NOV is issued, we don't know if it gets paid. This must be public information, or you should be able to provide this to us as residents. A few of our neighbors, including myself, have been asking for this since the Summer of 2024, with no response. We urge you to prioritize transparency in this matter. Could you please provide this, or if not, who is the person who can?

In preparation for the AQMD's hearing for Order of Abatement, here are a few points of high priority and concern to us as residents living near the landfill. We have to deal with the daily odors, and now, adding to that, "potentially" hazardous fire debris.

Based on previous conversations during the SCL-TAC meetings you participated in, you said that the Order of Abatement is not a silver bullet. However, since this is the least you can do for us, here are some things to remember when presenting your case and fighting for our right to enjoy clean air, a fundamental human right.

-Reduce daily tonnage until Sunshine Canyon can prove it has the emissions odor issue under control (control to be defined)

- Reduce operating hours of municipal waste to avoid prevailing wind patterns in early morning and evening.
- Restrictions on the size of the active open face of the landfill.
- Additional surface monitoring at a finer grid and more often than required by the federal NESHAPs so that leaks are detected and repaired earlier.
- The use of new technology for fence line monitoring of air toxics.
- Add temperature probes to collection wells to monitor for potential underground chemical fires
- The posting of data regarding the landfill's operation to a publicly available website
- A thermal oxidizer should be added so landfill gases are burned at a higher rate.
- Reporting to the public of any flare downtime and the cause of that downtime.

What is happening to us right now is Inverse condemnation. Children and residents in the neighborhood and at the local elementary schools are suffering, and this has to improve through bold, aggressive measures. It's got to stop, and we need your help. The landfill needs to do better, and you need to do better. You must defend our fundamental rights. Your response is expected and highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Mitev, resident

James Chavez

From: Nurha Chahayed [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 4:28 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Canyon Landfill: Aggressive Action Needed To Protect Us(Case # 3448-18)

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To the Distinguished Members of the AQMD Hearing Board –

If you could have prevented the disaster at Chiquita Canyon earlier, I'm sure you would have. Implementing an aggressive and decisive order of abatement to BFI at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill is your chance to make sure we do not become the next landfill-related community disaster. This community is relying on the Hearing Board to solve this mess once and for all -- like no other group has been able to do. We are hoping that the Hearing Board will act swiftly and decisively to get this under control!

A little about my family: I am a homeowner, wife, mother of three and concerned resident of North Granada Hills, CA. My house is about .5 miles from Sunshine Canyon Landfill and we've lived here since 2012. My husband and I bought our lovely family home in a cul-de-sac to raise our three children who are now older teenagers. It has been a good place to raise our family, but we are always, ALWAYS living under the assault or looming assault of the landfill emissions. As much as it hurts to say...my quality of life is diminished. I can never feel settled in my home, freely share my home with friends and family or even know if I can go for a walk because of these odors. My husband and children look to me to fight for us and that is what I have done through the abatements in 2016, 2017 and I want this to be the one to finally get this facility in order.



Major Impacts on our Lives: My daily routine includes sniffing outside first thing the morning to see if she can take their dog on a walk or open our windows or call the AQMD. My neighbors and I often discuss how the constant assault of odors and fear of odors causes extreme anxiety. I feel daily anxiety because of the dump, the emissions and odors. The dump impact my daily on life and also my mental health. When I do smell the odors, they are strong and disgusting. I always feel nauseous and a deep sadnesses washed over me. In summer of 2021 she had to cut her son's birthday pool party short because of the horrible stench. Imagine the humiliation he felt to have his friends tease him and call his house the "stinky house." Our daughter often gets headaches when she smells the dump. I also feel like my future is on hold because of this situation. We want to upgrade our home with remodeling a bathroom and redesign our front yard, but we are torn about staying in the community and deepening our roots given the landfill. It would not be easy to buy another property

or sell this one. As you can imagine, this has major impact on us psychologically and financially. This black cloud looms on us always.

Being Lied To By Authorities: For nearly two decades, this community has been lied to, ignored, pushed aside and placated by all the “authorities” involved in this landfill – LEA, Public Works, AQMD, La County Supervisors, LA City. They tell us “all is well” and we will help but then proceed to point fingers at one another saying it is not their “jurisdiction”. All trust has been lost with all those in power.

The worst part is that I don’t even know what is in the air at this point. What chemicals are in the emissions? I know my daughter gets headaches from the odors and I feel very nauseous. What longterm impact will it have? Are there Chiquita Canyon-type horrors in our future??????

The authorities are entirely too lenient with the landfill operators, accepting the idea that a lot of rain is to blame for the emissions and odors. What kind of incompetent company is not able to prepare for and manage rain in an area that has been in a drought for about 2 years. Why do we need to wait for thousand and thousands of calls and hundreds of NOV’s in order to act. I’ll tell you why....because the regulatory and municipal authorities are not serving the local community, they serve the interests of the landfill or themselves.

AQMD Proposed Abatement Measures Does Not go Far Enough

The community has three main objectives 1)immediately eliminating the emissions/odors and 2) obtaining transparency regarding the quality of the air and the chemicals in the air and 3) proactively avoiding any potential disastrous issues that we have seen in other landfills of this nature. In short, we need to stop the emissions/odors, know what we are breathing and ensure we ARE NOT ANOTHER CHIQUITA Canyon.

After reviewing the proposed abatement orders, and meeting with community experts and advocates who are familiar with landfill operations, these proposed abatement orders do not go far enough to meet these objectives.

I take exception to points in the order including use of odor neutralizers. They are actually a horrible idea. This has been done before and instead of the community being assaulted by landfill odors, it was assaulted by un-natural chemical fragrances. We can’t FEBREEZE our way out of this and to suggest that as the main solution is an insult. Giving them 6 months comply when we have been assaulted for more than two years is an insult. They should provide plans in less than six weeks. In point 3, they want the LEA to help measure effectiveness. The LEA lead Dave Thompson in a recent SCL-CAC meeting said things were getting “better” at Sunshine when data prove otherwise. The LEA should not be entrusted with any oversight as they get operating budget from BFI. This is a clear conflict of interest.

Aggressive action is needed and needed immediately. Additional abatement points to consider include:

1. Reduction of municipal daily tonnage until Sunshine Canyon can prove it has the odor issue under control (meaning no odor complaints for at least 24 months)
2. Permanent Reduction of operating hours of municipal waste to avoid early morning and early evening prevailing wind patterns.
3. Restrictions on the size of the active open face of the landfill.
4. Additional surface monitoring at a finer grid and more often than required by the federal NESHAPs, so leaks are detected and repaired earlier.
5. The use of new technology for fence line monitoring of air toxics. We especially need to know about levels of toxins that cause cancer like benzene
6. Add temperature probes to collection wells to monitor for potential underground chemical fires
7. The posting of data regarding the landfill's operation to a publicly available website
8. The addition of a thermal oxidizer so that landfill gases are burned at a higher rate.
9. Reporting to the public of any flare downtime, and the cause of that downtime.

This is the time to act and act decisively to get this under control!

Sincerely,

Nurha Hindi-Chahayed and family (Husband Joe and 3 children

Resident and homeowner in North Granada Hills

James Chavez

From: Arline Melkonian [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 9:32 PM
To: Clerk of Board
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Sunshine Canyon Abatement Case Number 3448-18

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear members of the board,

I am a resident of North Granada Hills and live about two miles of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill as the crow flies. My daughter attended Van Gogh Elementary school from 2014 - 2016. During this time, we endured sickening trash odors from the landfill and it was my horrid introduction to this bad neighbor. I could not believe what I was experiencing at an elementary school and astounded to learn that the community had been suffering these odors for many, many years. I joined neighbors at that time to tirelessly advocate on the community's behalf for protections against the terrible conditions created by the landfill.

It is now 2025, and the odors have reached record levels. We now avoid going anywhere near O'Melveny or Bee Canyon Park as the thought of smelling trash odors and breathing harmful gases keeps us away. Nothing has changed as this landfill continues to demonstrate it is incapable of containing dust, odors and emissions. As AQMD's data reflects, the noxious smells have only grown in intensity and frequency as evidenced by the growing number of notices of violation issued. This abatement order seems to request more of the same: directives to allow them to try to control the odors. The regulatory agencies charged with oversight over this landfill should shift their focus from allowing the landfill operators endless opportunities to attempt to contain their odors, to a results-oriented paradigm with escalating penalties up and including shutting it down.

If the landfill is incapable of containing the odors and emissions, which the evidence demonstrates over and over again, then the AQMD needs to respond in kind. Raise the standard of what is allowable instead of permitting unlimited business as usual. The current threshold of what is acceptable seems to be non-existent as this landfill is allowed to continue to operate and accept more and more trash year after year despite their repeated and ongoing violations. Attach meaningful metrics to the compliance and regulation standards. Rather than impose monetary penalties which are totally ineffective as they are part of the landfill's regular business-as-usual expense budget, if a notice of violation is issued, shut down the landfill for the day and compel it to divert trash elsewhere. Try this and see how urgently they will move to implement real remedies! Why is it acceptable to allow the community to continue to suffer while the landfill is permitted to continue to enjoy record profits?

More importantly, this community needs continuous fence-line air monitoring to determine what is in the air we are breathing. Every time I leave my home, I am tormented by the thought that I am breathing harmful gases from this landfill. It is a constant nightmare and the mental agony is unbearable. We avoid walking our dog around the block or using any of the parks near the landfill for this reason.

Air quality data reflects that carcinogenic fugitive gases from the landfill are regularly released into the ambient air in our community. AQMD should continuously monitor the air quality and share this data with the public in real-time on an ongoing, daily basis. They should observe trends and report on it. The community deserves to have this information and AQMD should capture, analyze, and report on the longitudinal data that speaks to the possible acute or chronic risks to human health associated with the landfill. This is especially critical and urgent since the landfill is now accepting increased tonnage with the dumping of toxic fire debris. This information is a matter of the public's right and should guide the decision-making of all stakeholders and agencies involved.

Respectfully,
Arline Melkonian