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THIS

ECHO

Est. 1955 / WINTER 2019 P.O. BOX 9949 - GLENDALE, CA 91226

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE



To our Glenoaks Canyon Community,

I hope you all had a joyous holiday season. As I have mentioned in previous newsletters, the mission of GOCHA is to preserve, protect and enhance our beautiful Glenoaks Canyon. GOCHA is made-up solely of volunteers, who tirelessly give of their time to further the interests of the Canyon.

With the beginning of the new year, it is time for the Glenoaks Canyon Homeowners Association (GOCHA's) annual membership drive. At this time each year, we invite all of the 700+ households in the Glenoaks Canyon to become a member of GOCHA. After many years without change, you will see this year we have slightly increased GOCHA's annual membership fee to \$25.00, and we have also eliminated the Patron and Founder levels to make membership renewal a little easier. For a small annual fee, you can support our activities and stay aware of what is going on in and around the Canyon.

This year we plan to revamp our GOCHA website (www.glenoakscanyon.org), which in addition to getting a needed face lift, will soon enable you to pay your membership fees and donate to our legal and disaster preparedness funds. That's in the future, though, and for now please use the attached membership form to either join GOCHA or renew your membership. Thank you!

The City and GWP continue to explore alternatives to prolong the life of the neighboring landfill, which impacts the lives of all canyon residents. For example, we recently learned through an article in Eagle Rock's *Boulevard Sentinel* that the use of the existing pipeline to carry methane to the Grayson Power Plant was discontinued in April and all methane from the Landfill is currently being flared into the air over the landfill. Needless to say, we are concerned about the pollution from this activity and it is unclear at this time if the City has any desire to restart use of the pipeline. The full article about flaring has been reprinted on pages 4 and 5 with permission from the publisher. Also, please note that the EIR for the Biogas Project (Power Plant) on the landfill is underway. Please see Marie Freeman's article, page 2.

Finally, on page 3, our Disaster Preparedness Chair, Isabelle Meyer, gives us an update on the surveys that were distributed in the last edition of the *Echo*.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year.

Rick Marquis
President, GOCHA

Published by:

THE GLENOAKS CANYON HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (GOCHA)

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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ANNUAL DOG PARADE

Saturday, April 13th

11:00 AM—1:00 PM Glenoaks Park

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, May 4th

Meet at Canyon Marker, 9:00 AM

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, September 11th

7:30 TO 9:00 PM, Clubhouse, Glenoaks Park

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 12th

8:00 AM– 11:00 AM, Clubhouse, Glenoaks Park

FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, November 9th

Meet at Canyon Marker, 9:00 AM

Landfill Update – EIR for Biogas Project

By Marie Freeman, GOCHA Board Member

It's time to pay close attention to Scholl Landfill again. On December 18, the Glendale City Council awarded Stantec the contract to prepare a full Environmental Impact Report for the "Biogas Regeneration Project" (a power plant to be built on the landfill). This means that within about ten months, the City must determine the proposed project's impacts on the following environmental issue areas: air quality and greenhouse gas emissions; cultural and biological resources; geology; water quality and hydrology; noise; traffic; hazardous materials and hazards such as fire; and aesthetic visual impacts. The report must also present reasonable alternatives that could attain most of the project's objectives but could avoid or lessen negative effects of the proposed power plant.

The GOCHA Board of Directors has formed a subcommittee to follow landfill issues. Board members who are most directly involved are Audry Zarokian, Joan Morris, Justin King, Dan Kruse, and Marie Freeman. If you have specific interests in the EIR or expertise in ANY area of its review, let one of these Board members know, or become more directly involved yourself in monitoring the City's review and planning for Scholl. What happens there in the next year will affect us all well into the future.

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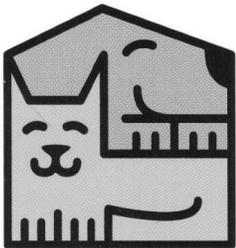
Disaster Preparedness Update

By Isabelle Meyer
Chair, Disaster Preparedness Committee

We have just updated all the disaster preparedness information and distributed the information to our volunteers. Our search and rescue packs are also updated and five new volunteers have been added to our roster.

Due to the fact that our **volunteers will only check homes who have indicated their interest with the return of the questionnaire**, participation has increased to a all-time high of 30% of households. This makes our program very much worthwhile. If you have not sent in an updated form this fall, and would like someone to check on your and your family's wellbeing after a disaster, call me at (818) 242-4290 and I will send you a copy. My goal is to have every family in the canyon checked on and assisted in whatever way necessary.

Our homeowner's association GOCHA funds all of our efforts and you can show your appreciation to them for 28 years of financial funding by becoming a member and making a donation to our disaster preparedness fund (all money goes directly to adding to our emergency supplies).



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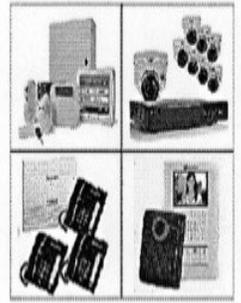
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(The Following was Reprinted with permission from the *Boulevard Sentinel*.)

Boulevard Sentinel

December Edition

MORE POLLUTION FROM SCHOLL CANYON



Landfill gas is being flared, not used to create electricity.

Burning Of Methane At Scholl Canyon Raises Questions Anew

By Bill Hendrickson

11/30/2018

The methane gas from decaying trash at the Scholl Canyon landfill in the hills above Eagle Rock is being “flared,” or burned off, the Boulevard Sentinel has learned. Contrary to common belief, the methane is no longer being used to make electricity at the Grayson Power Plant in Glendale.

From an environmental point of view, flaring is the worst way to deal with methane gas. Flaring causes pollution and releases emissions that contribute to global warming. Flaring is also wasteful because it literally burns up landfill gas that could be used to generate energy.

The Boulevard Sentinel learned of the flaring from Steven Zurn, the General Manager at Glendale Water and Power (GWP), in response to recent questions about the future of the Scholl Canyon landfill, which is owned by the City of Glendale. Mr. Zurn said flaring began

(continued on page 5)

in April. Before that, the gas was transported by pipeline to Grayson and used as a fuel source to generate electricity. Mr. Zurn said the methane is being flared because the Grayson plant is getting too old to efficiently process the gas. He pointed out that flaring has been used at Scholl Canyon in the past during maintenance and as emergency back-up and was common until about the mid-1990s.

Councilmember José Huizar and his staff found out about the flaring in October from the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, which handles the flaring, said Sean Starkey, the field deputy in Eagle Rock for Mr. Huizar. But Mr. Huizar's office has not discussed the Scholl Canyon flaring publicly because it is still gathering information about this development.

David Choi, a Glendale resident and a member of the Coalition for Scholl Landfill Alternatives, a local group of environmental activists, was not aware of the flaring until the Boulevard Sentinel told him about in November. He said that the Coalition's position is that GWP should continue to pipe the methane from the landfill to Grayson and use it to create electricity.

The flaring of methane at Scholl Canyon is likely to feed the long running feud between Glendale and Northeast Los Angeles over the landfill. The problem, in brief, is that Glendale owns the dump, uses it and makes money from it, while Eagle Rock and Highland Park are stuck with the landfill's truck traffic and pollution. The flaring at Scholl Canyon is also likely to anger many residents in Glendale, like Mr. Choi, who want their city to increase its use of clean, renewable energy sources and to reduce Glendale's reliance on the Scholl Canyon landfill.

One proposal by GWP to manage the methane from Scholl Canyon is to build a biogas plant at the landfill that would convert the methane to energy on site. The proposal has been met with opposition in Eagle Rock in part, because the biogas plan was hatched without consulting leaders in NELA about its impacts on the area in terms of traffic, pollution and other hazards. In Glendale, the Coalition for Scholl Landfill Alternatives and other groups also oppose the biogas plan.

Mr. Choi said for GWP to make money running a biogas plant, it would have to expand the dump to accept more garbage – which is the last thing his group wants to see. At this point, there are more questions than answers about the future of Scholl Canyon. But one thing is sure: The methane is not going away. Even if the landfill shut down today, the garbage already there would produce methane for decades to come. So, the methane from Scholl Canyon has to be managed.

But if flaring is not the answer, and if Grayson isn't processing the methane and if the biogas plant elicits a thumbs down, what is the answer? Asked another way: Who or what is going to get the interested parties to hammer out an acceptable path forward?

<http://www.boulevardsentinel.com/burning-of-methane-at-scholl-wcanyon-raises-questions-again/>

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