

## Remarks for Scholl Canyon Dump Expansion Meeting, July 31, 2014



“I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better.” — Maya Angelou

More than 53 years after opening and 36 years after the site was supposed to become a large park, the Scholl Canyon Landfill (SCLF) in the City of Glendale is requesting more room. Since it was first conceived in 1958 by Los Angeles County Supervisors, the landfill’s creation has pitted cities in LA County against each other. Then, as now, tension centered on the dump’s access road from Los Angeles rather than Glendale.

However, TERA’s concerns today are much broader than just Figueroa Street and Eagle Rock.

- Today we understand the connection between air quality and public health, childhood asthma rates and lung diseases
- Although air quality in the LA region has improved, it remains the most polluted metro area in the country.
- Today there is a new waste management paradigm which prioritizes waste prevention and recovery, and sees disposal in landfills as only a last resort.
- Today there are best-practices in landfill operations and technologies that both extend the lives of landfills and greatly reduce their pollution burden on neighboring communities.
- Today residents no longer require their governments to bear solely the burden of waste recovery. We embrace Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Compost. We want to use our local talent to transform waste to energy.

We oppose expanding the Scholl Canyon Landfill because today we know the City of Glendale, Los Angeles County and the Sanitation District can do better.

### History

- Opened in 1961, with 397 acres. Now approximately 525 acres.
- Located in and owned by Glendale but accessed from the City of Los Angeles.
- City of LA cannot dump there. Pasadena and Glendale largest users.
- Opposed by past and present LA Councilmen, including Jose Huizar, John Holland, and Edward Roybal.

### Expansion Proposal

- Two options for expansion: vertically as much as 17 stories and horizontally. Life extension from 2021 to at least 2040

### Environmental Impact Report says Adverse Impact to Air Quality is “Unavoidable”

- LA’s air, the worst in the nation, puts our health at risk. There’s too much of the most dangerous pollutants, ozone and particulate matter. Ozone can cause asthma, lung disease, respiratory infections, and premature death. Particulate matter can interfere with the lung growth and function, and increases your risk of heart disease, lung cancer and asthma. Children and seniors are most harmed by these pollutants.
- State and local regulation have helped LA reduce by 1/3rd its unhealthy ozone days in past 15 years.
- Only 20% of CA census tracts have worse air quality than Eagle Rock. Only 5% of other census tracts have more pollution from traffic, 7% from Solid Waste, 37% from Ozone, 30% from Particulate Matter, 46% from Diesel, 32% from Toxic Releases, and 38% from Hazardous Waste. Source: Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment CalEnviroScreen
- CalEnviroScreen shows that Glendale has equally poor air quality.
- DEIR find expansion would exceed ozone and particulate matter legal thresholds, and negate air quality improvement plans.

### Because SCLF hasn’t implemented best practices, Scholl Canyon is worst polluter than comparable County landfills

- When compared to similar LA County Landfills, SCLF was the worst polluter of particulate matter, diesel, and toxic releases. Source: Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment CalEnviroScreen analysis

Comparable LA Landfill	Tons	Pollution Burden Percentiles				
		Ozone	PM	Deisel	Hazardous Waste	Toxic Releases
Scholl Canyon	211,000	63	70	54	62	68
Lancaster	208,000	78	7	6	96	12
Calabasas	187,000	33	47	44	68	23
Antelope Valley	252,000	80	12	18	52	8

- City of Pasadena finds that DEIR is deficient partially because it doesn’t conduct a health risk assessment. They state, “Simply declaring the impacts significant and unavoidable without analyzing and disclosing the potential health risks of this exceedance is not appropriate.”
- Pasadena’s Public Works Dept. suggests ways to improve vehicle congestion, idling vehicles queued at SCLF’s entrance.

### Where will the trash go?

- LA County has “New Waste Management Paradigm,” which prioritizes waste prevention and recovery (Reuse, Recycle, Conversion/Compost, Transforming Waste to Energy), and sees disposal in landfills as last resort.
- LA County has Conversion Technology Efforts, including an anaerobic digester project popular with Glendale advocates
- Councilman Huizar leads City of Los Angeles Alternative Technology Efforts