

**LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT
COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 2010**

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

Meeting Date: September 1, 2010
Location: Lopez Trailers

Tour: 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Meeting: 7:05 pm - 8:05 pm

OVERVIEW

Twenty-four Lopez neighbors attended the meeting. One tour was given.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE (LCEC)

19,000 tons of yard trimmings, brush, and manure were processed, 18 windrows were built. The odor neutralizer mister system has been installed and is run daily. Odor complaints have not been received since the last meeting. Noise complaints have been received from Kagel Canyon. Lopez staff investigated the source of the noise and found it coming from the LCEC grinders and back-up alarms. A muffler on one of the grinders helped lower the noise level. We'll try to tone down the back-up alarms, while complying with legal requirements. Two berms have been extended and we hope to extend one across the facility opening to stop noise that is heard in Kagel Canyon. Trucks will then enter the facility from the back, which should help lower noise levels. We will try to work with Caterpillar (the grinder manufacturer) to make changes to the engine that would lower the noise level. The noise consultant completed an analysis of the noise and will produce a report that will be presented at a community meeting.

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REVIEW

The trailhead staging area has been moved to the side of Terra Bella away from homes. The picnic area, vegetation, and trees will remain in the old barn area. The trail will go through Bartholomew Canyon to the north side of the landfill. There will be controlled access to the top of 'B' Canyon. At the June community meeting Sanitation committed to presenting a time frame for the equestrian staging area and trails. A design schedule has been completed and is on page 8. Design will start in Dec. 2010 and continue through Sept. 2011. The designer will discuss the design at a community meeting, when it's 25% complete.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE

The native plants on the top slope of the berm, are growing well and don't need watering. We are irrigating the slopes of 'B' canyon and the native plants are growing nicely. 'AB+' has been hydro-seeded. 'A' needs more hydro-seeding and that will happen next year. 'C' canyon will be hydro-seeded before the winter.

CLOSURE UPDATE

At the June meeting, Sanitation committed to providing greater detail on the closure 'C' Canyon. We are working there now and hope to finish the major work by the end of October. Then we'll hydro-seed and submit our report to the state.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY UPDATE

The lease agreement hearing before the Board of Public Works was continued for two weeks and will be heard on September 8. Since this proposal is currently in litigation, we were advised by the City Attorney not to discuss it. The case is now being handled by the City Attorney's office.

COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY See page 7

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison

Twenty-four Lopez neighbors attended the meeting and a tour was given. Attendees were reminded that in the interest of lowering expenses and conserving natural resources, we are minimizing snail mailings. Whoever contacted Reva and asked to stay on the snail mail list will continue to receive future snail mailings; everyone else will be taken off that list. The email list is not affected.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER (LCEC) UPDATE – Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent

The Bureau of Sanitation, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division, received the Silver Composting Excellence Award from the Solid Waste Association of North America for the LCEC. This award recognizes outstanding solid waste programs and facilities that advance the practice of environmentally and economically sound solid waste management. The award application can be viewed online at:

<http://swana.org/Portals/0/pdfs/2010Noms/Composting-Silver.pdf>

May, June and July Tonnage:

19,000 tons of yard trimming brush and manure were processed. 711 of those tons were manure (all 15 tons per week of manure comes from LA residents).

5,000 tons of compost were given away free to City residents

12,000 tons went to farmers

200-300 tons were donated

18 windrows were built for compost give-away, six for manure based compost.

Odors:

The odor neutralizer mister system has been installed and is run daily. No complaints about odors have been received.

Noise:

A noise complaint was received from lower Kagel due to maintenance work performed using a bulldozer. This operation is a regulatory requirement and cannot be changed, but it will stop when maintenance work is finished in that area.

Noise complaints have been received from Upper Kagel and staff went to that area to investigate the noise source. It's from the LCEC grinders and back-up alarms, the sources of most noise complaints. A muffler on one of the grinders helped lower the noise level. We will try and tone down the back-up alarms, while complying with legal requirements. Two berms have been extended and we hope to extend one across the opening to stop noise that is heard by Kagel Canyon. Trucks will enter the facility from the back, which should help lower noise levels. We will try to work with Caterpillar (the grinder manufacturer) to make changes

to the engine that would lower the noise level. This might be difficult since Caterpillar, a huge corporation, is not set up to make major engine changes for small orders.

At the June community meeting Sanitation committed to having our noise consultant investigate ways of minimizing noise from the LCEC. The consultant team went through the community (including the cemetery), investigating the noise. They are analyzing the situation from a worst-case scenario perspective (all equipment set at the loudest dB level) and completed a very detailed review today. We hope to receive a completed report by the end of Oct. and have it presented at a community meeting. The consultant, Behrens & Associates, did the initial noise study when the LCEC was built.

Q: Can you build a cement wall around the facility to stop all the noise? We want it quiet.

A: Let's wait and see what the noise consultant recommends to control the noise.

Community Comment: I haven't heard a difference since the berms were extended. We need something better.

Q: We weren't told the equipment would be replaced and the replacements would be noisier. Can you prevent that in the future? Can't you require noise controls in your specifications?

A: We do specify dB ratings for the back-up alarm. We are a small customer for Caterpillar and they will not change their manufacturing process for us. We do give them a written statement of our needs, but they look at the big picture, including federal requirements. When we buy their equipment, we will get the advice of our noise consultant to help minimize the noise. Our in-house procedure will require noise controls when new equipment is purchased. We will also call CAL OSHA to find out what actions are within our legal rights.

In addition, we'll see what can be done to adjust the path of the loader. That is difficult, however, since backing-up is part of its function of loading and unloading. We are not planning to replace the loader for several years, so once the consultant's suggestions are implemented, the noise controls will be effective for a number of years.

Q: Mulch comes into the facility in City trucks, but are there other contractors?

A: We have four contractors who bring in woody material that's needed to improve the composting process. Currently we are using two of them. Fewer than 20 trucks enter and leave the facility.

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REVIEW – Khalil Gharios, Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division

As discussed at previous meetings, the trailhead starts in the old barn area where there will be a staging area with room for trailers and access to Bartholomew Canyon. We've decided to move the staging area to the other side of Terra Bella to move it away from homes. The picnic area, vegetation, and trees will remain in the current proposed location. The trail will go through the Canyon to the north side of the landfill. The trail (for equestrians and hikers) will move from Bartholomew Canyon into 'B' canyon. There will be controlled access to the top of

'B' Canyon and onto the Forest service properties. We are not familiar with the Rim of the Valley Trails and have not added that into our current plans.

At the June community meeting Sanitation committed to presenting a time frame for the equestrian staging area and trails. That design schedule is on page 8. Design will start in Dec. 2010 and continue through Sept. 2011. This is a conservative schedule and we hope to move faster, but we are short staffed. When the design is 25% complete the designer will present it at a community meeting to solicit input.

Q: Who is doing the design and what information is he/she looking for?

A: Nishith Dhandha, who's already attended several community meetings, is preparing the design. We'd like your input on the whole proposal, including the trail design (width, fencing, etc), parking lot, access entrances, picnic and play areas. We are especially interested in hearing from equestrians. The designer is not an equestrian, but he has design references and other resources to use during the design. Share any input you have with our community liaison, Reva Fabrikant (contact information is on Page 7).

Q: Will there be trees along the trail to provide shade? The heat can be overwhelming at times.

A: Yes. We believe the majority of the existing Bartholomew Canyon is already shaded.

Q: Will there be mounting areas?

A: There will be controlled access areas with fencing and gates.

Q: What kind of fencing will it be? Chain link is unsafe for horses.

A: The type of fencing can be decided based on your input. We are open to suggestions.

Q: What meeting will the architect attend?

A: He is waiting for the completion of a land survey. If it's done soon he could come to our Dec. meeting. If not, it would be the Mar. 2011 meeting.

Q: Is funding available?

A: The design work is funded. We are looking for construction funds.

Community Comment: Can't you use the Cambria Energy fund?

Sanitation Response: It's possible. We will work with CD7 to see if the gas-to-energy revenues could be used.

Q: What will the grading on the horse trails be?

A: The access road is the steepest and will have a 20% grade in one section.

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

The native plants on the top slopes of the berm are growing well and don't need watering. We are pulling tumbleweeds there and it helps.

We are irrigating the slopes of 'B' canyon and the native plants are growing nicely. We need to pull tumbleweeds in the next 4 weeks before they go to seed.

'AB+' has been hydro-seeded and we hope nature will help them grow. 'A' needs more hydro-seeding and that will happen next year. 'C' canyon will be hydro-seeded before the winter.

CLOSURE UPDATE – Jim Kurz

At the June meeting, Sanitation committed to providing greater detail on the closure 'C' Canyon. This is the section that can be seen from the road as you enter the landfill. We are working there now and hope to finish the major work by the end of Oct. Then we'll hydro-seed and submit our report to the state.

Q: How long will it take to finish after the dirt work is completed?

A: About one month to install the gas and drainage systems.

Q: When this certification is completed will everything be closed?

A: All areas, except disposal area 'C', 'AB+' slopes and 'A' canyon deck have been certified. We submitted the paperwork for 'A' canyon deck three weeks ago. 'C' canyon and 'AB+' will hopefully be next.

Q: When was 'A' closed?

A: It was capped in 2007. The inspection was performed by a third party. They prepared the report that was sent to the State. The State is now reviewing the report and will hopefully certify closure.

Q: What is closure certification?

A: The disposal area report contains technical details about the closure construction. Based on that information the State will certify the area has been properly closed. Once the last disposal area is certified closed, the clock starts ticking on 30 years of maintenance, for the whole landfill. If we believe an area is ready for conversion to a use, we can submit a report to the State requesting a land-use change before the 30 years is completed. Before submitting the request, we will analyze the area and make sure that gas generation and settlement are minimum. The request would also be based on the planned use of that area.

Q: Will the LEC be turned into a park? It's bigger than what we were told.

A: Turning the LCEC into a park was not part of the original plan agreed to by the Task Force. The original design included both 'A' and 'B' deck.

Community Comment: The growth of the facility was for rancher's manure. We need to clarify that. Kagel Canyon did not agree to have manure brought in from the whole City. This needs to be reviewed.

Sanitation Response: The material (including manure) that's brought into the LCEC comes from the East Valley only, not from the rest of the City.

Note from Sanitation after the Community Meeting: The raw material tonnage was increased to accommodate the growing demand for free mulch, not to accommodate rancher's manure. This was discussed at the December 2007 community meeting.

From the December 2007 Meeting Overview

"We currently have 6 give-away sites and aren't making enough to provide all of our customers with free mulch. In order to accommodate this demand we'd like to slowly increase our current yard trimmings tonnage to 400 tons per day (from 220) and woody materials to 150 tons per day (from 80). If the pilot program is successful we could add 100 tons of manure to this mix. The yard trimmings would continue to come from the East Valley. The meeting attendees were comfortable with this tonnage increase."

Community Comment: Ranchers are upset because we provided manure for the pilot program and were then kicked out of the final program. We were led to understand that the manure would only be taken from businesses. The City used

ranchers to test the pilot program. Once it proved successful, ranchers were left in the lurch. The City left a bad taste in our mouth.

Community Comment: It was because of the mulching facility that the truck driver academy was proposed.

Q: Will the LCEC be continued? Is it zoned for open space? If so, the zoning needs to be changed since it isn't open space any more. What plans are there for that?

A: There are no plans to change the status of the LCEC. We follow what's in the LCEC environmental document.

Community Comment: The LCEC is a commercial use that's located in an open space zone. It's the same zoning predicament as the Truck Driving Academy. We have a land-use issue here.

Sanitation Response: We will check with the City Attorney. Not many Task Force members come to our current meetings, but it's important to remember that the concept that everyone agreed to when the Task Force gave their support to the LCEC was that it would produce compost from East Valley material, the compost would be given away free to Lopez neighbors to complete the full cycle of recycling and that the facility would be used as an education area, for school children and others who want to learn about composting.

Community Question: Has it been used for education and school trips?

Response: Yes

Community Comment: We don't know who to contact about tours. Please put that information on the website.

Sanitation Response: Good suggestion. We'll do that.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY UPDATE – Khalil Gharios

The lease agreement hearing before the Board of Public Works was continued for two weeks and will be heard on September 8. Since this proposal is currently in litigation, we were advised by the City Attorney not to discuss it. The case is now being handled by the City Attorney's office.

Q: Can you tell us what's in the report to the Board of Public Works?

A: I am not free to share information. The report will be presented at the Board of Public Works meeting and it is public information. It will be available on the Board's website for review.

Community Comment: I'd like it stated for the record that Khalil told us that we can't ask questions about the Board of Public Works report documentation at this meeting. Can we ask questions at the Board meeting?

Sanitation Response: Yes you can ask questions at the meeting. The Board might ask questions of City staff. It will be up to them to decide if the public's questions are answered at the meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

♦ **Community Request:** The equipment in the park area at the entrance to Lopez is in disrepair. I believe Sanitation owns that park. Will it be fixed?

Sanitation Response: Yes, it will be fixed and we are currently looking into that. We do graffiti control and it's an uphill battle. We'd like to improve the park and install better play equipment. This work just started and we're

working with the Department of Recreation and Parks. The water lines are leaking and we are planning to repair that. We do have funding for this work.

♦ **Sanitation Question:** Does the Valley Horse Owners Association still exist? All snail mail and email is being returned.

Community Response: No, they are no longer a separate organization.

COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. Investigate the possibility of adjusting the path of the LCEC loader to minimize noise impact on the community.
2. Sanitation will check with the City Attorney regarding zoning for the LCEC.
3. Provide contact information on the Bureau of Sanitation website to set up LCEC tours.

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

Jim Kurtz, Operations Superintendent
1-818-834-5128 James.Kurz@lacity.org

Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison
1-866-950-7382 Reva.Fabrikant@revafab.com

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

**CITY OF LOS ANGELES
BUREAU OF SANITATION**

**PROPOSED LOPEZ CANYON RECREATIONAL PARK PLAN
DESIGN PLAN SCHEDULE
2010-2013**

Design	12/01/2010 to 09/01/2011
Bid and Award	09/01/2011 to 03/01/2012
Construction	03/01/2012 to 03/01/2013
Post-Construction	03/01/2013 to 09/01/2013