

**LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT
COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 2013**

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF SANITATION

Meeting Date: September 11, 2013 Tour: 6:30-7:00 pm
Location: Lopez Trailers Meeting: 7:05-8:10 pm

OVERVIEW

11 Lopez neighbors attended the tour and meeting.

JUNE 2013 COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY (see page 2)

LANDSCAPING UPDATE

A purchase order for hydro-seeding is being processed. The seed mix will follow the mix that was planned with Lopez neighbors when the landfill closed. The hydroseeding will take place in November, before the rains start. We are investigating installing an irrigation system that will water hydro-seeded areas in case of low rainfall.

LANDFILL POST-CLOSURE MAINTENANCE UPDATE

‘A’ Canyon has settled and will be reworked in early spring. Once completed, reworking will move into ‘B’ Canyon.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Lopez staff worked hard to support community activities and programs. We offer special services, such as free mulch and compost and have supported the KCCA annual cleanup for several years. We’d appreciate acknowledgment and a Thank You when we provide extra services to the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

The MOU that was established when Community Task Force members supported the proposed compost facility included building an Environmental Education Center similar to the one at Griffith Park. The City is committed to this and has begun planning and constructing this center.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE

No odor complaints were received. One noise complaint was received, which was due to the grinder. That’s been resolved. All of our gas was beneficially used.

SEPTEMBER COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY (see page 5)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison

11 Lopez neighbors attended this meeting. A tour was given. The meeting began with a minute of silence in commemoration of the fallen from the Sept 11, 2001 terrorist attack in NY.

STATUS: JUNE 2013 COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. **June 2013:** The Lopez team will discuss the possibility of operating misters on weekends when there's a possibility of odors from the LCEC.

Sept 2013: DONE. If an odor complaint is received on a weekend, a Lopez staff member will be sent to investigate the complaint. If misters are determined to be needed they will be turned on. The mister generator has limited operating capacity and can not be used continuously. The cost to upgrade the generator is not within our current budget.

2. **June 2013:** Check the regulations to see if it's possible to use dolomite to control LCEC odors.

Sept 2013: DONE. The use of dolomite would be of limited benefit and would create a potential dust problem. It would make our operations more complicated, more expensive, and laborious. pH can be maintained using natural recipes of wood and green materials. At this time we do not see a benefit to adding dolomite it to the process. If our situation changes in the future, we will investigate this material further.

3. **June 2013:** Notify the community of an incident at Lopez as soon as regulators are notified.

Sept 2013: DONE. This process is set up. City staff will notify Lopez neighbors of incidents when regulators are notified.

4. **June 2013:** Change the community meeting schedule to the following: Two meetings with tours at Lopez in September and May and updates at FTDNC, LVTIA and KCCA throughout the year.

Sept 2013: DONE. An update has been scheduled at the regular LVTIA meeting on Nov. 4, 2013. Updates will also be scheduled at KCCA and FTDNC.

Q: Since City staff is not taking notes at these updates could a bulleted list of information that's covered at these meetings be prepared in advance and brought to the meeting.

A: We will do that.

LANDSCAPING UPDATE Jim Kurz, Operations Superintendent II

When questions or concerns arise, Lopez neighbors can contact either Jim Kurz or Dan Denering (who was introduced at this meeting). Contact numbers are at the end of these minutes.

A purchase order for hydro-seeding is being processed. The seed mix will follow the mix that was planned with Lopez neighbors when the landfill closed. The hydro-seeding will take place in November, before the rains start. Last year's seeds did not grow due to a major lack of rain. As a result we are exploring putting in a flexible irrigation system on the top of the slopes, hoping that will help seeds germinate and grow. Installation of the irrigation system will go through the bidding process. Once the plants are established we will move the irrigation system and let the plants continue growing naturally.

Q: Can trees be planted to conceal the compost facility? People living in upper Kagel Canyon can see into the facility despite the berm.

A: Trees can only be planted over areas where there's no trash. In trash areas their roots can penetrate the cover causing problems. We are planting trees where possible (like on the berm) and will explore what can be done to conceal the compost area.

Community Comment: Those of us in upper Kagel can see the trucks and it looks like a parking lot. We appreciate whatever you can do to hide that.

LANDFILL POST-CLOSURE MAINTENANCE UPDATE Jim Kurz

We are in good shape. We're working on maintenance for proper drainage. In early spring we'll be working in 'A' Canyon, the first canyon we closed in the early 90s. We will put in a new gas collection system. Work will start no earlier than 8 AM, as the community requested. Eventually we will continue to 'B' Canyon.

Q: Why does the reworking have to be done?

A: As the fill decomposes and settles our pipes move and don't work efficiently. We re-work areas where settlement has caused, or might cause, problems. It's very important to maintain good drainage.

Q: Doesn't vegetation have to be removed when you do the re-working? Will we ever have vegetation covering the landfill?

A: Sometimes vegetation is removed, but it gets replaced. We will have brush and bushes growing on top of fill areas, but not trees (deep roots are a problem).

Q: What do you do with the gas?

A: It goes into generators to produce electricity. We only use the flares when the generators are not working. Two generators are used to produce electricity.

Community Comment: Can we get a tour of that facility?

Sanitation Response: We will look into that.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT Jim Kurz, Khalil Gharios, Manager Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division

The Bureau of Sanitation wants to be a good neighbor and we do so by offering support and services that benefit our Lopez neighbors. We've given away free mulch and a higher quality compost (available only to our Lopez community), we've supported the local July 4th celebration, we truck large quantities of mulch to Lopez neighbors when asked, we've permitted the drop-off of large quantities of yard trimmings directly on our site and we've supported the KCCA cleanup for a number of years. This year we were very disappointed when the KCCA Hotsheet did not acknowledge or thank Lopez staff for providing free bins and removing them after the annual cleanup. We did not even receive a verbal thank you or a written note. We do hear a lot from the community when we act in ways that are not appreciated and when we make mistakes or propose programs that the community doesn't want. We understand the need to voice concerns and that's one of the reasons we hold these community meetings. But, in addition to the negative comments and criticisms, we'd appreciate receiving credit and a Thank You acknowledging what we do that benefits the community.

Community Comment: KCCA did send a Thank You letter via snail mail, but it looks like it wasn't received. The letters will be sent again, via email. We apologize for not acknowledging your support in our Hotsheet and will do so in the next issue.

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER UPDATE Jonathan Zari,
Ass't Manager Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division**

The MOU that was established when Community Task Force members supported the proposed compost facility included building an Environmental Education Center similar to the one at Griffith Park. The City is committed to this and has begun planning and constructing this center.

The Center will highlight the City's recycling and smart-gardening programs including: backyard composting, water conservation, rainwater harvesting, planting native vegetation and building water conserving raised planter beds.

Construction has begun on the concrete path that will lead visitors through the displays. A display board was presented with a diagram of the Center.

Q: Is there a timeline for the Center's construction?

A: We will develop a schedule and it will be posted on our website and sent out to our distribution list.

Q: Can the plans on the display board be posted on the website?

A: Yes, we will do that.

Q: Can you work with the LVT Museum Science Discovery Center?

A: We will contact the division that is working on that project.

Q: Will this Center affect where the mulch is currently placed for the give-away program?

A: No. The Center will be near the rest rooms at the bottom of the landfill.

Q: Will the Center be shaded?

A: Yes, we'll plant shade trees. Awnings will be placed to provide shade while the trees are maturing.

Q: How do the raised beds work? What's on the bottom of the beds?

A: Different coverings are used on the bottom to control moisture, or act as a weed and/or pest barrier. This information will be available at the Center.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER UPDATE Jim Kurz

June 2013 –August 2013 Tonnages:

17,671.77 tons of yard trimmings and brush was processed

670.50 tons of raw manure was processed

13,260.90 tons of mulch was produced

3,402.82 tons of mulch was donated to residents

9,858.08 tons of mulch went to farmers

610.96 tons of manure-based compost was produced

No odor complaints were received. One noise complaint was received, due to grinder noise and that's been resolved. All of our gas was beneficially used. We are using natural gas powered trucks for our 18 wheelers. They travel 300-400 miles per day and work well.

We received an email expressing concern about the possibility of invasive termites living in our mulch. This happened in New Orleans and was the result of blending

various mulches from different sources. The emailer wanted to know if our mulch has this infestation. We assured her that we have no such problem with our mulch as it only comes from our facility and is not mixed with any other materials.

Q&A

Q: Are the trash collection trucks new? I don't seem to be hearing the grinding noise I used to hear.

A: These trucks were switched over to natural gas several years ago and that cut out a lot of noise. It is possible that other parts were changed recently and those changes eliminated other noises. We are not familiar with trash truck maintenance since a different division handles that.

Community Comment: Please let that division know that we appreciate the changes and decreased noise.

Sanitation Response: We will do that.

Q: Is funding for the Equestrian Staging Area still on hold and what happened with the alternative suggestions that someone said Fritz, from FTDNC, was proposing?

A: Funding is still not available for the equestrian staging area. The proposal from Fritz was never received.

COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. We will prepare a bulleted list of topics and information that will be covered at community association meeting updates and bring it to the meeting.
2. We'll look at ways to plant vegetation that will conceal the compost facility from residents in upper Kagel Canyon.
3. Sanitation will explore the possibility of offering a tour of the gas-to-energy generators.
4. A schedule will be developed for the Lopez Canyon Environmental Education Center and will be posted on our website and sent out to our distribution list.
5. The plans for Lopez Canyon Environmental Education Center will be posted on our website.
6. We will contact the division that is working with the LVT Museum Science Discovery Center to see if we could tie the two projects together.
7. We'll tell the division that provides maintenance to trash trucks that the community appreciates the quieter trucks.

CONTACT INFORMATION

NEW HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER: 818-485-0703

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

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NEXT UPDATE

LVTIA General Meeting

~~November 4, 2013 7pm~~

(note that this date was changed to Oct 7 after the Sept. 11 meeting)

LVT Recreation Center