

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

City Council Approves Deal to Reduce Dumping at Sunshine Canyon Landfill by 600 Tons Per Day

Los Angeles - The City Council voted unanimously on a deal Friday, March 17 with landfill operator BFI that will reduce the amount of trash sent to Sunshine Canyon Landfill in Granada Hills by 600 tons per day starting in July.

“This is a historic turning point by a unified Council because it sets us on the path of getting out of Sunshine Canyon and toward becoming a greener, cleaner Los Angeles,” Councilman Greig Smith said. “For the residents of Granada Hills, this is proof of the City’s commitment to ending the dumping at Sunshine Canyon.”

The vote broke the status quo of renewing BFI’s exclusive contract to handle the City’s residential waste. Currently, the City sends nearly all of its trash, 3,600 tons per day, to Sunshine Canyon.

BFI had threatened to penalize the City with drastically higher rates of up to \$45 per ton if the City diverted any trash to other landfills. Council President Eric Garcetti put together a negotiating team to meet with BFI, which had previously refused to sit at the table with the City, its largest customer.

The team got the increase for diversion down to \$2 per ton above the current level, resulting in a cost of \$3.5 million, a fraction of the Bureau of Sanitation’s original projection of up to \$30 million.

Friday’s vote brought the City closer to achieving the Council’s adopted goal of reducing the waste sent to Sunshine Canyon to 500 tons or less per day by 2009, a key element of Councilman Smith’s RENEW LA plan.

RENEW LA is a 20-year blueprint to end the City’s use of landfills by using non-recyclable trash for beneficial use in the form of green electricity, alternative fuel sources and manufacturing feedstocks. It would create a new environmental-industrial sector with many high-quality jobs and make Los Angeles a national leader in resource conservation and recovery.

CONTACT: Matt Myerhoff, Communications Director, Council District 12
Cell: (818) 613-2248 // Office: (213) 473-7012// Matt.Myerhoff@lacity.org