



Do the Complaints Justify the Order of Abatement Recommended by the South Coast Air Quality Management District?

The proposed Order of Abatement issued by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) regarding operations at Sunshine Canyon Landfill allege the facility is “insufficiently collecting the amount of landfill gas currently generated at Sunshine Canyon Landfill...which can cause odor emissions from the landfill during morning hours.”

The Order of Abatement goes on to explain, “The District has received over three thousand odor complaints beginning in October 2013 through the present, from the public and elementary school staff working and living near Sunshine Canyon Landfill alleging the facility as the source of the odors.”

To understand the complaints, Sunshine Canyon Landfill engaged an independent expert to analyze the complaints received by the AQMD from the period of January, 2009 to February, 2014. The review of approximately 4,975 complaints found the vast majority of odor complaints are being filed from a very small number of residential addresses near the landfill.

The analysis revealed interesting facts regarding the complaints received:

- 36% of the odor complaints are from 10 people
- 50% of the odor complaints come from 10 addresses
- 70% of the total reported complaints are from 20 physical addresses (19 homes and the local elementary school)

99.33% of Odor Measurements Report No Odor or Fleeting Odor

During the period of February, 2012, through November, 2014, odor patrols reported approximately 47,000 odor measurements in the areas where the greatest frequency of complaints were received. These included the Mission Tierra neighborhood, around Van Gogh School and the Legends at Cascades Condominiums.

Data was collected daily from 6 to 10 am and 8 pm to midnight, to correspond with the periods when odor complaints were most frequent. The observations collected yielded the following results:

Odor Intensity Description	Number of Readings	Percentage of Total Readings
No odor	44,810	95.39
Very Faint	1,085	2.31
Faint	765	1.63
Distinct	268	.57
Strong	37	.08
Very Strong	8	.02

Additional information regarding the unintentional consequences of the Order of Abatement is available at <http://sunshinecanyonlandfill.com/engagement>.