

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

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

Meeting Date: Sept. 9, 2009
Location: Lopez Trailers

Tour Time: 6:30pm - 7:10pm
Meeting Time: 7:15pm - 8:30pm

OVERVIEW

Nineteen Lopez neighbors attended this meeting. Two tour groups were taken out. The proposed meeting schedule for 2010 was distributed.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE

We currently have 18 windrows, five of which include manure. Last fiscal year we processed 93,000 tons of raw material and produced 79,500 tons of finished product. We are exploring the possibility of selling our compost.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE

We've completed the main irrigation line and are starting work on the B canyon slopes. We will use bubblers to water the plants and trees. We hope to start hydro-seeding next month and will work our way down the slope as we plant. We'll buy some plants directly, and others will need lead time to be grown. We hope to place an order for those plants soon.

CLOSURE UPDATE

The channel along the main haul road has been rebuilt. In three weeks, we'll start working on the gas systems. AB+ will be done by the summer of 2010. After that, we'll start working on C canyon.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION UPDATE

We expect to file the application to request a zoning variance by the last week of September. A hearing will be set within 6-8 weeks after the application is submitted. Notification of the hearing date will be sent to City residents who live within 500 feet of the border, 24 days before the hearing date.

DWP GREEN POWER INITIATIVES

LADWP needs to increase their renewable energy portfolio by 35% by 2020. They are now looking throughout the City of LA for possible locations for the solar panels they'll need to increase their use of solar power. Lopez landfill is one of many sites they are considering to place some solar panels.

Questions and requests that were not answered at this meeting, and commitments made by Sanitation, are listed at the end of these minutes.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison

Nineteen Lopez neighbors attended this meeting. Attendees were thanked for their RSVPs. Two tour groups were taken out. City staff introduced themselves. The proposed 2010 meeting schedule was distributed with the agenda. Before realizing that one more meeting was scheduled for Dec. 2009, several attendees stated that they were upset that we didn't have another meeting scheduled until June 2010. They requested that we have a meeting in March instead of June and have the newsletter sent out in June instead of March. Reva responded by stating that this change would eliminate the June tour and since it gets dark early in March, we couldn't have a tour then. Therefore, with this change, we would have only one tour a year. Since this is a big change, we will first check with Khalil Gharis, Manager of Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division. If he OK's the change Reva will then send out an email to the meeting email list to see if a majority of neighbors agree with the requested change.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE – Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent; Rosalia Rojo, Lopez Engineering Project Manager

The operation runs 5 days a week. We currently have 18 windrows, five of which include manure. Last fiscal year we processed 93,000 tons of raw material and produced 79,500 tons of finished product. The finished product was given away in the City's free compost give-away program and also distributed to farmers. We are exploring the possibility of selling our compost.

We produce three products:

1. Ground green material - A coarse mulch that's best used for erosion control.
2. 30-day semi-composted green material - The heat kills seeds and bacteria. It's used in the City give-away program and is a good mulching material.
3. Horse-manure based compost - This is the only US Composting Council Seal of Testing Assurance Program (STA) certified product that's produced here. It is sampled and tested quarterly for various parameters including salt, nutrient value, pH, metals, particle size, and pathogens. It has nutritional value and should be added to soil only once per year because if used in the long-term salts could accumulate.

The STA program involves compost testing, labeling, and information disclosure, and is designed to give the public the information needed to maximize the benefits of using compost. Compost producers who participate in the STA program test and label their product just like any other mainstream horticultural product on the market. The goal of this program is to increase consumer confidence when using compost and increase the ultimate success of compost use in the field. Lopez Environmental Center horse-manure based compost and Griffith Park TOPGRO compost are both STA certified.

Q: What percent of the mix is manure, where does it come from and how much is collected?

A: The manure is collected from City residents who have brown cans and participate in the City's horse manure collection program. Most of the manure comes from Lake View Terrace and Shadow Hills. We collect 80-100 tons each week. The mix for

manure-based compost is 100 tons of manure, 100 tons of yard trimmings and 100 tons of brush.

Q: Does the manure come from City ranches? From the County?

A: The manure is picked up only from City of LA residents, not businesses, or residents of LA County.

Q: Can residents get manure-based compost?

A: Yes, it is available for local Lopez neighbors only. Contact Jim Kurz, 818-834-5128, James.Kurz@lacity.org to get more information about it. We are also trying to market it.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE - Jim Kurz

We've completed the main irrigation line. We are starting work on the B canyon slopes. We hope to start hydro-seeding next month. We can only plant shallow rooting plants over the clay liner. The clay liner is designed to keep water out of the buried trash and prevent the escape of methane gas. Deep rooted plants, like trees, could penetrate the clay barrier. Trees can be planted in areas where there is no buried trash. Now that we have an irrigation system in place, we can use bubblers to water the plants and trees. We'll work our way down the slopes as we plant. We'll buy some plants directly, others need lead time to be grown. We hope to place an order for those plants soon.

Q: Can you get native plants from the Theodore Payne Foundation?

A: We get our natives from somewhere near by, but I'm not sure who that is.

Q: What's the date for hydro-seeding B canyon?

A: We'll set that schedule within the next couple of weeks.

Q: How will it fit in with the rainy season?

A: This is the best time to hydro-seed, right before the rainy season. After we hydro-seed, we'll water until the rains start.

CLOSURE UPDATE – Jim Kurz

The channel along the main haul road has been rebuilt. In three weeks we'll start working on the gas systems. A little more work needs to be done on AB+ and it will be done by the summer of 2010. After that, we'll start working on C canyon.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY, MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION UPDATE – Paul Blount, Operations Manager

We expect to file the application requesting a zoning variance by the last week of September. A hearing will be set 6-8 weeks after the application is submitted. Notification of the hearing date will be sent to City residents who live within 500 feet of the border, 24 days before the hearing date. Contact the Department of City Planning if you'd like to receive notice and live more than 500 ft from the border. Reva will send out notice to everyone on our meeting email list.

Added after the meeting: Use this link to get information about Zoning Hearings

<http://publiccsd.lacity.org/CSD/outsidecsd/index.cfm?QTP=E6AB1469-D6B5-475E-876EDF4F9DB677CC&CITYURL=http://Cityplanning.lacity.org>

Q: Where does the 500 feet start? From the Training Academy borders? From the landfill borders? Will the people who live on the roads that the trucks will be driven on be notified? These people need to be notified.

A: We don't know the exact border. We will find out and get back to you.

Q: How can FTDNC get a copy of the application?

A: We will find out how to get a copy of the application to FTDNC and notify Nancy Woodruff.

Q: Again, you can't answer our questions. How can we get someone to come to these meetings to answer all of our questions?

A: When we invite representatives from other City departments we can't guarantee they will come to the meeting. As we've said at previous meetings, when we can't answer your questions at the meeting we will find out the answers and send them out via email to the meeting mailing list.

Community Comment: I had a job in La Cañada and when we had meetings City officials who were invited had to show up.

Community Comment: We request a special meeting before the end of September for someone to come and answer our zoning questions.

Sanitation Response: We will pass on this request to Khalil Gharios, Manager of this division.

Q: What is the status of the amendment to the post-closure document?

A: A draft is currently under review by Sanitation management. When the document is submitted and becomes a public document, we will make it available. This is a technical document written for the regulator who requests it.

Community Comment: We want to see it now. Why can't we see it? What are you hiding from us?

Sanitation Response: We are not hiding anything. Once it becomes a public document and has been submitted to the regulators then it will be available for everyone to see. Reva will see if we can send it out to our meeting email list.

Q: Who gets the document? Is there a deadline?

A: The document is submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board. We will get back to you on whether there's a deadline.

Q: Did the City takes bids for the Truck Driving Academy?

A: It was not a Bid process. A non-profit proposed the idea. The teamsters union approached the Mayor and Councilmember Alarcón with the idea.

Q: I want to see the original post closure document. How can I get a copy of it?

A: Contact Rosalia Rojo 818-834-5111 or Rosalia.Rojo@lacity.org to view a hard copy at Lopez landfill. It is not available electronically.

Q: Is it available anywhere on the Internet? In this day, everything is available on the Internet.

A: As far as we know it is not available on the Internet. We will double check with Khalil Gharios.

Community Request: As soon as it's available give the case number for the zoning variance application to Nancy Woodruff, FTDNC.

Sanitation Response: We will do that.

DWP GREEN POWER INITIATIVES – Paul Blount

Mayor Antonio Villariagosa released the Green LA Initiative to reduce the City carbon emissions. To comply with this initiative LADWP needs to increase their renewable energy portfolio by 35% by 2020. Part of their plan to accomplish this involves increasing their use of solar power. They are now looking throughout the City of LA for possible locations for the solar panels they'd need to increase their use of solar power. Lopez Landfill is one of many sites they are considering to place some solar panels. DWP is currently in the very early stages of this proposal and we wanted to let you know at this early stage about this proposal.

Q: What type of zoning is needed?

A: This is still at the early proposal stages and that hasn't been looked at yet.

Q: How will we know if this proposal goes further?

A: We will let you know when we find out.

Q: Would you notify us before a council motion?

A: If we are informed before a council motion then we will notify you before it. If this does move forward, Sanitation will require DWP to come to a meeting to talk to the community.

Community Comment: We don't want to see a misquote in the minutes saying we are pro solar panels. The community does not want solar panels at Lopez. We want to make sure you inform the people who need to know that.

Sanitation Response: Paul will email Sanitation's Assistant Director to let him know that a number of people at this meeting were vocal in their opposition to having solar panels at Lopez.

Community Comment: Who do we write to and tell them we are against the solar panels.

Sanitation Response: At this point we don't know who would be the best people to contact. If the project moves forward, we'll let you know who to write to.

Community Comment: Not everyone here is against the solar panels. Two people spoke in favor of the idea.

Community Comment: Everything is being taken away from us. If we hadn't allowed the compost facility, we wouldn't have had the truck driving facility and all these other proposals. It's the way we were dealt with regarding the Truck Driving Academy that is making us sour to everything else on Lopez. What will be next after the truck driver academy, the LNG facility, and the solar panels?

Q: What is happening with the LNG facility? Is there any talk about it?

A: There is no talk about it now.

Q: Is the gas recovery program part of the green power initiative?

A: No. We have two gas recovery systems, the micro-turbines which are a DWP project and the gas-to-energy plant.

Community Request: Send out an email with answers to the questions that were not answered here ASAP.

Sanitation Response: We will try our best to do so.

Community Request: We no longer trust that the minutes are accurate since they incorrectly stated that the community supported the truck driver academy and it's because of this that City Council had the wrong perspective on our feelings. We want to review all minutes before they are distributed.

Sanitation Response: We don't know of any situation where the City has had communities review minutes before they are distributed. However, we will check with Khalil Gharios to see if that would be possible.

COMMUNITY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS & REQUESTS

1. Change the proposed 2010 meeting schedule so that instead of meeting in June we meet in March and have the newsletter in June.
2. For the TDA zoning variance request, where does the 500 feet start? Will the people who live on the roads that the trucks will be driven on be notified?
3. FTDNC would like a copy of the TDA zoning variance application.
4. We request a special meeting before the end of September for someone to come and answer our zoning questions. Our questions are not being answered at this meeting.
5. Is there a deadline for submitting the post-closure amendment?
6. Is the post closure amendment available anywhere on the Internet?
7. As soon as the post-closure amendment is available, give the case number for the zoning application to Nancy Woodruff, FTDNC.
8. Inform the people who need to know that people at this meeting are against the proposal to put solar panels at Lopez.
9. Send out an email with answers to the questions that were not answered here ASAP.
10. The community wants to review all minutes before they are distributed.

CITY COMMITMENTS

1. If Khalil Gharios is OK with the proposed meeting schedule change, Reva will send out an email to the meeting email list to see how the majority of the meeting attendees feel about this change.
2. Reva Fabrikant, will send notice to the community meeting email list of the TDA zoning variance request hearing date.
3. Find out the borders of the TDA zoning variance request and the borders of the 500 ft hearing date notification area.
4. We will find out how to get a copy of the TDA zoning variance application to FTDNC and notify Nancy Woodruff
5. We will pass the request to hold a special meeting to answer TDA zoning variance questions onto Khalil Gharios.
6. When the amendment to post-closure document is submitted and becomes a public document we will make it available to the community
7. We will get back to the meeting email list about whether there's a deadline for submitting the post-closure amendment
8. We will double check with Khalil Gharios to find out if the Lopez post-closure document is available on the Internet.
9. As soon as the TDA zoning variance application is made public, we will give the case number to Nancy Woodruff, FTDNC.
10. Paul Blount will email Sanitation's Assistant Director to let him know that a number of people at this meeting were vocal in their opposition to having solar panels at Lopez.

11. We will send out an email to the meeting email list responding to questions and requests that were not answered at the meeting.
12. We will ask Khalil if the community can review community-meeting minutes before they are distributed.

CONTACT INFORMATION

HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER: 818-834-5122

Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison

866-950-7382

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Rosalia Rojo, Lopez Engineering Project Manager

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Rosalia.Rojo@lacity.org

Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent

818-834-5128

James.Kurz@lacity.org

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 16, 2009

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm