

**LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT
COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY
JUNE 2009**

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF SANITATION**

Meeting Date: June 17, 2009
Location: Lopez Trailers

Tour Time: 7:00pm - 7:45 pm
Meeting Time: 7:45pm - 8:45 pm

OVERVIEW

Twenty-seven Lopez neighbors attended this meeting. Two tour groups were taken out.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE

We currently have nineteen windrows on-site and five of those are for horse manure based compost. This product is only available to our Lopez neighbors only. Our horse manure based compost has received the Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) from the US Composting Council.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE

Crews will begin installing the permanent irrigation system next week. It will take several months to install the system. Non-native plants will be cleared and hydro-seeding and planting of natives will begin after the irrigation system is installed.

CLOSURE UPDATE

We're removing the paved access road and stormwater channel from the north face of AB+ slope to enable us to complete closure work in that area. Once closure work is completed in this area we'll rebuild the road and channel. This work must be completed before the rainy season. We plan to complete closure of the landfill by late 2011.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION(MND) UPDATE

The MND was released in January and we thank everyone for their comments. We received 200 comments from the community and they were all reviewed. Based on these comments, Sanitation applied for a zoning variance since Lopez is zoned for open space, not for commercial activity, as is needed for the truck driver academy. The process that will be followed for this application is listed below in the more detailed Truck Driver Academy section. Questions and comments emphasized the community's unhappiness about siting this academy at Lopez landfill.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison

Twenty-seven Lopez neighbors attended this meeting. Due to the fact that only four RSVPs were received for this meeting, we did not have enough vans available to take everyone on a tour. Neighbors were reminded that RSVPs are needed to help us plan properly for the tours and meetings. If information about meetings is shared with neighbors who didn't receive a mailing from us, those people should be informed that we need RSVPs.

City staff introduced themselves.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE – Rosalia Rojo, Lopez Engineering Project Manager

We have been processing green trimmings collected from Valley resident's green bins for three years. Horse manure was added to the process 1.5 years ago. Two finished products are produced, mulch and compost.

Our horse manure based compost has received the Seal of Testing Assurance (STA) from the US Composting Council. This Seal guarantees that the compost is sampled and tested on a quarterly basis in a certified laboratory. The compost is tested for a number of nutritional properties and also bacterial and metals contaminants. The data helps users identify the best way of applying the compost based on their particular needs and the specific soil receiving the compost. Test results are made available to everyone. Copies of our test results will be put on the Sanitation website.

We currently have nineteen windrows on-site and five of those are for horse manure based compost. This product is only available to our Lopez neighbors.

Q: Who are these neighbors?

A: Residents of Lakeview Terrace, Pacoima and Kagel Canyon.

Q: Are the test results on the website now?

A: No, but they will be soon.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE - Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent

Permanent irrigation is needed to properly irrigate the seeds and plants. Crews will begin installing the permanent irrigation system next week. It will take several months to install the system. Non-native plants will be cleared and hydro-seeding and planting of natives will begin after the irrigation system is installed. Trees must be planted over soil in non-trash areas because of their deep roots. 15-gallon trees have been approved and ordered. It might take up to a year to grow and then plant the plants we've ordered.

Q: Does the use of water at Lopez affect our water prices?

A: No, the Mayor has ordered a 10% reduction in water use and we've complied with that.

Q: Why couldn't the staff put in the irrigation earlier?

A: Staff was reassigned to other locations for brush clearance. That's been completed and they'll now return to work at Lopez.

Q: When do you plan to do the planting and hydroseeding?

A: We hope to do that before the rainy season

Q: Why weren't the plants ordered and grown earlier, in a more timely fashion?

A: We lost our supplies in the fire and are just now getting back on track.

Q: The noise levels at Lopez have been high recently. What can be done to stop that?

We are getting woken up before 8 am and we were promised work would not start before 8 am. The back-up beepers are loud.

A: Closure work is being done now and truck traffic starts before 8 am. We agreed that operations of the Environmental Center wouldn't start before 8 am, but that didn't apply to moving trucks around the landfill. We need to move trucks before 8 am to work efficiently.

Community Comment: There's been more noise at the landfill this past month than since it closed. That's not right!

Sanitation Response: We will try to be better neighbors. Please discuss this with Khalil after the meeting.

Q: The property under the power lines is overgrown. Who owns it?

A: It's private property owned by the gas company and Cal Trans. The City has no jurisdiction over that land.

CLOSURE UPDATE – Jim Kurz

We are working on the north face of AB+ slope. We're removing the paved access road and stormwater channel to enable us to complete closure work in that area. The stormwater channel is an open channel that runs parallel to the main haul road moving rainwater from the top deck and north slopes of the AB+ portion of the landfill to the debris basins at the bottom of C-canyon. Once closure work is completed in this area, we will rebuild the road and channel. This work must be completed before the rainy season.

Q: When will the last portion of closure be done?

A: Our plan is to complete closure by late 2011.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY, MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION UPDATE – Khalil Gharios, Manager Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division

Over the years we have had a good relationship with our neighbors and we want to do what it takes to continue it. The Bureau of Sanitation's Environmental Officer came to our previous meeting and presented the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The MND was released in January and we thank everyone for their comments. We received an exceptional number of comments, 200 from the community. All comments were reviewed. We want to work with you to mitigate the impacts from this facility. A number of comments were received regarding zoning. Lopez is zoned for open space, not for commercial activity as would be needed for the truck driver academy. We are planning to apply for a zoning variance. The process is as follows:

1. The Bureau of Sanitation completes and submits a request for a zoning change to the City's Planning Department.
2. Once the application is received, the Planning Department sends out a notice to the surrounding community informing them of the submittal of the application.
3. A hearing is scheduled and notice about the hearing is sent to the surrounding community. This notice provides a 45-day notice of the hearing date.
4. The public is invited to attend the hearing and provide verbal comments, or they can send in written comments. The Planning Department then makes a decision whether to approve the zoning change request or not. If they decide yes, this decision can be appealed.
5. The Local Area Planning Commission hears this appeal and if they approve the zoning change, that approval can be appealed.
6. City Council's Planning and Land Use Management Committee hears this appeal. They review Sanitation's application and the recommendation of the Zoning commission and make a recommendation to the full City Council.
7. City Council then votes on the request for the zoning variance.

The public has the chance to comment at the initial hearing before the Planning Commission, at any appeals, and at the City Council meeting.

Q: How is this considered being a good neighbor?

A: By informing you of all the steps of the process, involving you in the discussion to mitigate potential impacts.

Q: Why did Sanitation do this to us? Why are you planning to build a truck-driving academy here?

A: The City Council and the Mayor proposed this truck-driving academy as a way to bring more jobs into the community. Sanitation is implementing the Mayor and City Council's proposal. The Bureau of Sanitation is not a decision maker in this process.

Community Member Comment: The Bureau of Sanitation is not the 'bad guy' here. We, as a community, must go to City Council to complain about this proposal.

Sanitation Comment: The Bureau must follow the process and if Sanitation is told by the Mayor and/or City Council to follow through on an action, we must do that.

Q: Has the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) been informed of this?

A: They received a copy of the MND and sent a letter to Karen Coca, our Environmental Officer, requesting more information and some changes.

Community Comment: We want to see a copy of the response to the RWQCB.

Sanitation Response: When it's completed we'll send it to the Foothill Trails NC.

Q: Does the public participate in this?

A: That is up to the RWQCB.

Q: When City Council says to go forward with the plan can't the Bureau of Sanitation say that the community doesn't want it? Couldn't Sanitation have stopped this project from going forward? Couldn't you have informed the community about this earlier?

A: The Mayor and Council set the policies for the City, they make the decisions and we implement their decisions. This proposed training academy will provide jobs and will be good for the community. John de la Rosa, Councilman Alarcon's deputy, has been to our community meetings and is aware of how the community feels.

Q: How can the City provide the financial support if the state is broke? Where's the money coming from?

A: Sanitation is not providing funding, we are just providing the space. Financing is coming from other sources.

Q: How will this create jobs? There aren't enough jobs for truck drivers now. They are losing jobs.

A: This is an excellent question to ask at the zoning variance hearing.

Q: Will property owners be compensated for having this undesirable use of land near their homes?

A: No

Q: Specifically what zone are you asking for?

A: At this point we don't know. It will be whatever is required to have a truck driving academy.

Q: Did you apply for zoning changes at other landfills before you converted those to parks?

A: No

Q: What was the breakdown of the comments received on the MND? How many pro and how many con?

A: The majority opposed with 180 comments against and about 15-20 for.

Community Comment: There are no jobs for truck drivers now, you need to stop this. We don't want it.

Sanitation Response: We do not have any authority to stop this proposal. You need to voice your opinions to City Council, the Mayor, and the Planning commission.

Q: So the Mayor and City Council are the only ones who can stop this? Do they know how we feel?

A: Yes, The Mayor and CD 7 staff are aware and they've been briefed.

Q: How many students will be local?

A: 25% of the students will be from Council District 7. We were told that 800-1000 applications have already been submitted.

Q: How can you accept applications when you don't even have approval for the facility yet? Where is this information about the application procedure provided?

A: Information is being distributed through CD7. Please see Reva after the meeting if you'd like to access that information.

Q: Will they add more trucks to accommodate more applicants?

A: The lease agreement has a limit on how many trucks and students they can have here.

Q: Can't the City add another document to change that?

A: It's possible. It will all depend on the conditions stipulated in the variance.

Q: How can the truck driver academy be recreational?

A: The plan is for long-term recreation, since the landfill can't be used until most of the gas is dissipated. The truck driver academy is for the short term.

Community Comment: Kagel Canyon won't get any recreation since the plans show the park on the Lakeview Terrace side. But we experience the majority of the impacts and want parkland.

Sanitation response: The recreational park plans that we presented at earlier meetings are short-term plans. The long-term plans will cover the whole landfill.

CONTACT INFORMATION

HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER: 818-834-5122

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NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2009

Tour 6:30 pm - 7:10 pm

Meeting 7:15 pm - 8:30 pm