

LINDA VISTA-ANNANDALE ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 94364
Pasadena, CA 91109

Via Email: Glendale City Clerk's Office

September 12, 2022

City Council
City of Glendale
613 E. Broadway, 2nd Floor
Glendale, CA 91206

Re: Meeting of September 13, 2022
Agenda Item 8.b.: Update on Scholl Canyon Landfill Operations and Closure

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers:

The Linda Vista-Annandale Association (LVAA) appreciates this opportunity to comment on Scholl Canyon Landfill closure proposals.

What is the Linda Vista-Annandale Association (LVAA)?

LVAA is the Neighborhood Association which advocates for the part of the City of Pasadena directly adjacent to the City of Glendale's Scholl Canyon Landfill, the Special Recreation Area, and the proposed Biogas Renewable Generation Project (the Project). LVAA is dedicated to the improvement and development of the Linda Vista-Annandale neighborhood area of Pasadena, and the promotion of the general welfare of our residents.

Our neighborhood includes, and LVAA represents, approximately 1,330 single-family homes located in the City of Pasadena. In addition to these "sensitive receptors," our neighborhood also includes an important educational institution near Glendale and the Landfill, the Art Center College of Design Hillside campus. To the east and south, our neighborhood, including the Art Center, is immediately adjacent to, and in some places nearly abuts, the Scholl Canyon Landfill. In fact, several Pasadena streets and

residential properties are specifically referred to and considered in the Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The Scholl Canyon Landfill Should Be Closed and Converted to Recreational Use in Accordance With Glendale's Previously Adopted Policies, Goals and Objectives.

LVAAs supports closing the Landfill in accordance with Glendale's previously adopted policies, goals, and objectives, that is, the Landfill should be closed upon reaching current capacity (estimated to occur in December 2025) or December, 2025, whichever is earlier. In no event should the closing date be extended, or the Landfill expanded any further.

Failure to close the Landfill upon reaching current capacity appears neither to have been envisioned nor intended by the basic "social contract" with adjacent Glendale residents when the Scholl Canyon Landfill was originally approved, including updated approvals. The agreement with the residents and voters of Glendale was to allow the Landfill until no longer functional, and then to enable the Landfill area to transition to full passive, open space, and recreational use for the benefit of the public. All planning documents and previous public policy decisions, including Zoning, support this process and conclusion. Eventual, full passive recreational use has been and is the expectation of the area's residential neighbors, including those of us located in the City of Pasadena.

Here for your review are relevant sections of Glendale's General Plan, the foundational document that should guide all your policy decisions including Landfill closure.

Glendale General Plan: Recreation Element.

Goals, Objectives, and Policies -- Objective 1: Incrementally expand the quantity and quality of recreational experiences for residents and visitors to the City of Glendale now and far into the future.

Objective 1, Policy 1: The City shall provide a range of recreational opportunities to meet the needs, desires and interest of all population groups in the city.

Objective 1, Policy 3: The City shall enhance and expand existing recreational facilities in response to community needs.

Existing Recreational Facilities Section – Scholl Canyon: When Scholl Canyon sanitary landfill has reached capacity, the remaining 250 to 280 acres which have been utilized for the landfill will become available for park improvements and open space. (Emphasis Added.)

Glendale General Plan: Open Space and Conservation Element.

Issues and Opportunities – First Paragraph, second, third sentences:

The juxtaposition of industrial, intensive commercial, high density residential, suburban and open space lands requires decisions regarding the effect each land use classification has on the others. This is especially true for those uses that abut open space and conservation areas.

Policy 2: The City shall provide a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities to all residents.

Opportunity and access are consistent with the needs of an increasingly diverse population for a variety of recreational experiences.

Goals and objectives Introduction -- Second Paragraph, second sentence:

The accumulation of open space is a public asset and is a result of City policy aimed at acquiring this significant resource for the environmental, educational, recreational and conservation benefits it provides.

Goal 2: Protect vital or sensitive open space areas including ridgelines, canyons, streams, geologic formations, watersheds and historic, cultural, aesthetic and ecologically significant areas from the negative impacts of development and urbanization.

Goal 2, Objective 4: Provide incentives to defer development that is inconsistent with future acquisition priorities or other objectives of this plan.

Further, as stated in the Staff analysis, the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) requires the construction of parks/recreational facilities on the landfill premises after the closure of the Landfill.

Conversion of the Landfill to extensive active and passive recreational use has the potential to be of great recreational and economic benefit to Glendale and the immediate region, including West Pasadena and other jurisdictions adjacent to Glendale. Considering the uncertain future for recreation in Pasadena's Central Arroyo as the City moves relentlessly to commercialize the Central Arroyo, and the many years it will take for the recovery of the Upper Arroyo (Hahamongna) from the Sediment Removal project, LVAA is very aware of the interest in our area in the recreational future of the Landfill property. Recreational opportunities for regional users will mean more visitors to the area and to Glendale and more positive economic impacts for Glendale.

We urge you to "stay the course" and close the Landfill when current capacity is reached, and then proceed to plan for, develop and implement a visionary plan for the use of the entire Landfill site for recreational use.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Nina Chomsky

Nina Chomsky, LVAA President

cc: LVAA Board of Directors