1 2 3 4 5 6 7	OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMEN DAPHNE HSU, State Bar No. 247256 Principal Deputy District Counsel KARIN MANWARING, State Bar No. 228565 Senior Deputy District Counsel 21865 Copley Drive Diamond Bar, California 91765-0940 Telephone: (909) 396-3400 Fax: (909) 396-2825 Attorneys for Petitioner SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMEN			
8	BEFORE THE HEARING BOARD OF THE			
9	SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT			
10				
11	In the Matter of	Case No. 3448	8-18	
12	SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT,	[STIPULATE	ED] ORDER FOR T; [PROPOSED] FINDINGS	
13	Petitioner,	AND DECISI BOARD	ON OF THE HEARING	
14	vs.		fety Code §41700 and	
15	BROWNING-FERRIS INDUSTRIES OF	District Rule 4		
16 17	CALIFORNIA, INC., a California Corporation dba SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL,	Time:	March 19, 2025 9:30 a.m.	
18	[Facility ID No. 49111]	Place:	Hearing Board South Coast Air Quality	
19	Respondent.		Management District 21865 Copley Drive	
20			Diamond Bar, CA 91765	
21				
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23	FINDINGS AND DECISIO	N OF THE HE	ARING BOARD	
24			1 1 10 2025	
25	This petition for an Order for Abatement [Stipulated] was heard on March 19, 2025,			
26	pursuant to notice and in accordance with the provisions of California Health and Safety Code			
27	Section 40823 and District Rule 812. The following members of the Hearing Board were present:			
28	Micah Ali, Chair; Robert Pearman, Vice-Chair; Dr.	Jerry P. Abraha	ım, MD; Cynthia Verdugo	

1	Peralta; and Mohan Balagopalan. Petitioner, Executive Officer of the South Coast Air Quality
2	Management District, (hereinafter referred to as "District" or "Petitioner"), was represented by
3	Daphne Hsu, Principal Deputy District Counsel. Respondent Browning-Ferris Industries of
4	California, Inc. ("BFI"), a California corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of Republic
5	Services, Inc., was represented by the Law Offices of Thomas M. Bruen, P.C. The public was
6	given the opportunity to testify. The matter was submitted and evidence received. The Hearing
7	Board finds and decides as follows:
8	FINDINGS OF FACT
9	1. Petitioner is a body corporate and politic established and existing pursuant to H&S
10	Code §40000, et seq. and §40400, et seq., and is the sole and exclusive local agency with the
11	responsibility for comprehensive air pollution control in the South Coast Basin.
12	2. Respondent BFI, doing business as "Sunshine Canyon Landfill," owns and operates
13	a landfill/solid waste disposal site located at 14747 San Fernando Road, Sylmar, California 91342
14	(hereinafter referred to as "Sunshine Canyon Landfill" or the "Facility"), SCAQMD Facility ID
15	#49111, subject to the District's jurisdiction and District Rules.
16	3. The Facility is a Title V facility. The Title V Permit system is the air pollution
17	control permit system required to implement the federal Operating Permit Program as required by
18	Title V of the federal Clean Air Act as amended in 1990.
19	4. Sunshine Canyon Landfill operates under a Solid Waste Facility Permit issued by
20	the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery ("CalRecycle"). Sunshine
21	Canyon Landfill is classified as a Class III landfill and accepts municipal solid waste. The facility
22	is not permitted to accept hazardous waste. The Solid Waste Facility Permit limit is 12,100 tons
23	per day and the landfill receives roughly 9,000 tons of waste per day, handling approximately one-
24	third of the daily non-hazardous municipal solid waste disposed of in all of Los Angeles County.
25	5. In January 2025, the Los Angeles region experienced the most destructive wildfire
26	episode in the region's known history, destroying thousands of homes, businesses and other public
27	infrastructure. Respondent's tonnage limits have been temporarily increased following approvals

1	regulation.		
2	11. As a result of the odors emanating from Sunshine Canyon Landfill, a considerable		
3	number of persons living in the community and elementary school staff and students near the		
4	Facility have experienced nuisance level odors on an ongoing basis.		
5	12. Beginning in January 2023 through the present, the District has received over 3800		
6	odor complaints from the public and elementary school staff working and living near Sunshine		
7	Canyon Landfill alleging the Facility as the source of the odor. The District has traced the odors		
8	back to Sunshine Canyon Landfill on numerous occasions.		
9	13. In 2022, the District received approximately 650 odor complaints. With the		
10	increasing wet weather extremes, the number of odor complaints has been increasing significantly.		
11	In 2023, the District received over 1,720 odor complaints and in 2024, the District received over		
12	2,100 odor complaints.		
13	14. From January 1, 2023, through the present, the District has issued more than 138		
14	Notices of Violation ("NOVs") against the Respondent for violating District Rule 402 and H&S		
15	Code §41700.		
16	15. The District recently issued two more public nuisance NOVs after receiving over		
17	numerous odor complaints on February 16 th and 17 th following record breaking rains that occurred		
18	in the Los Angeles region on February 13 th and 14 th of this year, 2025.		
19	16. The City of Los Angeles City Council and the County of Los Angeles Board of		
20	Supervisors designated the SCL-LEA to be the primary local agency that provides the regulatory		
21	permitting, enforcement, and operational compliance oversight at Sunshine Canyon Landfill on		
22	behalf of the California Environmental Protection Agency's Cal Recycle.		
23	17. Numerous regulatory agencies, including the South Coast Air Quality Management		
24	District, SCL-LEA, Los Angeles County Regional Planning, City of Los Angeles Planning		
25	Department, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality		
26	Control Board, the California Department of Toxics Substances Control, and other state or local		
27	agencies, have jurisdiction over Respondent (and/or Respondent's affiliates', including its transfer		
28	stations).		

24. A landfill "Lift" is a layer of waste in a landfill cell that is typically 8–10 feet thick. Landfills are made up of multiple lifts, or layers of cells.

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methane monooxygenase (MMO).)

25. A landfill "Cell" is a single, waste-holding unit within a larger landfill property.

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4. This (Stipulated) Order for Abatement is not intended to be, nor will it act as, a variance. Respondent is subject to all rules and regulations of the District and to all applicable provisions of California law. Nothing herein shall be deemed or construed to limit the authority of the District to issue Notices of Violation, to seek civil penalties or injunctive relief, or to other administrative or legal relief. The Findings of Fact are based on evidence presented by Petitioner and Respondent as of the date hereof.

ORDER

THEREFORE, subject to and based on the aforesaid Findings of Fact, Conclusions and additional evidence and testimony, and good cause appearing, Respondent is hereby ordered to cease and desist any operation of the landfill/solid waste disposal Facility referred to as "Sunshine Canyon Landfill," resulting in violations of Health and Safety Code §41700 and District Rule 402, or in the alternative, comply with the actions and conditions set forth below:

- 1. Respondent shall appear at a Status Hearing to be set in six months, or as soon thereafter as the South Coast AQMD Hearing Board schedule allows, and shall prepare a written status report to be submitted at least thirty-days in advance of the Status Hearing. Respondent shall email the status report to the Clerk of the Board at COB@aqmd.gov, with a copy to the South Coast AQMD [attention Karin Manwaring at KManwaring@aqmd.gov] and to the SCL-LEA [attention David Thompson at David.Thompson@lacity.org].
- 2. The Executive Officer may request the Hearing Board hold a Status Hearing sooner than the hearing to be set in six months if, for example, South Coast AQMD issues more than two Notices of Violation (NOVs) over a consecutive four-day period and in the judgment of the Executive Officer the source of the odor has not been addressed, and such subsequent events concerning the landfill warrant the more immediate attention of the Hearing Board.
- 3. Respondent shall collaborate with the SCL-LEA to develop and implement protocols for the monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of each of the individual mitigation measures identified for implementation in this Order, and the potential effectiveness of the different mitigation measures when utilized in combination (to help determine the best complementary combination of mitigation measures for the different types of odors and different root causes). Respondent shall report back on the status of this assessment of mitigation measures, including development of protocols, at the Status Hearing identified in Condition no. 1.

- 4. Respondent shall perform, or cause to be performed, the following pilot projects, shall document efforts to implement the following pilot projects, and shall report back on the status of each pilot project as part of the Status Hearing identified in Condition no.1:
 - a. *Microbiology-based Mitigation (Application)*: Respondent shall, within six months of issuance of this Order, incorporate application during the unloading, spreading, and compacting operations of the working face, of aerobic microbiology-based solution(s) to enhance the oxidation of odiferous compounds ("fresh trash odors") and methane within the current lift of waste being disposed, and shall initiate and support research to validate the short-term and long-term effectiveness of the application, including efforts to ensure no unintended consequences of the application. Respondent shall document application efforts and shall report back on the status of the application and research at the Status Hearing identified in Condition no. 1.
 - b. *Microbiology-based Mitigation (Foam Gun Application)*: Respondent shall, to the extent reasonably feasible, apply odor neutralizer and microbiology-based solution(s) at the same time using a foam gun during the unloading, spreading, and compacting of the waste on the daily working face.
 - c. Microbiology-based Mitigation (EnviroCover ADC): Respondent shall, prior to the application of EnviroCover as an alternative daily cover at the end of the operating day, apply an additional spraying of aerobic microbiology-based solution(s) and an additional anaerobic microbiology-based solution(s) to enhance the oxidation of odiferous compounds ("fresh trash odors") and methane within the current lift of waste being disposed.
 - d. *Microbiology-based Mitigation (Soil Enhancement Protocols)*: Respondent shall, within two months of issuance of this Order, initiate an innovative pilot program, including providing access to grids for testing, for the purpose of supplementing the effectiveness of soil, mulch, compost, (or combination of) using microbiology-based technologies to enhance the oxidation of odiferous compounds and or methane. Respondent's efforts shall include collaborating with the SCL-LEA to determine a set of evaluation protocols to determine the potential effectiveness for full-scale future application using best practices.
 - e. *Microbiology-based Mitigation (Cover Soil)*: Respondent shall, to the extent that daily cover soil and/or intermediate cover soil are utilized as a vegetative layer, make efforts to improve the biofiltration properties of the soil by improving the organic content (for example, carbon content) by adding organic soil, compost, and/or biochar to enhance the microbiology-based solution's impact on plant root growth and its ability to oxidize landfill gas in an effort to increase the phytoremediation ability of the vegetation.

- f. *Microbiology-based Mitigation (Phytoremediation Protocols)*: Respondent shall, within two months of issuance of this Order, facilitate access and perform or cause to be performed, an application to enhance phytoremediation on multiple test grids. Respondent's efforts shall include collaborating with the SCL-LEA to determine a set of evaluation protocols to determine the potential effectiveness for full-scale future application to enhance phytoremediation using best practices. Respondent shall document the efforts to enhance phytoremediation and shall report back on the status of the efforts at the Status Hearing identified in Condition no. 1.
- g. *Closure Turf*: Respondent shall examine the feasibility of not removing the existing Closure Turf when cell development impacts an area for the purpose of developing a landfill gas collection system and a leachate collection system that would function with the Closure Turf remaining in place. Respondent shall report back on the status of the potential to and benefits of leaving Closure Turf in place at the Status Hearing identified in Condition no. 1.
- h. Enhanced Surface Emissions Data Collection: Respondent shall initiate an innovative pilot program for the purpose of improving surface emissions data collection (for example, by collecting more real time data and including data collected in the evenings, and for example, by use of technology such as drones and or tracked robotic vehicles) to identify potential problematic grids and areas (for the purpose of identifying areas to implement additional corrective measures) to improve landfill gas collection and to minimize the potential for fresh trash odors to be carried by landfill gas emissions. Respondent shall collaborate with the SCL-LEA on the enhanced surface emissions data collection efforts and shall provide access to the Facility on a case-by-case basis as recommended by the SCL-LEA. Respondent shall report back on the status of the enhanced surface emissions data collection efforts at the Status Hearing identified in Condition no. 1.
- 5. Respondent shall address odiferous compounds, including fresh trash odors, by performing, or causing to be performed, the following measures:
 - a. At Republic owned or controlled transfer stations, Respondent shall apply odor neutralizer and incorporate aerobic (and compatible anaerobic) microbiology-based solution(s) to enhance the oxidation of odiferous compounds ("fresh trash odors") prior to disposal of that waste at the Facility;
 - i. Respondent shall document use of odor neutralizers and aerobic (and compatible anaerobic) microbiology-based solution(s), and shall make records available to the South Coast AMD upon request.

- 7. Respondent shall continue construction of the front entrance berm, including landscaping as a physical visual barrier and a physical odor barrier, which shall include a misting system with both odor neutralizer and a waterless vapor odor neutralizer. Respondent shall report back on the status of the berm construction at the Status Hearing identified in Condition no. 1.
- 8. Respondent shall implement the (previously SCL LEA-approved) 2023-2024 Wet Weather Preparation Plan and the current 2024-2025 Wet Weather Preparation Plan, and shall implement additional wet weather mitigation measures when feasible and appropriate, such as grading techniques (for example, rough grading, contour grading, use of erosion control fabrics/mats) to minimize surface erosion and to preserve the low permeability properties of the landfill cover.
- 9. Respondent shall implement as part of its wet weather preparation and as additional odor mitigation, utilization of hydroseeding in areas anticipated to be most effective, as determined in collaboration with the SCL-LEA, for enhanced erosion control, including use of methanotrophic bacteria/microbes in the hydroseeding cover layer to enhance oxidation of odor/methane in addition to enhancing root growth of with the utilization of microbiology with phytoremediation properties.
- 10. Respondent shall, for the purpose of assessing the overall effectiveness of individual and/or combined mitigation measures, provide to the SCL-LEA the following: landfill gas system operational data, South Coast AQMD Rule 1150.1 instantaneous and integrated surface readings data; individual landfill gas well analytical/operational data; daily collected gas volumes; and meteorological data, and shall also provide the implementation schedule and operational dates of implemented mitigation measure(s). Respondent may designate and mark as confidential data it considers "business sensitive."
- 11. Respondent shall collaborate with the SCL-LEA to identify Rule 1150.1 monitoring grids with continuing excessive surface emissions and shall enhance the intermediate cover with the most appropriate mitigation measures, which might include:
 - a. Application of intermediate cover to areas with daily cover, prior to the six-month regulatorily required intermediate cover application;
 - b. Enhancement of existing intermediate cover with extra thickness of compacted soil, with lower permeability soil, if available;
 - c. Enhancement of existing intermediate cover with organic topsoil (compost, mulch, or mix) to create a biofilter layer;
 - d. Enhancement of existing intermediate cover with vegetative cover with native plants (for enhanced biofiltration);

- e. Application of EnviroCover over a protective soil buffer layer, followed by application of intermediate soil cover;
- f. Application of PosiShell on top of intermediate cover;
- g. Application of PosiShell (or other material with more impermeable properties for "sealing" the top layer) on top of extra thickness soil for enhanced intermediate cover; and/or
- h. Application of a soil "sealant" to increase the impermeability of soil used for daily cover and intermediate cover.
- 12. Respondent shall address grids that continue to demonstrate excessive surface emissions by prioritizing installation of shallow horizontal/slope/trench collectors at such grids, and shall assess utilization of large plastic sheeting or Closure Turf cover, with installation of flat/horizontal landfill gas collection pipes underneath the cover, and shall cover problematic grids with large plastic sheeting or Closure Turf if determined to be feasible and likely to reduce excessive surface emissions.
- 13. Respondent shall review the current Cell Sequencing Plan to determine the feasibility of optimizing the sequence to focus on filling over the grids (and including installation of horizontal collectors from the start of filling) where the practice of nine inches of compacted daily soil without peelback was implemented. If Respondent, in collaboration with the SCL-LEA, determines a revised Cell Sequencing Plan is appropriate, Respondent shall prepare a draft 5-year Cell Development Plan, showing the current Cell and future Cells to the terminal toe berm area. Respondent shall report back on the status of Cell Sequencing Plan at the Status Hearing identified in Condition no. 1.
- 14. Respondent shall continue implementation of top-down vertical landfill gas collection wells to supplement bottom-up landfill gas collection wells (and elsewhere at the Facility as appropriate) to achieve a minimum of thirty percent (30%) overlap for the effective radius of influence of the vertical landfill gas collection wells. Respondent shall report back on its effort to achieve a minimum of thirty percent (30%) overlap at the Status Hearing identified in Condition no. 1.
- 15. Respondent shall, when feasible and appropriate, utilize larger diameter landfill gas extraction well-casings to improve vacuum levels and utilize a geosynthetic boot, bentonite seal, or additional soil layer (or combination thereof) around the base of the well-casing to minimize landfill gas leakage. Respondent shall maintain records documenting use of larger diameter landfill gas extraction well-casings and/or use of enhancements at the base of the well-casing, and shall make records available to the South Coast AQMD upon request.