

**LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT
COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY
MAY 2015**

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BUREAU OF SANITATION

Meeting Date: May 12, 2015

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

Meeting: 7:05-8:22 pm

Location: Lake View Terrace Recreation Center

OVERVIEW

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

General Services Fleet Management: Currently repair and maintenance workers work outside in an unprotected environment. We are planning to construct a shade canopy to mitigate this problem.

LANDSCAPING: On the northeast side of the berm shrubs and trees have been planted, hydro-seeding the slopes will follow. We plan to irrigate in the future. The on-site vegetation looks good.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER: The Center opened on April 14 with a press conference. Composting workshops (for City and non-City residents) will begin on June 13 and continue every 2nd Saturday of the month. Compost bins and rain barrels will be sold at a discount to LA City residents. TopGro© Compost will be sold by the bag. Compost bins and bags of TopGro© will also be sold on Fridays.

POST CLOSURE MAINTENANCE: Maintenance of 'A' canyon slopes was on-hold throughout the rainy season. Drains will be replaced, followed by hydro-seeding with native seeds and irrigation. 'B' canyon will need work on drainage and land settlement.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER: This year we have been on target with 62,000 tons of raw material processed. We received 9 odor complaints this last quarter. The misting system uses an odor neutralizer which is also added to the water tanks. We now have 3 additional staff members to spread the water.

UPDATE ON EQUESTRIAN STAGING AREA: The design of the staging area has been completed. At the request of City Council we are currently preparing a report regarding the status of the trailhead, the project milestones, when we anticipate the site will be available for use, and other possible uses of the closed landfill. We hope to complete the report in June and will inform the community when the report is completed and when it will be presented to the Energy and Environment Committee. Some neighbors, who live on Terra Vista, attended this meeting and voiced concerns about the proposed staging area. As a result, Sanitation will need to prepare an Environmental Document for this project.

MISCELLANEOUS: A Draft Solar Panel Feasibility Study has been completed and Sanitation is reviewing it internally. After the internal review is completed, the final feasibility study will be shared with the community.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison

Twenty Lopez neighbors attended this meeting. The meeting started with a tour of Lopez.

CANOPY FOR LOPEZ MECHANICS Kris Goolsby, Equipment Superintendent, General Services Fleet Management

Currently repair and maintenance work on Lopez equipment is done in the open air. The workers have no protection from rain and sun. These conditions are difficult both for the workers and the equipment. We are planning to construct a shade canopy to mitigate this problem. This area is located adjacent to the trailers where we have our community meetings. It is highlighted on the attached map.

Q: How long has the slab/work area been there and why has it taken so long to provide protection?

A: It's been there for 10 years. We have been trying to get budget approval for this canopy and it has finally come through.

Q: How tall will the canopy be?

A: 98'x86'x29'(height)

Q: What work is done there?

A: All repair and maintenance related services such as repairing vehicles and equipment.

Q: Why does it need to be 30' tall?

A: To provide clearance for tall pieces of equipment

Q: Will there be a visual impact?

A: We don't think any homes overlook this area.

Q: What assurances will we have that solar panels won't be built on top of the canopy?

A: It can't support the weight.

Q: How does it shield workers?

A: The wind can blow through it but the pitched roof provides protection from rain and shades the sun.

Q: How much will it cost?

A: \$1 million

LANDSCAPING Jim Kurz, Operations Manager

On the northeast side of the berm we have been planting shrubs and trees to minimize the visual impact of the composting area. We will hydro-seed the slopes. We plan to irrigate in the future but due to the drought we are testing it now. We'll do what we can regarding watering and planting due to the drought. The vegetation on the site looks good.

Q: When will the trees mature? How tall will they be?

A: They are native trees and oaks take a long time to mature, around 25-30 years. They also are not very tall trees. All the plantings are native to blend into the surrounding community.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER Dan Denering, Operations Superintendent II

The Center opened on April 14 with a press conference. We'll have composting workshops every 2nd Saturday of the month. The next class is June 13. DWP will be at the workshops providing information about their programs and rain barrels will be sold.

Compost bins will be sold and will cost \$20 for City of LA residents. This discounted price is available for City of LA residents only. Non-City residents can purchase bins at cost (we will find out that cost). Non-City residents are welcome to come to the workshops. TopGro© Compost will be sold by the bag. The cost will be \$2/bag. This is the same material as the bulk compost which is available free at the entrance to Lopez. Compost bins and bags of TopGro© will also be sold on Fridays.

Q: Can So Cal Edison come and talk at a workshop?

A: We'll look into that. We do want to have guest speakers.

Q: How will the City outreach to people to inform them of workshops?

A: Information is posted on social media and on our website http://lacitysan.org/srpcd/services_binsale.htm . DWP will also help publicize the workshops. This is part of an already established program that's happening at other sites, and our information will be added to the outreach program that already exists.

POST CLOSURE MAINTENANCE Jim Kurz

'A' canyon slope maintenance was on-hold throughout the rainy season. The drains need to be replaced. We should be able to do that now. Once the drains are replaced we'll hydro-seed with native seeds, irrigate and hope nature works in our favor.

'B' canyon will need work on drainage and land settlement. Maintenance is an ongoing process.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER Jim Kurz

January 2015 – March 2015 Tonnages:

19,751 tons of yard trimmings and brush was processed

614 tons of raw manure was processed

4,523 tons of mulch was produced

10,029 tons of bulk TopGro© was produced

1,106 tons of Premium TopGro© was produced

This year we have been on target with 62,000 tons of raw material processed. We received 9 odor complaints this last quarter. The misting system uses an odor neutralizer which is also added to the water tanks. We now have 3 additional staff to spread the water.

Q: What's an odor neutralizer?

A: It's an organic formula that's diluted 1,500/1 and won't harm anything. We receive an MSDS sheet and have been using it for 3-4 years with no problems.

UPDATE ON EQUESTRIAN STAGING AREA Khalil Gharios, Manager, Solid Resources Processing and Construction Division

The design of the staging area has been completed. Actual trail design has not begun. There are options for building trails inside and outside the landfill.

We've received comments from the community regarding cost of the project. They feel that our cost estimate is too expensive. We'd be happy to meet with anyone in the community who can help us lower costs.

At the request of City Council we are currently preparing a report regarding the status of the trailhead, the project milestones, when we anticipate the site will be available for use, and other possible uses of the closed landfill. We hope to complete the report in June. We will inform the community when the report is completed and will also inform them of the presentation date before the Energy and Environment Committee.

Q: What would be other uses?

A: We haven't approached that topic yet. We are currently looking at horse trails and passive uses of the closed landfill.

Q: How come horse people have not given feedback? How come you didn't bring us the plans?

A: We have been continually asking for feedback from the equestrian community since the project was initially proposed. When we start trail design we will continue to involve the community.

Community Comment: One specific community member, Fritz Bronner, has offered suggestions and sent you emails and you have not responded.

Sanitation Response: We have not received any emails from Fritz Bronner about the staging area or trail design. This has been brought up at previous meetings and we said we'd be happy to receive his comments but have not received anything.

NOTE: In a series of emails with Fritz Bronner after the meeting it turns out that his comments were not related to the Lopez proposal but to the one at Hansen Dam.

Q: Where is this staging area? Is it on Terra Vista? We live in that area and have not received information about it. We feel it would interfere with our lifestyle and are not positive about the proposal.

A: During the staging area design phase we tried to reach out to everyone on Terra Vista and nearby. We put a flyer in everyone's mailbox and worked with FTDNC and LVTIA to reach out as much as possible. The staging area plan has not yet been solidified and comments are still welcome. We will need to draw up an Environmental Document and as part of that process will contact people who live near the staging area for their comments and feedback. All comments will be included in the Environmental Document. This document must be approved by City Council before the proposal can become a reality.

Q: Is this a go-ahead plan?

A: It has not been approved by City Council so we cannot go ahead with any actions.

Q: Where on Terra Vista is it?

A: The staging area would be between Pierce and Terra Bella, against the hills, in the 'old barn' area. The design is on the website:

http://lacitysan.org/srpcd/community_lopez.htm

Q: Has there been a process of informing the community about this plan?

A: Yes. Four years ago we toured the proposed staging area location with the community. A City architect was brought in to design the staging area and he attended several community meetings presenting and discussing the plans and changing them as recommended by meeting attendees. The staging area building cost is estimated to be close to \$500,000 and that is a major stumbling block.

Q: What is standing between where the plan is today and making it happen?

A: Up until now we have not heard any objections to the plan. Since we are hearing some objections at this meeting we'll need to prepare an Environmental Impact Document. This type of document includes a lot of detail and takes more time to prepare. It lists all the impacts of the proposal and possible mitigations.

Community Comment: Homes are impacted and these are \$700,000.00 homes which could lose their value. We will contact our neighbors and have them come to the next meeting. We are upset because we weren't informed of this proposal.

Community Comment: I live on Terra Vista, not near the proposed staging area and I know that some people who live near the staging area object to the proposal, I have not yet stated my thoughts. The 'horse community' here are curious folk and can be aggressive and feel 'entitled'. There is tension between these different communities.

Sanitation Response: We did try to inform everyone in the area, by putting a community meeting notice on all the household doors. No one from Terra Vista or nearby attended the meeting. We will contact the community email list about the date of our hearing in front of the Energy and Environment Committee. They usually meet at 2 pm. Councilmember Fuentes is the chairperson of this committee.

Q: Wouldn't it be easier to find alternative spots?

A: No. This is on City owned land and has good connections to already existing trails in this area.

Q: Will the solar panels be visible from the staging area and horse trails?

A: The locations that are being studied will be on AB+ deck and C deck as you pass up the hill. There is a possibility some panels could be integrated into the shrubby areas near trails to decrease visibility.

Q & A

Q: Can we have an update on the solar panels?

A: There is currently no update. A draft feasibility study has been completed and we are reviewing it. This report only discusses whether it's 'possible' to put solar panels on Lopez. It will not make a recommendation concerning whether or not to put them up. After the internal review is completed, the final feasibility study will be shared with the community.

Q: What kind of response could you get at this presentation?

A: The response could range from asking us to further explore putting up the panels to no response.

Q: When will you share this with the community?

A: The draft will not be shared with the community. After the draft is reviewed internally and a final is completed it will be shared with the community.

Q: Is there a connection between the trails and solar panels?

A: It's possible that one scenario might include integrating the panels into the trails to minimize visual impact.

Q: So according to the Parsons study it is feasible to put panels on Lopez?

A: Yes, according to the initial draft report.

Q: Could you build trails without the staging area and tie the trails into the existing area such as Hansen Dam and trails? Wouldn't that be cheaper and encounter less resistance?

A: Yes, good idea. We'll explore that and maybe tie into Hansen Dam trails.

Q: Has a plan gone to City Council yet about the staging area?

A: Not yet. We first have to develop a plan that the community agrees upon.

Community Comment: The updates at community associations are not working out. People who attend are confused and want more information and the people who give the presentations don't have all the information we want. We should go back to having all the meetings here at Lopez.

Sanitation Response: We will ask for feedback from local community associations about that.

JUNE 2014 COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. We will seek community feedback on the September meeting location in August. If the meeting is held at Lopez we can offer a landfill tour and tour of Fortistar's Gas-to-Energy Plant. We cannot offer these tours if the meeting is held anywhere else.
2. We will reschedule Parsons attendance at another community meeting, hopefully in September 2014.

COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. Find out what the compost bins will cost for non-City residents.
2. We will look into having So Cal Edison speak at a compost workshop at the Education Center.
3. Explore the possibility of building trails without a staging area and tying the trails into existing trails and Hansen Dam.
4. We will share the final feasibility study with the community before anything gets implemented.
5. We will request feedback from local community associations and our updates and if they should continue.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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NEXT MEETING
TBA