



## VALLEY FAMILY CENTER

Margo Reid Brown, Chairperson  
California Integrated Waste Management Board  
1001 I Street  
P.O. 4025  
Sacramento, CA 95812

June 05, 2008

Dear Ms. Reid Brown;

As the Director of Valley Family Center, a private 501 (c)(3) mental health facility, located in the City of San Fernando, I wish to recommend the efforts of the operators of Sunshine Canyon Landfill in the North San Fernando Valley for their efforts to provide responsible waste management in our community. Over several years they have spent tens of millions of dollars on improvements at the site including a state of the art liner system to protect groundwater, and the monitoring of wells. This has made Sunshine Canyon one of the most advanced landfills in the region, if not in the U.S. The location of our facility, within 4 miles of Lopez Canyon Landfill, now closed, the Bradley Landfill, now closed, and Sunshine Canyon, makes us very aware of this issue.

Currently the site is underutilized due to restrictions on how much trash can be processed daily and it is very likely that the City-side of Sunshine Canyon will run out of capacity on its current operating face this summer, forcing massive new construction at the landfill or simply closing the its gates. State regulators have the power not only prevent this scenario from happening but to initiate the optimizing of the space which the entire landfill affords.

The issue exists over the operations on the City and County sides of this landfill. The operator of Sunshine Canyon wishes to do what the City and County have requested be done, namely, combing the two landfill sides into one - making operations more efficient and also reducing the environmental impacts.

If the Integrated Waste Management Board approves the pending application for the consolidation of the City and County landfills, Sunshine Canyon will be free to operate to its fully permitted capacity and it is unlikely that any trash will need to be diverted to other more distant and less sophisticated landfills, which lack the groundwater and atmospheric protections of Sunshine Canyon. In addition the cost of transportation of trash and the environmental pollution caused by such transportation must be an important considerations in that decision-making process.

I strongly urge the Integrated Waste Management Board to approve the pending permit application so that this issue can be addressed and a solution implemented as expeditiously as possible.

Thank you for your including my observations in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sister Carmel".

Sister Carmel Somers, M.Ed.  
Executive Director