

# Twenty-Seventh Quarterly Report of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring at Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School

June 1, 2014 – August 31, 2014

Quarterly Report STI-914037-6084-QR

Prepared by

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October 15, 2014

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### **Executive Summary**

#### ES-1. Background

Continuous monitoring of meteorological and air quality parameters began at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (the Landfill) and at Van Gogh Elementary School in the nearby community of Granada Hills in fall 2007. PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter) is measured hourly. Wind speed and wind direction are measured as 1-minute averages, and black carbon (BC, a surrogate for diesel particulate matter) is averaged over 5-minute intervals. The collected data undergo quarterly validation and are evaluated for completeness.

Following data validation, all data are reported as hourly averages.  $PM_{10}$  concentrations are then compared with federal and state  $PM_{10}$  standards. When  $PM_{10}$  exceedances occur, additional comparisons are made with the historical, regional, and annual ambient  $PM_{10}$ concentrations. At least annually, the  $PM_{10}$  and BC data are analyzed to characterize the impact of landfill operations on ambient air quality on a neighborhood scale. The validated hourly data and a summary of the analytical results and field operations are reported to the Planning Department of the City of Los Angeles and to the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning. This Twenty-Seventh Quarterly Report summarizes the summer quarter monitoring results from the seventh year of continuous monitoring.

#### **ES-2. Statistics**

The percent data capture for  $PM_{10}$  was 100% at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill monitoring site and at Van Gogh Elementary School for this quarterly period. At the Landfill site, 0.9% of the captured  $PM_{10}$  data were invalidated and 0.4% were deemed suspect. At Van Gogh School, 5.9% of the captured  $PM_{10}$  data were invalidated and 0.2% were deemed suspect. BC data capture was 99.8% at the Landfill site with 1.4% invalid and 0.2% suspect, while 99.1% was captured at Van Gogh School with all captured data valid and none suspect. The wind data capture percentage was 99.8% at the Landfill site and 99.9% at Van Gogh School. About 1.6% of the captured wind data were invalidated at the Landfill site and 1.2% were invalidated at Van Gogh School, with 0.2% of wind data suspect at the Landfill site and none deemed suspect at Van Gogh School.

There were no exceedances of the federal 24-hr  $PM_{10}$  standard of 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup> during this quarter at either site. The percentage of days on which the state standard of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> was exceeded for the June-August quarter was 26% at the Van Gogh School site and 21% at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill site. Average BC concentrations during the summer season have decreased each year since 2008.

#### 1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of data completeness, ambient PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matter less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter) concentrations, average and maximum black carbon (BC) concentrations, instrument flow rate verification (quality control) data, and field operations for the quarterly period of June 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014. Data from this quarterly period represent the seventh consecutive year of summer season data collected from continuous monitoring at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh Elementary School monitoring sites.

#### 2. Data Completeness

**Table 1** gives completeness statistics for all measured variables for the period June 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014. The percent data capture for  $PM_{10}$  at the Landfill site and at Van Gogh School was 100%. At the Landfill monitoring site, about 0.9.% of the captured  $PM_{10}$  data were invalidated and 0.4% were deemed suspect. At Van Gogh School, 5.9% of the captured data were invalidated and 0.2% were deemed suspect. Suspect data are included in subsequent analyses (e.g., regional comparisons), while invalid data are not.

BC data capture was 99.8% at the Landfill site with 1.4% invalid while 99.1% was captured at the Van Gogh School with all data valid. One exception to note is that due to a failed flash disk at the Landfill site, there was no compensated BC data (variable "BC-Comp" in the delivered hourly data files) for this quarter for the Landfill site; BC-Comp is not currently used in any of our summaries. The software program that performs the compensation requires data directly from the Aethalometer's flash drive. It cannot use the remotely retrieved data collected at hourly intervals and stored on the server database. A new flash drive was installed.

The wind data capture percentage was 99.8% at the Landfill site and 99.9% at Van Gogh School. About 1.6% of the wind data were invalidated at the Landfill site, with 0.2% of wind speed data deemed suspect. The percent of wind data invalidated at the Van Gogh School was 1.1%, and none of the data were suspect.

Monitoring	Dates	Percent Data Capture (%) <sup>a</sup>			Percent Data Valid or Suspect (%) <sup>b</sup>			Percent Data Suspect (%) <sup>c</sup>		
Location	Dates	PM <sub>10</sub>	BC	WS/ WD	PM <sub>10</sub>	BC	WS/ WD	PM <sub>10</sub>	BC	WS/ WD
Sunshine Canyon Landfill	6/1/2014 – 8/31/2014	100	99.8	99.8	99.1	98.6	98.4	0.4	0.2	0.2
Van Gogh Elem. School	6/1/2014 – 8/31/2014	100	99.1	99.9	94.1	100.0	98.8	0.2	0.0	0.0

 Table 1. Data completeness statistics for the recent monitoring quarter, June 1, 2014– August 31, 2014.

<sup>a</sup> Percent Data Capture is the number of collected data values divided by the total number of expected data intervals in the date range (e.g., for the raw BC 5-minute data, 12 data values per hour and 288 data values per day are expected ).

<sup>b</sup> Percent Data Valid or Suspect is the number of data values that are either valid or suspect, divided by the number of captured data values.

<sup>c</sup> Percent Data Suspect is the number of data values labeled as suspect divided by the number of captured data values.

#### 3. PM<sub>10</sub> Exceedances

The federal and state  $PM_{10}$  exceedances for the current quarter, the corresponding quarters of the previous six years (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013), and the baseline year (November 22, 2001, to November 21, 2002), are summarized in **Table 2**. There were no exceedances of the federal 24-hr  $PM_{10}$  standard of 150 µg/m<sup>3</sup> during this quarter at either site. The percentage of days on which the state standard of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> was exceeded for the June-August quarter was 21% for the Landfill site and 26% for the Van Gogh School site.

**Table 2.** Number of exceedances of federal and state 24-hr  $PM_{10}$  standards during the current quarter and the June through August quarterly periods of the baseline year (2002) and of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013. In the "Federal" column, the values are *number of exceedances* and the *date* on which those exceedances occurred. In the "State" column, the values are *number of exceedances/total days on which valid 24-hr averages were measured* and the *percentage of exceedances* out of the total number of days on which valid 24-hr average PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations were measured.

		PM <sub>10</sub> Standard			
Site	Quarterly Period	Federal 24-hr 150 μg/m <sup>3</sup>	State 24-hr 50 μg/m³		
	06/01/02–08/31/02	0	5/16 (31%)		
	06/01/08–08/31/08	0	25/89 (28%)		
	06/01/09–08/31/09	0	13/90 (14%)		
Sunshine Canyon	06/01/10–08/31/10	0	27/83 (33%)		
Landfill	06/01/11–08/31/11	0	11/92 (12%)		
	06/01/12–08/31/12	0	10/92 (11%)		
	06/01/13–08/31/13	0	14/91 (15%)		
	06/01/14–08/31/14	0	19/91 (21%)		
	06/01/02–08/31/02	0	44/67 (66%)		
	06/01/08–08/31/08	0	28/92 (30%)		
	06/01/09–08/31/09	0	16/87 (18%)		
Van Carb Sabaal	06/01/10–08/31/10	0	11/91 (12%)		
Van Gogh School	06/01/11–08/31/11	0	23/92 (25%)		
	06/01/12–08/31/12	0	10/76 (13%)		
	06/01/13–08/31/13	0	9/90 (10%)		
	06/01/14–08/31/14	0	22/86 (26%)		

#### 4. Average and Maximum Black Carbon Concentrations

While no federal or state standards exist for BC concentrations in ambient air, BC is a measurable component of ambient air that correlates well with diesel particulate matter (DPM). Because of growing evidence that DPM is associated with several negative health effects, BC is often measured in an attempt to quantify the relative amounts of DPM in ambient air. Findings from the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study III, conducted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), found DPM to be the most important toxic pollutant contributing to risk in the Los Angeles basin.<sup>1</sup>

**Table 3** provides the 24-hr average and maximum 24-hr BC concentrations collected from June 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014, and compares these concentrations with data from the corresponding quarters of the six previous years as well as the baseline year. Last year, we reported that, at the Landfill monitoring site, the June through August average and maximum 24-hr BC concentrations exhibited a consistent downward trend from 2008 through 2013; this pattern continued in 2014. This pattern is also observable when comparing data among different years for the fall quarter of September through November, but is not observable in the winter (November to February) quarter or the spring (March to May) quarter.

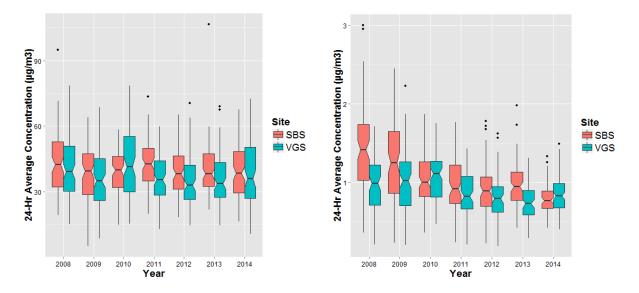
Cito	Overterly Deried	BC Concentrations (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )			
Site	Quarterly Period	Average 24-hr	Maximum 24-hr		
	06/01/02–08/31/02	1.09	2.69		
	06/01/08–08/31/08	1.41	3.01		
	06/01/09–08/31/09	1.26	2.45		
Superine Convert andfill	06/01/10–08/31/10	1.06	1.88		
Sunshine Canyon Landfill	06/01/11–08/31/11	0.99	1.78		
	06/01/12–08/31/12	0.93	1.79		
	06/01/13–08/31/13	0.98	1.98		
	06/01/14-08/31/14	0.79	1.34		
	06/01/02–08/31/02	1.40	2.33		
	06/01/08–08/31/08	0.98	1.71		
	06/01/09–08/31/09	1.03	2.23		
Van Carb Sabaal	06/01/10–08/31/10	1.08	1.75		
Van Gogh School	06/01/11–08/31/11	0.86	1.43		
	06/01/12–08/31/12	0.81	1.63		
	06/01/13–08/31/13	0.76	1.31		
	06/01/14-08/31/14	0.86	1.50		

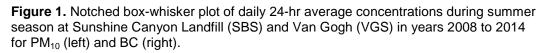
**Table 3.** Comparison of 24-hr BC concentrations for the current quarter with those measured in the June through August quarterly periods of the baseline year (2002) and of 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> South Coast Air Quality Management District (2008) MATES-III: Multiple air toxics exposure study in the South Coast Air Basin. Final report prepared for the South Coast Air Quality Management District, Diamond Bar, CA, September. Available at <u>http://www.aqmd.gov/prdas/matesIII/Final/Document/aaa-covermates3.pdf</u>.

One likely contributing factor is the meteorology that characterizes these different times of the year. In summer months, southerly (onshore) wind flows dominate, so for the majority of each day's diurnal cycle, the BC concentrations are influenced heavily by air masses moving northward from the greater metropolitan area. Ongoing efforts to reduce ambient concentrations of DPM in the South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB) may have contributed to reduced BC concentrations on a regional scale. However, basin-wide evidence of this is lacking because BC has no standard and is not a criteria pollutant, and it is not routinely measured at the California Air Resources Board (CARB) or SCAQMD air monitoring stations. During the fall, meteorological conditions are more mixed, with diurnal patterns exhibiting both onshore and offshore flow characteristics. The northerly flows that occur during these time periods can carry cleaner air from north of the SoCAB, with variable contributions from the landfill operations (variable because landfill activity levels vary throughout the work day and between work days and non-work days).

**Figure 1** shows a notched box-whisker plot<sup>2</sup> of the summer quarter  $PM_{10}$  and BC data for the seven monitoring years. Each box indicates the interquartile range (IQR), where 50% of the data lie, with the notch at the median. If notches do not overlap, this indicates that the median concentrations are statistically different at the 95% confidence level. The whiskers go to 1.5 times the IQR; points beyond this are shown individually. For  $PM_{10}$ , these plots show no statistically significant trend in the concentrations over the last seven years for the summer quarter, although for the last four years, summer quarter  $PM_{10}$  concentrations have been significantly lower at Van Gogh School than at the Landfill site. For BC, the trend of decreasing BC concentrations from regional influences during summertime is evident.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A notched box-whisker plot shows the entire distribution of concentrations for each year. In box-whisker plots, each box shows the 25<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup> (median), and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles. The boxes are notched (narrowed) at the median and return to full width at the 95% lower and upper confidence interval values. These plots indicate that we are 95% confident that the median falls within the notch. If the 95% confidence interval is beyond the 25<sup>th</sup> or 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, then the notches extend beyond the box (hence a "folded" appearance).

### 5. Field Operations

**Tables 4 and 5** list dates and major tasks associated with visits to the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh sites between June 1, 2014, and August 31, 2014. Meteorological instruments were calibrated at both sites. The calibration data are included in the **Appendix**.

**Table 4.** Sunshine Canyon Landfill monitoring site visits and field maintenance andoperations from June 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014.

Date of Site Visit	Description of Work
June 2, 2014	Performed flow check on BC and BAM samplers. Collected PM <sub>10</sub> and BC data. Changed BAM tape; cleaned roller and nozzle. Calibrated wind and temperature sensors.
July 23, 2014	Performed flow check on BC and BAM samplers. Collected $PM_{10}$ and BC data. Cleaned roller vane and nozzle.
August 7, 2014	Changed BAM tape.

**Table 5.** Van Gogh School monitoring site visits and field maintenance and operationsfrom June 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014.

Date of Site Visit	Description of Work			
June 6, 2014	Performed flow check on BC and BAM samplers. Collected PM <sub>10</sub> and BC data. Cleaned BAM roller and vane, changed tape. Calibrated wind and temperature sensors.			
July 23, 2014	Performed flow check on BC and BAM samplers. Collected $PM_{10}$ and BC data. Cleaned BAM roller and vane.			
July 28, 2014	Resolved BAM flow issue. Respooled new tape.			

**Table 6** shows the  $PM_{10}$  and BC flow rates as reported by the monitors and measured with a NIST-traceable flow standard. BAM flow rates are volumetric (local temperature and pressure), and Aethalometer flow rates are at standard temperature and pressure. Reference flows were measured with a NIST-traceable flow standard. BAM target flow rate is 16.7 lpm volumetric to meet the 10-micron cut point of the inlet, with an acceptable range of 16.0 to 17.3 lpm. The Aethalometer has no size cut point.

**Table 6.** Flow rates for the BAM  $PM_{10}$  monitors and Aethalometer BC monitors at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh School sites from June 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014.

			Flow Rates (lpm)						
Location	Date	BAM as Found	Reference	BAM as Left	Reference	Aethalometer as Found	Reference		
Sunshine Canyon Landfill	6/2/2014	16.7	16.9	16.7	16.9	2.8	3.0		
Sunshine Canyon Landfill	7/23/2014	16.7	16.3	16.7	16.3	2.9	3.2		
Van Gogh Elementary School	6/2/2014	16.7	16.6	16.7	16.6	3.0	3.4		
Van Gogh Elementary School	7/23/2014	16.7	16.3	16.7	16.3	3.1	3.4		
Van Gogh Elementary School	7/28/2014	14.3	16.7	14.3	16.7	<sup>a</sup>	<sup>a</sup>		

<sup>a</sup> Not measured.

# Appendix

# Meteorological Calibrations at Sunshine Canyon Landfill and Van Gogh School Monitoring Sites

#### Sunshine Canyon Met Cal: Wind speed and direction only

Unadjusted Wind Direction Calibration

Site location:	Sunshine Cyn	Landfill		Date:	6/2/2014
		118.30.28 W			
Elevation	1719 ft			Calibrated By:	K Smith
Wind Monitor Make: RMYoung				Calibrator Make:	
Model:					Bench Alignment Vane
Serial No:	Body 99221, P	rop 69314			STI 0000442
				Datalogger Make	DRDAS
				Model:	
Torque Reading:	<10 gr/cm cw			Compass:	Brunton sn 2610797458
· · · · · ·	<15 ccw		I		•
Direction Setting	Calibrator	Expected	DAS	Error	Remarks
Tower alignment	Compass	360	1	1	
Degrees	Wheel	0	1	1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	30	30	0	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	60	59	-1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	90	89	-1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	120	119	-1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	150	149	-1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	180	178	-2	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	210	208	-2	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	240	238	-2	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	270	268	-2	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	300	298	-2	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	330	328	-2	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	360	360	0	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	330	329	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	300	299	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	270	269	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	240	239	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	210	209	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	180	178	-2	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	150	149	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	120	119	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	90	89	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	60	59	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	30	29	-1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	0	0	0	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	355	354	-1	Cross-over at 355 deg.
Degrees	Wheel	5	4	-1	Clockwise

#### Adjusted Wind Speed Calibration

Calibrator Make:	
Model:	18820A/18820
	CA-03792
Propeller SN:	69314

Torque Reading: 1.0 gr/cm

	Multiplier	0.01145			
Synchronous Motor	RPM	Velocity (mph)	DAS (mph)	Error (mph)	Remarks
None	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Bearings replaced
High Speed	300	3.44	3.5	0.06	
High Speed	600	6.87	6.9	0.03	
High Speed	1200	13.74	13.9	0.16	
High Speed	2600	29.77	30.0	0.23	
High Speed	6000	68.70	69.1	0.40	
High Speed	9000	103.05	103.7	0.65	

#### Sunshine Canyon Met Cal: Wind speed and direction only <u>Unadjusted Wind Direction Calibration</u>

	Van Gogh School
	34.18.17 N 118.30.18 W
Elevation	1272 ft
Wind Monitor Make:	RMYoung
Model:	
Serial No:	Body 99220

# Date: 6/2/2014 Calibrated By: KSmith Calibrator Make: RMYoung Model: Bench Alignment Vane Serial No: STI 0000442 Datalogger Make DRDAS Model: Brunton sn 2610797458

#### Torque Reading: <20 gr/cm

Direction Setting	Calibrator	Expected	DAS	Error	Remarks
Tower alignment	GPS	360		358	
Degrees	Wheel	0	1	1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	30	31	1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	60	61	1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	90	91	1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	120	121	1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	150	152	2	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	180	181	1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	210	211	1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	240	240	0	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	270	270	0	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	300	300	0	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	330	331	1	Clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	0	0	0	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	330	330	0	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	300	300	0	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	270	270	0	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	240	240	0	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	210	211	1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	180	181	1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	150	151	1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	120	121	1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	90	91	1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	60	60	0	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	30	31	1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	0	1	1	Counter-clockwise
Degrees	Wheel	355	355	0	Cross-over at 355 deg.
Degrees	Wheel	5	6	1	Clockwise

#### **Adjusted Wind Speed Calibration**

Calibrator Make:	RMYoung		
	18820/18831		
Serial No:	CA-03792		
Propeller SN:	72254		

#### Torque Reading: 1.0 gr/cm

	Multiplier	0.01145			
Synchronous Motor	RPM	Velocity (mph)	DAS (mph)	Error (mph)	Remarks
None	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
High Speed	300	3.44	3.5	0.06	
High Speed	600	6.87	6.9	0.03	
High Speed	1200	13.74	13.8	0.06	
High Speed	2600	29.77	29.9	0.13	
High Speed	6000	68.70	69.0	0.30	
High Speed	9000	103.05	103.5	0.45	