

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

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

Meeting Date: December 7, 2011  
Location:            Pacoima City Hall

Meeting: 7:05 pm -8:05 pm

**OVERVIEW**

Thirteen Lopez neighbors attended the meeting. John de la Rosa attended, representing Councilmember Alarcón's office.

**LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE**

We are in full production. Four odor complaints were received and responded to by the Local Enforcement Agency and the Air Quality Management District. No problematic detectable odors were identified as coming from Lopez landfill. The mister is run every day around the facility.

**PROPOSED STAGING AREA/TRAILHEAD UPDATE**

The staging area plans are 80% complete and were presented at the meeting. After the staging area design work is 100% completed, design work will start on the trails. Feedback was requested on some trail design questions.

**'B' CANYON LANDSCAPING UPDATE**

The vegetation is growing well on 'B' slope which faces Kagel Canyon. We are removing tumbleweed. We'll be hydroseeding 'C' canyon and re-seeding/repairing hotspots all over the landfill after Jan. 1, 2012 to get the full benefit of the rainy season. We will also be planting around the entrance road.

**CLOSURE UPDATE**

Dirt work has been completed on the whole landfill. All that's left is hydroseeding and then we'll be in maintenance mode.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The proposed 2012 Community Meeting schedule was shared and feedback on the dates was requested.

**COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY (see page 5)**

\*\*\*\*\*

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS    Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison**

Thirteen Lopez neighbors attended the meeting. John de la Rosa attended, representing Councilmember Alarcón's office.

**LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE    Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent**

We are in full production. Four odor complaints were received and responded to by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and the Air Quality Management District (AQMD). We applied some of our mulch around the entrance road to Lopez and there was some minor residual odor, but no other detectable odors were identified

as coming from Lopez Landfill. The LEA did notice odors coming from C&M Topsoil located on the hill across from our entrance on Lopez Canyon Road. This facility is not located in the City of LA, it is in LA County. The mister is run every day around the facility.

We fared well in the high winds and handpicked any litter that blew around.

***September, October, November Tonnage:***

- 17,410 tons of yard trimmings were processed
- 6,444 tons of brush was processed
- 558 tons of raw manure was processed
- 19,961 tons of mulch was produced
- 3,397 tons of mulch was donated to residents
- 16,564 tons of mulch went to farmers
- 505 tons of manure-based compost was produced

**PROPOSED STAGING AREA/TRAILHEAD UPDATE Nishith Dhandha,  
Bureau of Engineering, Architecture Division**

Current staging area design plans were shown to the meeting attendees. Below are some of the plan's details:

- The park will be closed by a gate and will only operate in daylight hours.
- Specifically designed trailer space will be available for 4 trailers.
- Terraced parking, one for cars and the other for trailers, will be designed to accommodate the hillside. When viewed from the outside, the terraces will look like the hillsides of native chaparral. Each terrace will have trail access and the lower terrace will have water for horses.
- Plantings will use native chaparral plants such as oaks. Plants on the edges will act as screens so that neighbors will see plants instead of cars and trailers. We are trying to create a canopy of trees to minimize the visual impact on neighboring homes. All existing trees will stay, unless they are not healthy.
- Signage will be placed to control traffic flow.
- Picnic areas will have tables, water and trash cans.
- The river rock motif will be maintained to match the current rock wall. A new additional rock wall will be concrete reinforced in the back, but only the river rock will be visible.
- The water fountain will be ADA accessible.

The staging area plans are 80% complete. Once they are done we'll start working on the trails. We want to make sure the trails are built so that the horses can use them safely. Nishith visits the area periodically to make sure all the plans mesh with what is currently there. We expect that it will look very natural and beautiful once complete.

The trail starts at the end of the fire-road and goes up into the canyon and proceeds to the edge of the landfill, accessing the perimeter of 'B' canyon service road, at the edge of the landfill. This area is fairly steep, at a 10-15% grade. There's asphalt for a short distance and then it levels out. The length of this area is about 1000 yards and for a short distance the grade could be 18-20%.

*Question for Equestrians: We'd like to know if this design will be OK for horses or if there's a problem with the grade or asphalt. We'd also like to know if we should enlarge the path into the dirt area on the side to avoid the asphalt.*

Meeting attendees responded that the equestrians did not come to this meeting so the community will contact them and ask them respond to our questions. Please send responses to Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison (contact information on the last page).

**Q:** Will these updated plans be placed on the website and labeled as the current plans?

**A:** Yes, we will post them, hopefully within one week of this meeting.

#### **LANDSCAPING UPDATE Jim Kurz**

The vegetation is growing well on 'B' slope which faces Kagel Canyon. Summer irrigation helped. We are now removing tumbleweed. We put a lot of effort into removing mustard weeds this past year and have not noticed any growing this year. That is encouraging.

To get the full benefit of the rainy season, we'll hydroseed 'C' canyon and re-seed/repair hotspots all over the landfill after Jan. 1, 2012. Hydroseeding will go out to bid this week or next. We will also plant around the entrance road.

#### **CLOSURE UPDATE Jim Kurz**

The dirt work has been completed on the whole landfill. All that's left is hydroseeding and then we'll be in maintenance mode.

**Q:** When does the 30 year clock being?

**A:** After hydroseeding is completed we'll send a letter to the State confirming and notifying them of the completion of closure activities and then the 30 year maintenance mode officially begins.

**Community Comment:** Since you're 15 years late in closing the landfill that means we'll have to wait another 30 years before we can use it, so the totally waiting time is 45 years.

**Sanitation Response:** Regulations require a 30 year maintenance period to assure that gas production has been minimized, the land has fully subsided and the area is safe for public use. As we monitor, if we find that gas production in an area has been minimized and the area is safe for public use, we can convert it to public use. We do not have to wait until the whole landfill has reached minimal gas production to make safe sections available for public use. Waiting for complete land subsidence is important; as we learned at Sheldon Arleta where we built a baseball field on the landfill before land subsidence was totally complete and had problems with the field.

**Q:** Where can I get a copy of the regulations governing this 30 year closure?

**A:** Khalil will send that information to Reva and she will forward it.

**Q:** When is gas production considered safe for public use?

**A:** Gas production began at 4,000 cubic feet per minute(cfm) and is now at 2,500 cfm. We are currently converting Sheldon Arleta Landfill into a park and the current gas production there is around 200 cfm.

**Q:** What will happen with the trailer for the truck driver academy?

**A:** It will be removed from the site and sold at a City property auction.

**Q:** How is closure reporting done?

**A:** The LEA is certified by the State and oversees the monitoring process. We must abide by the post-closure plan. The AQMD monitors the gas part of the

closure. Conversion to public use is up to Sanitation and is based on safety considerations, including when gas generation has been minimized. Every five years we're required to do a settlement analysis and take an aerial photo. Gas monitoring is done quarterly.

**Q:** Are reports available to the public?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** Will these meetings continue?

**A:** Yes, but possibly not at this same frequency as there is not a lot to report.

**Q:** What is the threshold of gas generation that's needed to generate electrical power? How low can the cfm get and still enable power generation?

**A:** Our contract requires 1800 cfm with 45-48% methane. If it gets lower than that the contractor has options available, such as continuing operations but shutting down one of the engines. If our contractor decides to discontinue power generation, we could use the DWP micro-turbines or flares.

**Q:** What power do the micro-turbines produce?

**A:** They produce 30 kilowatts per micro-turbine and we have 50 of them onsite.

**Q:** Can you give us a ballpark figure of when you expect gas generation, in a quantity required by the contractor, to stop?

**A:** The 30 year contract began in 2000 so it will probably last till 2020.

**Q:** Is the amenities fund interest bearing?

**A:** A community member responded and said that generally all City trust funds are interest bearing.

**Q:** What is the balance in the Lopez fund?

**A:** John de la Rosa responded that he does not know.

**Q:** FTDNC requested use of the Lopez amenities fund for the proposed trails and staging area. Is this request progressing?

**A:** We are far from construction. First we need to do a CEQA study because we learned our lesson from the proposed Truck Driver Academy. We want to do the study in-house and currently do not have the staff available to do it as they are working on other major projects. We are hoping they can start work for us in at least about six months.

**Q:** Is there funding for this project?

**A:** The City is currently about \$72 million in the hole, so even though we are requesting funding for this project there's no guarantee we'll get it.

**Q:** What is the funding process?

**A:** We request funding for projects in the Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division budget. Bureau management makes decisions on which projects to fund based on current priorities.

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

The proposed 2012 Community Meeting schedule was shared. We'd appreciate feedback to let us know if any of the dates conflict with major community events. We'll send this meeting schedule out to the mailing list before the meeting summary is distributed, as requested. Any comments on the schedule should be addressed to Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison (contact information on last page).

## **COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY**

1. Reva will send Mike O'Gara a link to landfill closure codes, at his request.
2. The most recent staging area plans will be posted on the SRPCD website.
3. The proposed 2012 community meeting schedule will be sent out via email before the meeting summary is distributed.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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

**WEBSITE:** <http://lacitysan.org/srpcd/index.htm>

**Khalil Gharios, Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division**

213-485-3002 [Khalil.Gharios@lacity.org](mailto:Khalil.Gharios@lacity.org)

**Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent, Lopez Canyon Landfill**

818-834-5128 [James.Kurz@lacity.org](mailto:James.Kurz@lacity.org)

**Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison**

866-950-7382 [Reva.Fabrikant@revafab.com](mailto:Reva.Fabrikant@revafab.com)

## **NEXT MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, March 7, 2012**

**Meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**