



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460  
www.lacountyiswmtf.org**

**GAIL FARBER  
CHAIR**

March 25, 2010

Mr. Kurt Bratton  
General Manager  
Browning Ferris Industries  
14747 San Fernando Road  
Sylmar, CA 91342-1021

Dear Mr. Bratton:

### **PROGRESS OF REVEGETATION EFFORTS AT SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL**

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force), I would like to thank Ms. Susan Jennings of Browning-Ferris Industries (BFI) and Dr. Ted St. John of AECOM, for attending the March 18, 2010, meeting of the Task Force and providing an update on BFI's revegetation efforts at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

The Task Force would like to express its disappointment over the lack of progress in revegetating the landfill, and the lengthy time period this issue has remained unresolved. This condition has unduly subjected neighboring communities to nuisance, as well as concerns regarding their health and well-being. The County's portion of the landfill has been operating since 1996, yet revegetation of the final slopes is still inadequate. The two Conditional Use Permits [Nos. 86-312-(5) and 00-194-(5)], granted by the County of Los Angeles for the County portion of the landfill contain specific revegetation requirements for cut slopes that are inactive for more than 180 days, and other permanent slopes. Definitive methodologies could be drawn based on the findings of your vegetation studies conducted as part of the California Environmental Quality Act and Conditional Use Permit processes. BFI's efforts thus far have been ineffective and have only yielded more experiments and difficulties rather than consistent and satisfactory vegetation growth. Furthermore, inadequate vegetation was recently identified by the South Coast Air Quality Management District as a potential contributor to the odor problems at the landfill, which resulted in seven violation incidents in 2009.

To address these concerns the Task Force requests that BFI commits to:

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1. Developing a work plan including specific deadlines for achieving reliable plant growth.
2. Consulting with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and other landfill operators regarding their methods on successful revegetation, such as utilizing container plants. Based on the findings, formulate a plan to incorporate proven methods as early as the end of this year.
3. Including an update regarding the above plan and consultation efforts in BFI's next quarterly status report to the Task Force pursuant to Condition 18 of the Finding of Conformance granted to BFI on December 18, 2008.
4. Forwarding to the Task Force a copy of the vegetation plan that is required by South Coast Air Quality Management District's Order for Abatement, issued on March 24, 2010.

The Task Force requests a written response to this letter prior to its April 15, 2010, meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer of the Task Force at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management  
Committee/Integrated Waste management Task Force and  
Mayor, City of Rosemead

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cc: AECOM (Ted St John)  
Browning Ferris Industries (Susan Jennings)  
City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning (Gail Goldberg, Ly Lam)  
City of Los Angeles Environmental Affairs Department (Wayne Tsuda)  
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (Richard Bruckner, Maria Masis)  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Angelo Bellomo, Cindy Chen)  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (Pat Proano)  
North Valley Coalition (Wayde Hunter)  
Sunshine Canyon LEA (Cindy Chen)  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste  
Management Task Force and Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee