

Proactively Working To Address Potencial Odor Concerns

For more than 60 years, Sunshine Canyon Landfill has been committed to meeting environmental standards and waste disposal needs for the 13 million residents and businesses in the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County.

As part of that commitment, Sunshine Canyon Landfill voluntarily entered into past Stipulated Abatement Orders with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to address any potential odor concerns and to provide assurances the landfill is operated responsibly.

Odor Mitigation Enhancements Already Operational
Working with the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA), which is
certified by the State of California to enforce state landfill
regulations, Sunshine Canyon Landfill has already implemented
many operational best practices and other site enhancements
that were proposed in previous Order of Abatements and are
included in the new Order of Abatement.

Site Enhancements Already In Use

- Application of a biodegradable plastic film on trash at the working face (disposal area) to control odor. The film captures potentially odorous air before it might rise to the ground surface. Eventually, the film biodegrades to avoid affecting the gas collection system. This film solves the unintended consequences caused by the County's requirement of 9 inches of daily cover soil.
- The challenges steming from the County's requirement for 9 inches of daily cover at Sunshine Canyon, which caused several layers of soil to remain in the landfill interfering with the collection of landfill gas, has been addressed resulting in improved collection of landfill gas.
- Sunshine Canyon Landfill has already comissioned a study involving a variety of approaches to the more permanent soil cover over the active face, to determine if improvements should be made to prevent odor causing gas from potentially migrating from the more permanent soil covered areas.
- The Landfill has implemented an aggressive program to pump out water from gas collection wells that have become partially filled with liquids because of the impact of the County's 9 inches of soil requirement. The Landfill has already installed 75 pumps and is currently installing 25 more.

How well-intentioned requirements run counter to solving Sunshine Canyon's issues:

The proposed order would divert over 3,000 tons of waste each day to landfills in other communities, requiring as many as 160 to 175 semitrailers filled with waste to travel many more miles each day. This diversion could negatively affect California citizens in several unintentional ways including:

- Substantially more air pollution and greenhouse gas emmisions from longer truck trips.
- Less detection time to manage waste and minimize odors .
- Increased noise with more trucks on the road for greater lenths.
- Traffic congestion on Los Angeles freeways and at these more distant landfills.

The proposed order would also limit the receipt of waste during morning hours at Sunshine Canyon, which will:

- Create greater traffic congestion both before and after the landfill opens.
- Require incoming vehicles to spend more time during peak hours on congested area freeways.
- Encourage illegal dumping near the landfill when arriving vehicles find the landfill gates closed during morning hours.