

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

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

Meeting Date: September 7, 2011  
Location:      Lopez Trailers

Tour: 6:30 pm - 7:05 pm  
Meeting: 7:10 pm - 7:50 pm

**OVERVIEW**

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

**LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE**

We are in full production. Sanitation is not pursuing adding food waste to our compost since it will not work with our current application. Four (4) odor complaints and one (1) noise complaint were received and investigated by Sanitation, AQMD and the LEA. No problems were found. A smoldering fire of suspicious origin was found in a mulch pile on-site and put out by LAFD and Sanitation staff.

**PROPOSED TRAILHEAD CONCEPTUAL DESIGN REVIEW**

The design is 70% complete and will be completed by November 15. CEQA documentation is required to complete the trailhead. The expense and time required to write the document could delay the project. Meeting attendees were upset about the delay and that the need for CEQA documents was not detailed in the initial planning.

**'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE**

We are waiting for a final quote from the hydroseeding contractor for 'C' canyon top decks and to cover bare spots.

**CLOSURE UPDATE**

Closure construction is complete. Hydroseeding is all that remains to be done and then we'll be in maintenance mode. We'll be back in 'A' canyon to regrade next year.

**COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY (see Page 4)**

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**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**

We are in full production.

***June, July, and August Tonnage:***

16,800.42 tons of yard trimmings were processed

5,443.37 tons of brush was processed

663.37 tons of raw manure was processed

16,982.92 tons of mulch was produced

4,601.57 tons of mulch was donated to residents

11,926.69 tons of mulch went to farmers

454.66 tons of manure-based compost was produced

Sanitation is not pursuing adding food waste to our compost. It will not work in our current application. Four odor complaints from the same person and one noise complaint were received. When we receive complaints we respond quickly, within 20 minutes, and investigate the complaint both on-site and in the community. We investigated and the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) came and neither of us found any odors. The Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) came to investigate the noise complaint and didn't find a problem.

**Q:** What percent of yard trimmings (YT) collected by the City of LA are processed at Lopez?

**A:** The City collects a total of 16,000-18,000 tons of YT per day. We process 270-300 tons of YT per day and 150 tons per day of brush. That's about 30% of the City's total YT. This helps keep contractor rates down for the rest of the YT.

**Q:** Could you tell us about the fire that was noticed here recently?

**A:** Someone reported seeing smoke on the facility. The LA Fire Dept.(LAFD) responded and found some smoldering in a stockpile of mulch. They said it was of suspicious origin. We've recently had six incidents of vandalism and theft on the property and this fire could have been related to that. We had a report of someone on-site with a flashlight at night, we responded and they ran off. We've increased security and have installed electronic surveillance. We take theft and fires very seriously and are continually monitoring mulch pile temperatures. LAFD has 24 hours access to our site, and has a million gallon water tank on site and helicopter pad.

**Q:** Was there more than one fire?

**A:** No, it was one fire that started on Sunday and reignited on Monday when it was finally put out. Fires in mulch piles will smolder. LAFD smothered the fire with water on Sunday and when it reappeared on Monday we spread the pile, doused it with water and had staff watch it through the night to make sure it was out.

**PROPOSED TRAILHEAD John Hamilton, Lopez Engineering Project Manager and Jonathan Zari, Acting Assistant Division Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division**

The design is 70% complete and will be completed by the end of the year.

**Q:** I thought the design was supposed to be finished by November 15?

**A:** You're correct, sorry about the mistake.

**Community Request:** Can you make a presentation to the Equestrian Committee of the Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) when the design is complete?

**Sanitation Response:** Yes.

**Q:** At what point will we see the whole picture?

**A:** Nishith will come to our next meeting in December to present the design.

**Community Request:** Can we meet at the site when the plan is complete?

**Sanitation Response:** John Hamilton will look into that.

CA Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation is required to complete the trailhead and the expense and time required to write the document could delay the project. Staff is very busy right now and can't take on another project.

**Q:** What CEQA document is required?

**A:** I'm not sure, but will check into that and get back to you. We will need to finish the design before determining the type of CEQA document needed.

**Q:** Is it a full Environmental Impact Report or a Mitigated Negative Declaration?

**A:** At this point we're not sure.

**Community Comment:** This seems like a delay tactic. Why wasn't this included in the original planning? This is very upsetting. Can't the amenities fund be used to fund this?

**Sanitation Comment:** The amenities fund is managed by the CD7 Council office. Khalil contacted CD7 about using the funds and the request was denied. He will discuss that in greater detail at the next meeting. Reva will contact the community about the CEQA documents when that information is available.

## **LANDSCAPING UPDATE Jim Kurz**

We are waiting for a final quote from the hydroseeding contractor for 'C' canyon top decks and to cover bare spots. This is a two year contract.

**Q:** Will they reseed if it doesn't grow?

**A:** There is no guarantee of growth. Native plants are slow growing and it can take years for them to take hold and grow. We are trying to help the plants get established by watering.

**Q:** What is being weeded? Is there an emphasis on weeding out exotics and invasive species?

**A:** Currently we're focusing on castor bean since it spreads quickly, is invasive and we don't want it onsite.

**Community Comment:** You should also focus on fountain grass too because it is invasive.

**Sanitation Comment:** The Fire Department loves fountain grass because it controls dust, but we are removing it because it is invasive. We are winning the battle against mustard grass.

**Q:** Has anyone reviewed the seed list that was originally developed? That should be done in order to assess which species have successfully gotten established and to redesign the seed mix to reflect successful species.

**A:** We have not done that.

**Comment:** Roger Klemm volunteered to work with Sanitation to do that. Jim will give him the seed list and they will keep in touch.

**Q:** Are there any ground squirrel problems up here?

**A:** Not up on the landfill area, but we do have ground squirrel problems in the park area at the base of the landfill. They ate through our irrigation wires. We spend thousands of dollars on pest control in that park area. We use poison pellets and plug up their holes, but they move into other holes. We try to do our best there because it is used by the public.

### **CLOSURE UPDATE – Jim Kurz**

Closure construction is complete! Hydroseeding is all that remains to be done and then we'll be in maintenance mode. We'll be back in 'A' canyon to regrade next year. That was the first area to close.

**Q:** Has the gas flow peaked?

**A:** Gas flow is currently 2,800 cfm (cubic feet per minute) and peak was 7,000 cfm. Gas flow has been decreasing since 1997.

**Q:** How do you control gas production?

**A:** We open and close wells to control methane coming out and to draw more gas out. We are inspecting the slopes every day. Leachate goes into the sewer system.

### **MISCELLANEOUS Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison**

At the request of John de la Rosa the December meeting will most likely be held at Pacoima City Hall. We will not be able to have food at that meeting since food is not permitted in their meeting rooms.

Concern was expressed about parking availability in that area. Reva will clarify availability of parking in Pacoima City Hall.

### **COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY**

1. Sanitation will give a presentation to the Equestrian Committee of the Foothill Trails Neighborhood Council (FTDNC) when the trailhead design is complete.
2. At the community's request, John Hamilton will look into that having a meeting at the trailhead site when the design work is complete.
3. Reva will contact the community about the CEQA documents when that information is available.
4. Reva will clarify availability of parking in Pacoima City Hall for the December meeting.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER: 818-834-5122**

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**Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison**

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### **NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, December 7, 2011 @ Pacoima City Hall**  
**Meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**