

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

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

Meeting Date: Dec. 16, 2009
Location: Lopez Trailers

Meeting Time: 7:00pm - 8:40pm

OVERVIEW

Sixteen Lopez neighbors attended this meeting. At the community's request, four community meetings will be held in 2010. The 2010 schedule is attached.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE

The most current horse manure compost Seal of Testing Analysis (STA) is available and attached to these minutes. During fiscal year June 2008 - June 2009, 94,000 tons of yard trimmings, wood, and horse manure were brought into the site and 80,000 tons of mulch and compost were produced. Since July 2009, 37,000 tons of material was brought into the site and 31,000 tons of mulch and compost were produced. Kagel Canyon residents expressed interest in being included in the City's horse manure collection program.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE

Staff is currently working on the three slopes heading down the hill from the road, and putting in irrigation and hydro-seeding. They are in the process of purchasing trees and brush including Oak, Ceanothus, Toyon, and other native species. They plan to plant the vegetation by spring 2010. Shrubs will be planted over clay liner areas because their roots are shallow enough not to penetrate this barrier.

CLOSURE UPDATE

The road from the trailers to the Environmental Center has been completed. The gas system has been reinstalled and closure has been completed around the road. AB+ face needs finishing. Once that's completed the focus will be on C canyon.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY UPDATE

The draft lease agreement had been finalized. The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was released in Jan 2008. The major concerns expressed in MND comments were related to noise, traffic, emissions and zoning. Sanitation applied for a zoning variance on Oct 28, 2009 and the hearing will be held on Friday, Dec 18 at 8 am in Van Nuys. The steps that will be followed after the zoning hearing are listed in the body of the minutes.

LOPEZ CANYON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

This Environmental Education Center would be part of the first phase of the Lopez Recreation Plan. The current proposal includes a kiosk, amphitheater seating for workshops, educational signage, and a trail with labeled native plants. Meeting attendees requested the addition of trailheads. Sanitation will work on a concept design that includes these elements and will present it to the community at the next community meeting.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS **Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison**
Sixteen Lopez neighbors attended this meeting. City staff introduced themselves.

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

Operations have been running as expected. The current Seal of Testing Analysis (STA) of the horse manure compost is available and attached to these minutes. During fiscal year June 2008 - June 2009, 94,000 tons of yard trimmings, wood, and horse manure were brought to the site and 80,000 tons of mulch and compost were produced. The difference in tonnage is due to moisture loss and the breakdown of the material as it composts. Since July 2009, 37,000 tons of material was brought to the site and 31,000 tons of mulch and compost were produced.

Q: At the recent FTDNC meeting we were told that the City is helping the community by producing the compost. How are we being helped when you take horse manure from the ranchers and not from City residents?

A: The manure is collected from City residents who have brown cans and participate in the City's horse manure collection program. It does not come from private business and ranchers.

Community Comment: You should collect from Kagel County residents. You should work something out with the County to collect from them. The City should help the County residents who live near the landfill.

Sanitation Response: Lopez staff helps Kagel Canyon neighbors. We have provided roll-off bins for the annual cleanup and allowed residents to drop off green trimmings when they have large amounts.

Community Comment: The City does not provide the horse manure collection for free. City residents pay for it.

Community Comment: The City ranchers initially approached Councilmember Alarcón to request collecting the manure on a larger scale. That's when the horse manure compost pilot program was set up. When it was successful, they stopped taking from ranchers and decided to only take from residents.

Community Comment: Who should Kagel Canyon contact to request the City include us in the residential horse manure collection?

Sanitation Response: You can send a request to Khalil Gharrios.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE - Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent
Robert Buenrostro, Park Maintenance Supervisor

We've made progress on the top of the slopes. The irrigation system is in and the area has been hydro-seeded. We are working on the next three slopes heading down the hill, putting in irrigation, and hydro-seeding. The rain and irrigation should help encourage new growth. We are in the process of purchasing trees and brush including Oak, Ceanothus, Toyon, and other native species. Shrubs will be used over areas covered by the clay liner so that their shallow roots don't penetrate this barrier.

Q: What is the time frame?

A: We are hoping to plant this vegetation by the end of spring, but we also have to allow lead-time for plant growth.

Q: Have you solved the weed/mustard plant problem?

A: Weeds/Mustard plants are tough to eliminate. Staff pulls them but a big labor force is needed to do that. Vegetation on the two slopes near the berm is growing naturally without watering. This area looks good and weeds are pulled here. The bottom slopes will be treated the same way. As each area is closed it will be hydro-seeded regardless of whether it can be irrigated at that time. This will provide an opportunity for plants to start. Irrigation will follow. Oaks will be planted where possible to encourage native growth.

Q: To improve your time frame can you set up a nursery here at Lopez?

A: Yes. It's done at Toyon and will be done here. However, there is the challenge of dealing with the deer.

Q: I can see the top of the dump from my home and it looks like there are stadium lights and fencing. What is that from?

A: The fencing is wind fences designed to catch litter. They are necessary during windy periods. The lights are in the flare and the fuel area and are run by generators.

CLOSURE UPDATE – Jim Kurz

The paved road from the trailers to the Environmental Center has been completed. The gas system has been reinstalled and closure has been completed around the road. AB+ face needs finishing. The focus will then be on C canyon.

Q: Does the City reimburse Lopez landfill for the green recycling funds? This money should be used to help the landfill. Some of that money should go to the community.

A: The Environmental Center does not make money, there are no savings. It's a cost avoidance since the City would pay a contractor to do that work.

Community Comment: This should be viewed as a cost savings as compared to the cost of dumping the greens at a landfill.

Sanitation Response: When looked at from the whole City perspective the amount of green trimmings processed at Lopez is minimal. 1,800 tons per day are collected from the whole city, and only 300 tons per day are processed here. Part of the reason the City processes the material at Lopez is to control monopolies of private businesses in the composting area. Other reasons include controlling the quality of the material that's produced and making free mulch and compost available to our residents.

Q: Where does the money from the gas recovery system go?

A: Half of the money goes to the community amenity fund and half to the landfill closure and post closure fund.

Q: Who does the accounting for the community amenity fund?

A: Expenditures from the Fund are authorized by City Council upon a recommendation by the Councilperson of Council District 7.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY UPDATE – Khalil Gharior, Manager Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division

The draft lease agreement had been finalized. The draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was released in Jan 2008. The major concerns expressed in the comments received were related to noise, traffic, emissions and zoning. Sanitation applied for a zoning variance on Oct 28, 2009 and the hearing is scheduled for Friday,

Dec 18 at 8 am in Van Nuys. If the zoning variance is approved the process continues as follows:

- a. The lease agreement and MND will be packaged together and presented to the Board of Public Works at a public meeting. Certification of the MND and approval of the lease will be requested.
- b. If approved, a City Council Committee will receive and review the package. It will probably be the Environment & Energy Committee, but it could be a different one. There will be a public hearing.
- c. If approved, the package will be sent to the full City Council.
- d. If approved the package will be sent to the Mayor.
- e. If approved the Mayor will return the package to the Board of Public Works for final execution of the lease agreement.

The zoning variance request covers a 5-year period with two 5 years options to renew. This covers a possible 15 years. The contract could be terminated by the City for convenience or if the non-profit is not doing the job they agreed to do.

The following seven questions from a meeting attendee are based on the FAQ sheet (attached) handed out at the FTNDC meeting.

Q: What is the project purpose? Class B training is mentioned on this sheet but this is the first time we are hearing about that.

A: Class A training is a higher level than Class B. Qualification at a Class A level automatically includes Class B (for 2 axle trucks). Sanitation truck drivers need Class B level. They will receive that training and we'd also like them to be trained in Class A.

Q: Will there be additional trucks for Class B training?

A: Yes, that is part of the plan. Only eight trucks will be used at any one time for training. Four will be working up on the facility and four will be on the road.

Q: Where will the trucks be parked?

A: A total of ten trucks will be up at the facility at any one time. Eight for training and two as standby.

Q: What is the quality of trucks that will be used?

A: All trucks must be converted to LNG within one year.

Q: Why not require that immediately?

A: It could be a funding and availability issue.

Q: Won't there be an increase of trucks in our residential areas?

A: No, during weeks three & four training will be on two-lane roads. They will not be allowed on Lopez Canyon Road and Kagel Canyon Road.

Q: Where will the trucks drive? The MND covers Lopez but it should also cover the rural roads that will be impacted.

Q: What will stop the training academy from going on for perpetuity?

Q: Will the City drivers receive training endorsements for driving the tanker water trucks?

A: Yes. We don't know if it will be offered for non-City employees.

Q: What is the level of involvement of the Teamsters Union? At times, it sounded like a high level and at other times, it's been described as minimal.

A: The lease is with a non-profit, not the Teamsters. We do not know the level of the teamsters involvement.

Q: Who would know?

A: Council District 7 may know. Transportation Opportunity Program and El Proyecto are the non-profit organizations who are directly involved.

Community Comment: At the FTDNC meeting John de la Rosa said that the teamsters would help with job placement and retired teamsters would do the training.

Community Comment: We've heard different things at different meetings. This is not Khalil's fault, but it's frustrating for us.

Q: Can the community see the draft of the MND?

A: It's on the website. <http://lacitysan.org/srpcd/lopeztruckdriver.htm>

Q: Which zoning administrator will be at the hearing?

A: We don't know.

LOPEZ CANYON PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER UPDATE – Khalil Gharios

This Environmental Education Center is tied to the Recreation proposal. It would be part of the first phase and located at the entrance to the Lopez site. The design is based on community comments received by Sanitation and on the education center that was discussed at the mulch facility task force meetings. Based on some community members comments, an idea was brought up to locate it at the Children's Museum instead of at Lopez. We are presenting the current concept and would like to hear your comments. If the community would like to change the concept then that will be done. Design work has not begun, we're in the concept stage.

The center would be located near the current mulch give-away site. The area would be graded, and amphitheater seating would be built with a learning area. The learning area would have kiosks with information about City programs, including the backyard-composting program. An active teaching area will be provided and a trail lined with native plants with educational labels will be built behind the picnic area.

We need your input regarding what should be added. As the concept is refined, it will be brought to meetings for review and input. We currently have funds to complete the concept & design phase, but not for construction.

Q: Why not use money from the community amenity fund?

A: Sanitation is working with Council District 7 to possibly use QUIMBY funds. This is money used for City open space and recreation development.

Q: Will there be parking?

A: Yes. Parking will be in front of the rest rooms.

Q: How many acres will it be?

A: Approximately less than 2 acres.

Q: Is the industrial area across from Hope Gardens part of City property?

A: No

Q: What are the lot dimensions?

A: That information will be available once we get to the 25% design phase.

Q: Will there be building restrictions on the structures?

A: Not much will be built. Basically, it will be seating, a kiosk and landscaping. Minor permits will be needed for that.

Q: We'd like to re-visit the priorities of what's being built first. Some of us are interested in focusing on a horse trail on the east side. This would be inexpensive and would make something available to the community now. We'd like to see progress on the park and we've only seen talk and some plans.

A: Sanitation is open to re-examining priorities and building the trailheads if that is what the community prefers. The cost to build the amphitheater, kiosks, etc. would be \$800,000- \$1M.

Community Comment: The horse trails would be faster, show progress, and be a lot less expensive.

Sanitation Response: Sanitation will prepare a concept for both possibilities and bring it to the next community meeting for review. Residents who live near this area might object to the trailheads. We need to consider those neighbors concerns also.

Community Comment: Horses are great for children and they fit with the Environmental Education Center. Having horse trails would please both the Kagel Canyon and Lakeview Terrace horse communities. We could get volunteers to teach.

Community Comment: The trails and the Lopez Canyon closure plan were in place long before these new housing developments. The people who live there might not be into horses, but these plans existed before they moved in and should not be changed.

Community Comment: People in the surrounding developments came and complained at the FTDNC meeting, but they don't come to regular meetings. They claim we aren't reaching out to them but we are and the City does send them notices. If they don't come to regular meetings, they shouldn't complain.

Community Comment: I like the concept presented by Khalil but don't think it should be at the Children's Museum. That's been a can-of-worms since day one and we should stay clear of it.

Q: The environmental ed. center diagram is impressive but a number of things must be decided before the design takes place:

- What's the purpose
- Who will use it?
- What are the needs of the people who will use it?
- How will people use it?

A: Sanitation heard from the local community that the drive to Griffith Park for backyard composting workshops is too long and they'd like something local. That's why we focused on the Environmental Ed. Center first.

Community Comment: We don't want the trails to be on the back burner. If we start building them now it will help build a stronger case for more trails in the future.

Sanitation Response: We will see if the designer can draw up a design concept to include both the Environmental Ed. Center and the trailheads at the same time.

Community Comment: This must be cost-effective. We are talking about kids using the Environmental Ed. Center. How cost effective will that be? The kids will only come once and that's it. Instead of the Environmental Ed. Center, trees and grass should be planted so that the kids who live in the area can play there. The area is currently a fire hazard and needs to be planted.

A discussion followed about the use of Terra Vista Way for a horse trail. Residents are interested in a horse trail that goes from Kagel Canyon to the top of Lopez. The following concerns were expressed:

- A horse trail couldn't go straight through because some of the property is privately owned.
- The City-owned hillside property behind the housing development area is too steep for horses.
- The neighbors in that area might not want horses because it is too noisy.
- Rangers and lighting will be needed to support active recreation.
- An open tree and grassy area might invite drugs and a 'bad element' of people.

Sanitation Comment: The current proposed concept provides a controlled site where appointments would be made to use the facilities. Trails would fit in with the plan. We will explore using the area for passive horse and pedestrian trails.

MISCELLANEOUS – Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison

2010 Proposed Meeting Schedule – Two different schedules with three meetings and a newsletter were presented. When asked which schedule was preferred meeting attendees overwhelmingly stated that they wanted four meetings a year, not three and a newsletter. Sanitation agreed to four meetings and the 2010 schedule is attached.

Updated SRPCD Website – The website has been updated and everyone is encouraged to check it out. The address is: <http://lacitysan.org/srpcd/index.htm>

Community meeting information is at: http://lacitysan.org/srpcd/community_lopez.htm

Truck Driver Training Academy Zoning Hearing: Khalil Gharios – The hearing will be on Friday, Dec 18. See Reva Fabrikant for detailed information. Khalil will not attend, Javier Polanco, Assistant Division Manager will attend and make a brief presentation, together with Sanitation's zoning planner. The zoning administrator will speak briefly and then the majority of time will be open to public comments. The findings could be presented at the end of the hearing or the Zoning Administrator could ask Sanitation for more information that will need to be provided after the meeting. The Zoning Administrator would then announce when the findings will be made public.

Q: How much time will there be for public comments?

A: That depends on the zoning administrator.

COMMUNITY REQUESTS

1. **Request:** When information is presented at the meeting such as website addresses or people to contact that information should be on the agenda.

Sanitation Response: Good idea, we will do that.

2. **Request:** We would like a representative of the Bureau of Sanitation to attend and provide information at community led meetings such as FTDNC. We go to lots of meetings and sometimes it's hard to attend Lopez Canyon meetings.

Sanitation Response: Good idea, we will do that. Please add us on the mailing list and let us know when you need us to provide information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER: 818-834-5122

Website: <http://lacitysan.org/srpcd/index.htm>

Khalil Gharios, Manager Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division

Khalil.Gharios@lacity.org

Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison

866-950-7382

Reva.Fabrikant@revafab.com

Rosalia Rojo, Lopez Engineering Project Manager

818-834-5111

Rosalia.Rojo@lacity.org

Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent

818-834-5128

James.Kurz@lacity.org

NEXT MEETING

WEDNESDAY MARCH 3, 2010

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Attached:

2010 Community Meeting Schedule

STA Horse Manure Analysis

Truck Driver Training Academy Frequently Asked Questions

2010 COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT

Wed. March 3: **Meeting**
Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Wed. June 2: **Tour & Meeting**
Tour 6:30pm – 7:10pm
Meeting 7:15pm - 8:30pm

Wed. September 1: **Tour & Meeting**
Tour 7:00pm – 7:30pm
Meeting 7:35pm - 8:30pm

Wed. December 1: **Meeting**
Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm

NOTE: These dates and times could be changed. You will be notified before each meeting.