

**LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT
COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY
JUNE 2011**

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

Meeting Date: June 1, 2011
Location: Lopez Trailers

Meeting: Tour: 6:30 pm - 7:05 pm
Meeting: 7:10 pm - 8:30 pm

OVERVIEW

Thirteen Lopez neighbors attended the meeting. A tour was given.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER (LCEC) UPDATE

The berm extension has been completed. Noise has been minimized by moving equipment to new locations, replacing equipment, and building sound walls around the grinders. Odors have been minimized by operating the mister, which will be extended to cover more area. One odor complaint was resolved. As a community service, we collected 19 tons of waste using 6 roll-offs and transported them to Sunshine Landfill. The tip fee was covered by Republic.

The current pilot residential food waste collection program was discussed. Attendees were cautiously comfortable with Sanitation replacing horse-manure in one windrow with food waste from this program. Our current AQMD permit allows the LCEC to have 10% food waste and 20% manure in the compost. A waste characterization study will be done to get an accurate handle on what and how much food waste is currently being collected in the pilot program.

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REVIEW

The construction drawings are 50-60% complete. Parking will be available for 4 sixty-foot trailers and there will be space for ten cars. Most of the trees in the picnic area will be saved, and there will be landscaping. There will be 5 picnic benches, drinking fountains, trash cans, a hitching bar, and water for the horses. It's not a large facility that's designed for locals as requested by the community. Boulders will be set up to make it easy to get on and off the horses.

'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE

The backside, 'B' slopes look good. We will be watering during the hot months. The seed mix is starting to grow. We hope to hydroseed 'AB+' canyon in the fall. Our own compost will be part of the mix to encourage seed growth.

CLOSURE UPDATE

The dirt and gas work is complete, hydroseeding remains to be done. The closure documents will probably be sent to the State early next week. Crews are now in maintenance mode.

'TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY (TDA) UPDATE

The judge ruled against the City, stopping the TDA, without completion of a full EIR.

COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY (see Page 7)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison
Thirteen Lopez neighbors attended the meeting. A tour was given.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER) UPDATE Jim Kurz,
Operations Superintendent

March, April, and May Tonnage:

13,465 tons of yard trimmings were processed

3,785 tons of brush was processed

652 tons of raw manure was processed

16,306 tons of mulch was produced

4,310 tons of mulch was donated to residents

11,997 tons of mulch went to farmers

236 tons of manure-based compost was produced

The berm extension has been completed.

Noise Minimization: We've replaced some equipment and moved some equipment to new locations to minimize noise. The sound walls have been completed and installed around the grinders. Everything we've done has helped minimize noise. We are still planning to move one grinder to a new location.

Odor Minimization: The mister is working and will be expanded to cover a larger area. We received an odor complaint concerning the detention basin and have cleaned it out and eliminated the odor.

Kagel Canyon Clean-Up: As a community service, we collected 19 tons of waste using 6 roll-offs and transported them to Sunshine Landfill. The tip fee was covered by Republic.

Food Waste: The City of Los Angeles is currently piloting a residential food waste collection program covering 8,500 homes. Participation in the program is low, with 95% of the collected material consisting of green materials. Those organics are currently being trucked to Victorville. Under our current permit with AQMD we are permitted to have 10% food waste and 20% manure in our compost. Since compost quality benefits from the addition of manure and food waste we would like to add the pilot program food waste to our compost. It would only be added to one windrow, in place of horse manure. We will do a waste characterization study to get an accurate handle on what and how much is currently being collected.

Q: Is the food collected in a separate bin?

A: No, it's placed in the green bin. Currently, City residents participating in the pilot program put food waste in their green bins. Pilot program participants are given a smaller kitchen sized green container that can be emptied into the green bin.

Q: What is considered food waste?

A: Solid foods like bread, rice, vegetables, chicken.

Q: Could the food waste create methane gas in the compost? Is Lopez becoming a landfill again?

A: No. The compost is made using an aerobic process that does not generate methane gas. Lopez will not become an active landfill again.

Q: Will you add more rows of compost to do this?

A: No, we will just replace one current manure windrow with food waste.

Q: Why is the City doing this?

A: Collecting food waste will help minimize waste that goes to landfill. Food is organic and a good addition to compost.

Community Comment: People use garbage disposals and that might be why participation is low.

Sanitation Response: Fat, oil and grease that enter our sewer lines clog them, so our wastewater group tells residents to put food in the black bins. We believe that the food could possibly go in the green bins so that we can use the good organic material for compost. That's why we are doing the pilot. 20-30 tons of food waste is currently received at our transfer station and is trucked to Victorville. We could decrease transportation related air pollution and improve our compost by adding the food waste to our composting process.

Q: Will adding food waste, especially meat, increase smells, odor, rodents and gulls at Lopez?

A: Currently residents in the pilot program put food in their green bins. The pilot will allow meat. We need to test the addition of meat to see if there is a concern. Once the LCEC receives it, it will all go directly into the grinder and into a windrow. The final product will be screened and analyzed for best use.

Q: What's the plan for the future?

A: AQMD currently limits us to 10% food waste and 20% manure. At this time we'll only handle the pilot program. Future plans will be based on the result of the pilot program.

Q: If the program continues, will there be excess green materials?

A: No

Community Comment: You'll hear from us if there are odor problems.

Community Comment: You could get more homes in the future and that would bring in more greens.

Sanitation Response: The pilot program has been going for 1.5 years and we haven't taken any of the food yet. Let's start the pilot composting program here by adding the food to one windrow and we'll extend an invitation to the community to come see and smell it to let us know if there are concerns.

Community Comment: This mulch program started as a little facility and now has grown and turned into a business. People who welcomed it have suffered from it. It keeps getting bigger.

Sanitation Response: The original proposal covered 40 windrows.

The following quote, from the Task Force Final Recommendation (signed in April 2003), was added to the meeting summary by Reva Fabrikant after the meeting:

"The facility would grow gradually, in phases:

- Phase 1: Initially the facility would occupy about 8 acres and would compost approximately 50 tons of green trimmings per day. Approximately 15 people would staff the site.*
- Final Phase: At full operations, the facility would cover 20 acres and compost approximately 300 tons per day. Approximately 45 people would staff the site."*

Q: If there's a problem what would it be, how hard would it be to rectify it and how long would it take to fix it?

A: Odors and vectors could be issues and they could be solvable. We don't want these issues either. We don't want to impact the community any more than it is

already impacted. If we see vectors and we can't eliminate them we'll send the material back to Victorville.

Q: Are seagulls vectors?

A: Yes.

Q: When would the pilot composting start?

A: Beginning of July

Q: What should we do if we have problems or issues?

A: Call Jim (see Page 7 for contact information). Don't wait till the next time we meet. We believe in transparency and want to show you the whole process.

Q: Will the food waste windrow also have horse manure?

A: No, it will be a separate windrow.

Q: How many trucks will there be?

A: Probably three truckloads.

PROPOSED TRAILHEAD CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REVIEW Nishith Dhandha, Bureau of Engineering, Architecture Division

The construction drawings are 50-60% complete. We've identified access details on Terra Vista, included a two-lane driveway and entry area with two terraces that are needed to accommodate the natural rise in the land.

There will be parking available for 4 sixty-foot trailers, space for ten cars, and a hitching post. The 2 trail accesses that meet and head toward Bartholomew Canyon are dirt paths and they will be improved. There will be separate access for maintenance. Most of the trees in the picnic area will be saved, that includes sycamores and pines. It will also be landscaped. The paths will be worked around the trees that exist in the area. We'll have 5 picnic benches, drinking fountains, trash cans, a hitching bar, and water for the horses. The horse water trough will be cylindrical using the model from Hansen Dam, the 'Nelson' brand. The hitching post will be a big metal rod. The rock wall will be natural, faced with river rock just like the barn wall. It will look nice. It's not a large facility. It's designed for locals as requested by the community.

We plan to add a connection from Bartholomew Canyon through the landfill. This is not currently on the plan, but will be in the next design. The drawings will be posted on the website. Please spread the word.

Boulders will be set up to make it easy to get on and off the horses.

Community Comments: Several people objected to setting up boulders to help riders get up on their horse.

Sanitation Response: Based on you objections we'll set up only one area with boulders.

Q: Wouldn't it be useful to give a tour of the area?

A: We've done that for Vicki Brinks and could do it again. Let us know if you're interested. We could set up stakes to identify locations of interest.

Q: How many existing trees will be removed?

A: None. We don't see a need to remove any trees.

Community Comment: Make sure not to cut down any trees.

Sanitation Response: We agree.

Q: Is there any overnight parking? Is there a distinction between day use and trailers?

A: No overnight parking and use is being planned. The area is designed for day use hikers and horses. There will be a gate at the entrance, but it won't be locked.

Community Comment: I don't want a locked gate, just wanted to clarify the use of the area.

Sanitation Response: We will try our best to control access into the area and keep out undesirables. We can post signs saying 'No overnight parking'. There won't be lighting or power at the site, just water.

Community Comment: Just post the hours, 'Sunrise-Sunset', and 'Closes at Dusk'.

Q: When will construction start and finish?

A: The design will be finished in November and construction can then go out to bid if funds are available.

Community Comment: Can't the City build it?

Sanitation Response: No, we don't have the staff. It will take 3 months to award the bid and then 6 months of construction work. We still don't have funds for the construction.

Community Comment: The amenities fund has money. CD7 should be aware, involved, and get information on this project. Do they know about it?

Sanitation Response: CD7 instructed us to convert the site into recreation and we responded with this plan.

Q: Does CD7 have a copy of the plan?

A: No.

Community Comment: A copy should go to the Planning Director.

Community Comment: A copy should go to both the District Director and Planning Director with a letter saying that the community requests use of the community amenity fund to support this project.

Sanitation Response: Is there a reason why the community doesn't want to initiate this process?

Community Comment: \$1,000,000.00 have been taken out of the amenities fund for other uses. These funds should have gone to Lakeview Terrace and have not.

Sanitation Response: We could send the letter, but it would be more meaningful if the request came from the community.

Community Comment: Let's do it both ways and cc' Linda Hornick of FTDNC.

Sanitation Response: I'll send a letter to the CD7 District Director and Planning Director.

Community Comment: Have you received any feedback from CD7 on the minutes relating to the plan?

Sanitation Response: No

LANDSCAPING UPDATE - Jim Kurz

The backside, 'B' slopes look good. We watered during the hot months last year and will do so again. The mix is starting to grow and sage, flowers, toyon and other plants are growing on the slope.

We hope to hydroseed 'AB+' canyon in the fall. The purchase order has been sent out. Fall is the best time to hydroseed, before it rains. Our own compost will be part of the mix to encourage seed growth.

Q: Why not wait till December? Doesn't that make more sense if you're waiting for rains?

A: Rains usually start falling around Thanksgiving time and continue in Jan. and Feb. The hydroseed company recommends seeding in Oct and that's what we've done in the past.

We plan to expand the irrigation system to help areas that are not growing well. Some one-gallon oaks didn't grow and some have grown. We'll replace those that didn't make it. It's ongoing work, but in general it seems to be working.

The park at the entrance to the landfill is being used a lot since we put in the new equipment and set up handicap access. We'd like to add more tables and more handicap access.

The education center will be set-up where the old mulch bins were. We're working on plans and funding for it. We'll bring the plans to the next meeting.

We'll plant more trees up the road to the landfill this summer.

Q: Paxton road is deteriorating, can that be improved?

A: It's the dividing line between the City and County of LA. Paxton is a problem for us too. We could do the work if the County would agree and pay for it.

Q: Is there money for the education center?

A: We don't have money yet. It will cost \$100,000 which is possible to get. It's easier than getting the half million dollars that would be needed for the equestrian trailhead.

Q: Could the manure-based compost be placed at the extra site?

A: We had odor complaints so it was removed. We could try again. Let Jim know if you're interested.

Q: Will the Environmental Education center be graffiti-proof? How will it be kept clean?

A: It will be located inside our gate which has a security guard so there won't be open access.

CLOSURE UPDATE - Jim Kurz

The dirt and gas work is complete. The hydroseeding remains. The closure documents will probably be sent to the State early next week. That includes final QA/QC and certification documents, for 'B' and 'C' canyons and 'AB+' slopes. Crews are now in maintenance mode. We have 9 operators and 7 maintenance laborers for all the City landfills. The thirty year post-closure period starts after we get approval for certification from the State. We hope to receive that after July. We don't have to wait thirty years to use the area. Uses can start based on the status of the individual section we'd like to use.

TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY(TDA) UPDATE – Khalil Gharios, Division Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division

The judge ruled against the City, stopping the TDA. A full EIR (Environmental Impact Report) must be prepared to move forward. I don't know the City's position right now.

Q: Is there any consideration to relocate the TDA to an industrial area? It's a good idea, just doesn't belong here.

A: We don't know the next step. The City will meet and decide.

COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. Extend an invitation to the community to come see and smell the pilot yard trimmings/food waste windrow to let us know if there are concerns.
2. At the community's request, Sanitation will send a letter to the CD7 District Director and Planning Director, stating that the community requests use of the community amenity fund to support the proposed equestrian trailhead project. A copy of the proposed trailhead plans will be included.
3. Bring the Environmental Education Center plans to the next meeting.

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, September 7, 2011

Tour 6:30 pm - 7:05 pm

Meeting 7:10 pm - 8:30 pm

PROPOSED
2011 COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE
LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT

Wed. March 2: **Meeting**
Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Wed. June 1: **Tour & Meeting**
Tour 6:30pm - 7:05pm
Meeting 7:10pm - 8:30pm

Wed. September 7: **Tour & Meeting**
Tour 6:30pm - 7:05pm
Meeting 7:10pm - 8:30pm

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

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