



The Glenoaks Canyon Homeowners Association (GOCHA) strives to preserve the natural beauty of our canyon setting as well as foster community spirit among neighbors.

Residents of Communities Neighboring Scholl Canyon Landfill

May 8, 2014

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Attention: Ms. Debra Bogdanoff
1955 Workman Mill Road
Whittier, CA 90601
sclfeir@lacsds.org
Fax: (562) 695-1874

RE: Opposing the Scholl Canyon Landfill Expansion as defined by the
Draft Environmental Impact Report dated March 31, 2014

Dear Ms. Bogdanoff:

The interest of Los Angeles County and the City of Glendale in expanding the Scholl Canyon Landfill has been in the news periodically since 2007. Nevertheless, we heard in 2009 that the County and the City had decided to delay proceeding with an environmental impact report because of a sharp reduction in waste received at the Landfill due to the effects of the recession in 2008. Little was heard since that time except that alternative methods of disposing of waste were being considered. Suddenly in the last few weeks, the Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) dated March 31, 2014, has come to our attention. The draft EIR focuses on the two options originally proposed in 2007, "Variation 1" being a vertical expansion of the Landfill and "Variation 2" being both a vertical and a horizontal expansion. "Variation 1" is predicted to extend the expected life of the Landfill from 2021 to 2034, while "Variation 2" is predicted to extend it to 2040.

We oppose proceeding with either of these options for the following reasons:

- 1) The draft EIR concedes that neither proposed variation would meet air quality standards set by CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), even if all feasible mitigations were employed. It is likely that no landfill the size of the Scholl Canyon Landfill would be able to meet these standards.
- 2) The draft EIR concedes that litter control, noise control, odor control, and control of hazardous materials will continue to be a challenge at the Landfill.
- 3) Expansion of the Landfill is inconsistent with Rim of the Valley's vision of converting the San Rafael Hills into urban recreational space, as well as space that is beneficial for animal wildlife and indigenous plant species.
- 4) Adding 175 feet in height to the Landfill would result in an artificial landform likely to further degrade the beauty and ridgeline of the San Rafael Hills. At an elevation of 1705 feet



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above sea level, this artificial hill would rival the four highest hills in the San Rafael Range, which reach a maximum elevation of just 1889 feet at Flint Peak.

- 5) Expansion is an unsustainable stopgap measure, putting off until the future hard decisions about waste disposal.
- 6) Expansion of the Landfill is a flawed 20th Century solution to waste disposal when technology that will soon make urban landfills obsolete is now becoming available.
- 7) The draft EIR's dismissive rejection of alternative methods of waste disposal indicates that the County and the City have not yet invested enough effort in researching the new technology for waste disposal. The most attractive option is a "Geo-Plasma" technology by which an electrically induced stream of particles converts waste into power. It is based upon a "Plasma Torch" system developed by JPL and NASA. This kind of waste-to-energy technology is the wave of the future, as it eliminates the need for large urban landfills while dramatically reducing or eliminating all of their adverse effects, including air pollution. The County and the City should investigate whether State and Federal grants would be available for a project of this nature, which would demonstrate the feasibility of an environmentally beneficial solution to waste disposal.
- 8) When the Landfill was begun in 1961, residents of Glenoaks Canyon, Chevy Chase Canyon, and the surrounding residential communities in Pasadena and Eagle Rock were led to believe that it would close once the originally determined dimensions of the project were filled to capacity. This end to the Landfill would mean, then, that further destruction of natural habitat, degradation of air quality, and other environmental damage would no longer be added to the sacrifices that the residents had already been compelled to bear for two generations. Sixty years is more than long enough for any urban landfill placed on the top of a now-damaged-but-still-scenic range of hills where it is set in the midst of residential neighborhoods.

In view of the noted problems relating to extending the life of the Landfill for an additional 13 or 19 years, and in view of opportunities for adopting 21st Century technology to dispose of our waste in a way that would eliminate these problems, we recommend that the County and the City delay their decision on the future of the Scholl Canyon Landfill until the feasibility of employing environmentally beneficial alternatives are thoroughly investigated.

Sincerely,

The Following Signatories: