



Officers  
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*Treasurer: George Ortega*

February 17, 2025

To Whom it May Concern,

On January 23rd, 2025, the Sylmar Neighborhood Council held its regularly scheduled General Board Meeting. There were seventeen (17) Board Members present. All Members in attendance **voted unanimously to oppose any waste from the devastating Eaton and Palisades Fires being disposed of at landfills or spreading grounds in the Sylmar Area.** Also in attendance were representatives from the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, Educators, Community Health Professionals, Leaders in Public Safety, Transportation, Equestrian, Planning & Land Use and several other community members.

**For some background, the following are some topics of high concern that were expressed by the residents at that meeting and subsequent Public Safety meetings that addressed this topic.**

- 1) Approximately 70% of Los Angeles' water travels via open air through Sylmar at the Los Angeles Aqueduct Cascades. This water supply serves the entire San Fernando Valley, much of the Greater Los Angeles City, and some surrounding communities. The Cascades are situated less than one mile away from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, so there are concerns for water contamination during debris transportation and in the years beyond.
- 2) Sylmar is in a High Fire Severity Zone. All three Sylmar area landfills/spreading grounds (Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Lopez Canyon Landfill, and May Canyon Sediment Placement Site) were affected by wildfires in recent years. In the recent LA County Supervisor's Sunshine Canyon Debris Removal Townhall, one of our Board members asked if the planned barrier methods (plastic and geosynthetic clay) would be expected to withstand fire damage and would materials that were deemed to be non-hazardous at the time of disposal become hazardous in the event of a fire. Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, and the LA County Department of Public Health all answered that this was "beyond their scope of expertise." This should be evaluated as a top priority before disposal activities continue.
- 3) The residents of Sylmar have been involved in numerous lawsuits against Sunshine Canyon Landfill citing improper maintenance after heavy rains, harmful toxic gas release, health repercussions, and diminishment of property value. Sylmar residents are weary of the landfill's ability to safely dispose of waste given their previous mismanagement.

**Sylmar holds a long history of being affected by natural disaster, so, while our hearts go out to all those affected by these two disasters, we strongly oppose any actions that risk bringing further hardship to this community.**

Sincerely,

Kurt Cabrera-Miller  
President, Sylmar Neighborhood Council

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