

**LOPEZ CANYON RESTORATION PROJECT
COMMUNITY MEETING SUMMARY
OCT 1, 2015
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF SANITATION**

Meeting Date: Oct 1, 2015
Meeting: Tours: 6:10-6:40 pm
 Meeting: 6:45-8:45 pm
Location: Lopez Canyon Landfill

OVERVIEW

Twenty-one Lopez neighbors attended the meeting. Two tours were given.

WRITTEN AGENDA

LANDSCAPING

We are short five Gardener Caretakers and one Park Maintenance Supervisor and are working to fill these positions. We are in the process of installing a new 'big-gun' irrigation system to water the hydro-seeded areas on 'AB+' top deck. A new main water line has been installed for this system.

POST CLOSURE MAINTENANCE

We are rebuilding the helicopter pad on 'AB+' deck for both LA County and LA City Fire Air Operations.

UPDATE ON EQUESTRIAN STAGING AREA

On Sept.16, The Energy and Environment Committee of the City Council, instructed the Bureau of Sanitation to:

1. Finalize design plans for recreation trails and access points at the Lopez Canyon bufferlands with input from the community and CD7
2. Identify funding needs for the project and additional sources of funding other than the amenities fund
3. Report to City Council with the results of the final design plans and community outreach.

A meeting will be scheduled with the FTDNC Equestrian committee to discuss the equestrian trials.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Compost Education Workshops are held the second Saturday of the month. Compost bin and TopGro® Compost & Mulch bag sales are held the third Friday of the month.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

300 tons per day of curbside yard trimmings were processed. No noise complaints were received during this past quarter. Two odor complaints were received.

CANOPY FOR LOPEZ MECHANICS

Construction of the canopy is currently in the bidding stage

STORMWATER HARVESTING AND RECYCLED WATER AT LOPEZ

LA Sanitation has teamed up with the Dept. of Water and Power to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing alternative sources of water to offset potable water use at the landfill.

ORAL PRESENTATION

SOLAR PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY

Parsons summarized the findings of their Solar Power Generation Feasibility Study. They concluded that it would be feasible to install a 4 MW Fixed Tilt Solar System on Deck 'C' at

Lopez landfill. The majority of community members who attended the meeting are not positive about this proposed project.

Q&A

COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE

There will be two community meetings a year at Lopez. Local community associations can request LA Sanitation's attendance at one of their meetings if they provide a date, time, location and a specific topic they'd like covered.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Twenty-one Lopez neighbors attended this meeting. Field Deputy Gibson Nyambura with LA City Councilmember Fuentes office, and Field Deputy Jarrod DeGonia with LA County Supervisor Antonovich's office attended the meeting. The retirement of Jim Kurz, Lopez Operations Superintendent, and the Oct 31 retirement of Reva Fabrikant (Community Liaison) were announced. Dan Denering, who is currently on vacation, is the Lopez Operations Superintendent. Eric Wesson, Acting Superintendent, attended this meeting. Jimmy Tokeshi, Public Information Officer with the LA City, Board of Public Works, Public Affairs Office attended this meeting and will be replacing Reva Fabrikant. Rosalia Rojo, Acting Sr. Environmental Engineer in charge of Landfill Engineering and Project Management, spoke about the Bureau of Sanitation's involvement with the US Composting Council and gave out free t-shirts and posters. The meeting was divided into three parts; Lopez tours, a review of the written agenda items, and an oral presentation.

WRITTEN AGENDA REVIEW

UPDATES

‡ LANDSCAPING

Written Update

We are short five Gardener Caretakers and one Park Maintenance Supervisor as a result of retirements, promotions, or injury and are working to fill these positions. This process should take about two to three months. The existing landscaping is being maintained. There have been no new plantings. We're in the process of installing a new 'big-gun' irrigation system to water the hydro-seeded areas on 'AB+' top deck. A new main water line has been installed for this system.

Community Meeting Q&A

There were no questions.

‡ POST CLOSURE MAINTENANCE

Written Update

We are rebuilding the helicopter pad on 'AB+' deck for both LA County and LA City Fire Air Operations. It will be constructed at no cost to these departments using free grindings delivered from the Bureau of Street Services and concrete pads from the Army Corp of Engineers, which will be delivered by the LA City Fire Construction Crew.

Community Meeting Q&A

Q: How long is the post-closure period?

A: 30-50 years.

Q: Why is it so long?

A: It's based on the amount of time it takes the landfill to subside, which varies greatly from landfill to landfill. The process of closing Bishops Canyon Landfill, in Elysian Park, has already taken 45 years. It was being converted into a baseball

field, but the building that was constructed over the trash area settled and is slated to be demolished. Since we are planning to build trails on Lopez and not dealing with structures that could settle, the trails could possibly be built in 10 years. Legally, the City must maintain the landfill for 30 years and as long as we maintain it we must control access to the area.

♦ EQUESTRIAN STAGING AREA

Written Update

In 2010 LA Bureau of Sanitation prepared a proposed development plan for the Lopez Landfill property. The plan consisted of three phases:

Phase I: Involved both improvements to the public park that is located by the landfill entrance and construction of the EEC. Both projects have been completed

Phase II: Involves the construction of an equestrian staging area and recreational trails. The cost and proposed design have been shared with the community and they have offered their expertise to assist in improving the design of the project and possibly lowering the cost. As of now there has been no specific feedback from the community regarding this information. LA Sanitation, together with CD-7, will revisit this design concept with the community to solicit more specific input. Once this input is received the design will be completed.

Several residents who live in close proximity to the proposed location, raised concerns about the proposal at the May 12 Lopez Community Meeting. As a result, an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) is necessary and will be prepared.

In addition, LA Sanitation has received unsolicited offers to place solar panels on the landfill. A feasibility report has been prepared to determine if that would be feasible. If it is feasible, LA Sanitation will incorporate funding for the equestrian trails into the Request For Proposals for the solar power proposals and will also combine the EIS for both projects into one report. If the solar power project is not found to be feasible, then an alternative source of funding would need to be identified for the equestrian trail project.

Phase III: Consists of the development of the landfill area, after land stabilization & settlement and landfill gas production have been reduced to a level considered safe for public access. Two main groups of uses have been identified:

- Additional LA Sanitation uses
- Additional Community/Public uses

LA Sanitation is recommending that City Council support:

- The development of the equestrian staging area and trails within Lopez Canyon landfill property boundaries.
- Limiting and controlling access to equestrian and hiker trails until the post-closure maintenance and/or land settlement has decreased to less-than significant.

This information is available in more detail in the LA Sanitation Report to City Council that was sent out with the agenda.

Community Meeting Q&A

Q: The phases written down here are not the same as the plan phases that were previously given out. Can you correct that problem?

A: NOTE: The following information was written after the community meeting to clarify this problem.

The Lopez Canyon Development Plans that are written above, in the written update, are the phases that were submitted to City Council on August 25, 2015 in response to the March 18, 2015 Council Motion 15-0314 (Fuentes-Huizar). These phases are

similar, but not identical to, the plan that was presented to the community in 2010. The 2010 proposed Recreational Park Plan is attached.

The current plan and phases for the equestrian project development are detailed in: *City Council Report CF#15-0314 – Lopez Canyon Landfill Equestrian Project and Post-Closure Stability and Environmental Restoration*. This report, prepared by the Director of the Bureau of Sanitation, is attached, and related information is available in Council File #15-0314 at the following link:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=15-0314>

The Bureau of Sanitation August 25, 2015 report was referred by City Council to the Energy and Environment Committee. This Committee recommended that City Council instruct the Bureau of Sanitation, in collaboration with the Bureau of Engineering, the Dept. of Recreation and Parks and other relevant departments to:

1. Finalize design plans for recreation trails and access points at the Lopez Canyon bufferlands with input from the community and CD7
2. Identify funding needs for the project and additional sources of funding other than the amenities fund
3. Report to City Council with the results of the final design plans and community outreach.

City Council adopted these recommendations on Oct 6, 2015 and the Bureau of Sanitation is now in the process of fulfilling these instructions.

Q: Some of us met with Dan Denering and it seems like the information that he provided us is different from what we are getting at this meeting. Can you include this information in the meeting summary?

A: We will try.

Comment: Sometimes the summary from these meetings is not accurate. We need that corrected and request that Jimmy Tokeshi do that.

Q: Why are the proposed solar panels bundled with the equestrian trails in the solar panel feasibility study? This should not be the case.

A: They were bundled together as a possible method of funding the trails. The two projects have since been separated and are no longer bundled together. The report to City Council dated August 25, 2015 requires that the Bureau identify funding needs for the trails and additional sources of funding.

Q: Can construction of the trails be done in separate stages to make funding the work easier?

A: The majority of construction work will be done in-house. Some work will be done by a contractor and we'll work with the Council Office to identify sources of funds needed.

Q: Can the Bureau of Sanitation start their work on the trails before the contractor is brought in?

A: The trail plans need to be finalized before construction can start. The 2012 trailhead/staging area plans that were posted on the Sanitation website were considered 85% complete at that time. However when reviewed recently by the Bureau of Engineering Architecture Division the plans were found to need more work before construction could start. Two-three months of work is needed to complete the plans and currently staff is not available to do that.

Q: We were told in March 2011 that the plans were ready and it would take 6 months to construct. What happened to that?

A: In 2011 the plan designer said they were ready, but his current boss said they aren't ready for construction. We also need to do complete an Environmental Study. That study can be done during the two-three months it will take to finalize the plans.

Q: Could the trails be built now, before the staging area? Why can't that be done now?

A: We need to complete an Environmental Study when any movement of dirt is involved therefore we need one for construction of the trails.

Q: Can the study be a Mitigated Negative Declaration?

A: We can't determine that now.

A discussion followed referring to the attached proposed trail map. Various possibilities for trails and connecting the new trails to current trails were proposed.

Q: Would you like to set up a meeting with equestrian members of the community to discuss the best locations and paths for new trails?

A: Yes.

Community Comment: I ask you to build the trails as soon as possible.

Sanitation Response: We would like to build trails that will connect to major trails. We will do that first and then work on the staging area. Some of the connectors could be on LA County property so we will need to work with LA County.

Comment from Jarrod DeGonia: The NE Valley Trails Study is being worked on now. We will coordinate with the LA County Department of Parks & Recreation and the LA City Bureau of Sanitation concerning trails in this area.

Community Comment: A community member read a quote from the Aug. 25, 2015 Bureau of Sanitation Report to City Council on the Equestrian Project. She asked whether funding sources for this project will be identified.

Sanitation Response: Yes. We will work with the Council office to identify funding sources.

Q: Could a new supervisor in the Architectural Division change the plan again? We need to meet with this person.

A: We will set up a meeting with this supervisor.

Q: Could you come to an FTDNC meeting?

A: We need to figure out the best way to organize this. Reva and Jimmie will do that.

Community Comment: Kevin Davis, the FTDNC President, offered to put this topic on their agenda.

Sanitation Response: We are open to that.

Community Comment: The best place to do this is with the Equestrian Committee. They will be meeting next Thursday. They regularly meet the 2nd Thursday of each month, or a special meeting can be set up.

Sanitation Response: This Thursday will not work. We will contact the committee to set up a special meeting.

♦ ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (EEC)

Written Update

Compost Education Workshops, which include a talk, and compost bin and TopGro® Compost & Mulch bag sales, are held every second Saturday of the month 9:00am - 12:00pm. In addition, separate compost bin and TopGro® Compost & Mulch bag sales are held every third Friday of the month. Compost bins sell for \$20.00 to LA residents, and for \$35.00 to other than LA City residents. TopGro® Compost and Mulch bags are \$2.00 per bag. Only checks are accepted.

Our Compost Workshops and DWP's Environmental Landscaping Presentations have been well received by LA City and LA County residents. Class sizes have been increasing

and attendees have expressed appreciation for the classes.

Community Meeting Q&A

There were no questions.

♦ **LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER**

Written Update

We processed 300 tons of curbside yard trimmings per day.

Between April, 2015 and August, 2015 we:

Processed:

31,735 tons of curbside residential yard trimmings

3,619 tons of brush from contractors.

Produced:

21,785 tons of chipped yard trimmings was shipped to farmers

7,412 tons of Topgro® Mulch was made available at our 11 community give-away sites

530 tons of Topgro® Premium Soil Amendment was distributed to the local community and various farmers and nurseries

Noise Complaints: No noise complaints were received during this past quarter

Odor Complaints: We received two odor complaints. One on 6/09/15 at 1:30pm when the wind was blowing toward the Kagel Canyon area while we were turning the compost piles. The other odor complaint was received on 7/09/15 at 8:00am. A stockpile of fine materials caused the odor. This material was hauled away to AG Sod farms. Since we began adding odor neutralizer to our water truck on 7/09/15 we've received no new odor complaints. As an additional odor controlling measure, we spray the entire green trimmings and composting process area with odor neutralizer before the end of every day.

Community Meeting Q&A

Q: How many windrows are there now? We were told that there are 23 windrows. Is that figure correct and is that allowable?

A: We are permitted to compost 12,500 cubic yards of material. The 23 windrows reflect that amount.

♦ **CANOPY FOR LOPEZ MECHANICS**

Written Update

Construction of the canopy is currently in the bidding stage. Construction is expected to start soon.

Community Meeting Q&A

There were no questions.

NEW TOPIC

♦ **STORMWATER HARVESTING AND RECYCLED WATER AT LOPEZ**

Written Update

LA Sanitation has teamed up with the Dept. of Water and Power to evaluate the feasibility of utilizing alternative sources of water to offset potable water use at the landfill. We are currently exploring three different possibilities:

- Capturing stormwater runoff from the site and adjacent canyons and infiltrating it down into the groundwater aquifer through dry wells or surface percolation
- Capturing stormwater runoff and storing it in above ground tanks for future use
- Bringing reclaimed water from Hansen Dam to the landfill

Once the study is finished, we will share the findings with the community.

Community Meeting Q&A

As a water conservation measure the City is removing all grass on City property and replacing it with California native vegetation. Lopez is a major water user, as is Hyperion Treatment Plant and Gaffey Street Community Gardens. We have been ordered to cut as much water as possible. We are doing a feasibility study to explore various methods of water conservation described above.

Q: What is the time frame? Can something be done in the short term before the rains this year?

A: The only short term option we have at Lopez is the use of our debris basins to retain water for longer periods of time and redirect this water into the ground. There is concern with how this would impact the shallow water table. We will investigate this option and other short term possibilities before the rainy season.

ORAL PRESENTATION

♦ SOLAR PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY KHALIL GHARIOS AND PARSONS

KHALIL: INTRODUCTION

Lopez is a large City facility that could be used to generate solar energy. The feasibility study was done to determine if it was possible to put solar panels on Lopez. If the City decides to move forward with this proposed project many more steps will follow and the community will be kept informed of these steps.

PARSONS: FEASIBILITY STUDY PRESENTATION

A written overview was handed out and orally reviewed by two representatives of Parsons. This handout is attached.

The Q&A that followed this presentation is included below.

Q: Have you considered storing the energy that would be generated?

A: Storing energy is very expensive and doesn't make as much sense as we'd hope. It currently costs \$550/kwh to store solar produced energy. As the cost drops we suggest exploring this possibility. Storage seems to be viable in some situations, but only where cost is not a consideration.

Q: 'C' deck has been closed recently and is a very windy area with other issues as well. How can you put solar panels up there?

A: The Bureau of Sanitation asked us to focus on 'C' deck for this study. A more specific study will be needed to determine the specific conditions on 'C' deck and how to design for them. This study showed that ballast would be needed to hold down the panels against a 115 mph sustaining wind.

Q: Who would own the facility and get the payback?

A: LA Bureau of Sanitation would own it and the payback would be determined in the next follow-up study. Financial options will be explored.

Q: What would the noise impact be?

A: There will be noise during the construction period, lasting around 6 months, but mainly during specific times, such as when trucks are delivering materials. There will be no drilling or bolting. During operations and maintenance it will be quiet. There are no noise sources.

Q: Would you put on a glare coating for durability? This is a dusty area so it might be needed.

A: Dust actually helps by cutting down reflections. A solar glare hazard tool exists and we'd conduct a study to see if it would be needed. This coating lasts 25-30 years.

Q: Does the financial analysis include the cost for removal and disposal of the system at the end? How much would that cost?

A: This cost was not included but will be in a more detailed financial analysis. Recycling and salvage are end-use possibilities.

Q: What assurances do we have that the panels will be removed when the area becomes open space?

A: Khalil responded that Sanitation will only have the panels there for 20 years.

Q: What assurances do we have that they will be removed and not just abandoned?

A: If this project moves forward more studies will be done. A CUP (Conditional Use Permit) will be issued and would include a mitigation requiring the panels to be removed after 20 years.

Q: Will dust mitigation a part of a study?

A: Yes

Community Comment: We'd like the removal of the panels to be included in the next study.

Sanitation Response: It will be.

Q: Are there any plans to add more panels after the initial installation? Could the number of solar panels grow?

A: No. The plan proposed for 'C' deck includes the maximum number of panels.

Q: Is this a DWP Solar FIT (Feed-in Tariff) program or for community benefit? Who gets the benefit from this project?

A: All benefit from this project will go to LA Sanitation

Q: We've had independent private operators/investors come to our community wanting to build solar panels in the neighborhood. They would benefit from doing this without giving anything back to the community. Could this happen to the City's proposed project?

A: No. Our recommendation is that LA Sanitation be the sole owner of this project with no outside, private, investors involved. It would stay within the City Government.

Q: The owner of this project makes a difference to the community so would it be a FIT or community project?

A: This project would totally benefit the City and would need to utilize the DWP FIT program. This is the current proposal. It could change as more studies are done.

Q: What structures would support the panels?

A: The feasibility study recommended a self ballasted metal racking system that would not require any soil penetrations.

Questions Responded to by Khalil

Q: Who will make the decision on whether to continue with the project? If the decision is made to continue what is the process?

A: A decision concerning whether or not to go forward begins with the Board of Public Works (BPW). If they vote yes, the next step would be to report to the Mayor and City Council for their approval. If they approve then the project moves forward.

Q: What's the order of approval?

A: If the BPW approves, then Sanitation would start the design process and Environmental Documentation process. This would be reviewed and approved by the BPW and from there move to the Mayor and City Council.

Q: At what point during this process does the public get a chance to provide input?

A: Public review takes place during the whole process, when reports are presented to City Council and during the preparation and review of the Environmental Documents.

Since structures will be built, the Bureau of Engineering, Building & Safety Division will also be part of the review and approval process.

Q: Who paid for the feasibility study?

A: The Bureau of Sanitation

Q: Do you have a ballpark dollar figure for the Environmental Impact Report?

A: No. That depends on the type of Environmental Document that we need to write and whether the project will be challenged.

Q: Could money stop this project?

A: That's possible. The City is also looking at covering the convention center roof with solar panels. My next step is to make a recommendation to Bureau of Sanitation Executive Management regarding how to proceed now.

Q: How come money is available for the feasibility study and EIR but money is not available for the equestrian staging area and trails, which are so much less expensive?

A: I don't know.

Q: Could the City decide they don't need to use Lopez for solar energy generation?

A: Yes

Q: What is the next step?

A: I will make a recommendation to Bureau of Sanitation Executive Management on whether to move forward beyond the feasibility study.

Q: How will the community be kept informed?

A: If Sanitation decides to move forward we'll let you know.

Q: At the last community meeting, which focused on the Solar Power Feasibility study meeting, 60 community members came, but our City Councilmember and Parsons did not show up, even though we were told they would be there. Why isn't there more community outreach?

A: If we go to the next step we'll have large public hearings in every community affected. The summary of the June meeting reflected the fact that the community was against the proposed project.

Community Comment: The community will not support the proposed solar project until our equestrian trails and staging area are built.

Q: How will the solar panels work with equestrian trails on this site?

A: We will control access to the trails so that no one can wander off the trails.

Q: What are you going to tell Bureau management?

A: I haven't decided yet. A lot goes into making this decision. From a professional perspective I can't share that with you.

Q: What factors will you weigh?

A: I haven't looked into that yet. Whatever I recommend is purely my own opinion. It is up to Bureau of Sanitation Executive Management to decide where they want to go from there.

Community Comment: This is a City project and it will be approved by the City as they all are. It's always the same, we've been down this road before.

Sanitation Response: Councilmember Fuentes field deputy is here and he will report back to the Councilmember on the community concerns.

Community Comment: I would like to state for the record that this meeting does not qualify for community notice. The outreach must address people who are living here now. The Bureau of Sanitation must do the outreach, not FTDNC. A specific radius must be included in the outreach.

Community Comment: I am not against this project if it's kept invisible. Would Lopez make any money from this project?

Sanitation Response: The project will not happen without a financial analysis. The City hopes to save money from this project.

Q: How will this project work with the closure work?

A: They do not conflict. We have been in maintenance mode since closure began. We will maintain the landfill for 30 years, as required by law. The DWP FIT program covers 20 years.

Q: Has a manufacturer been chosen?

A: We have only completed a feasibility study so nothing has been done beyond that and no manufacturer has been chosen. If we move forward the industry standards for manufacturers will be followed.

Q: Is Congressman Hertzberg involved in this

A: No

Q: What's the next step from here?

A: Tomorrow morning I'll share what happened at this meeting with Bureau of Sanitation Executive Management. That includes the comments that were heard tonight and the fact that majority of the community is not positive about the proposal.

Community Comment: You'll keep us in the loop?

Sanitation Response: Yes, absolutely. A public hearing will be held if we go to the next step.

Community Comment: Thank you for doing this.

Q&A

♦ COMMUNITY MEETING SCHEDULE KHALIL GHARIOS

At the last meeting a community member brought up the concern that the updates we were providing at Community Association meetings were not helpful unless Khalil was present to answer questions and provide more detailed information. Since Khalil is not able to attend all of these updates, in the future we will only attend community association meetings when you request our presence for a specific purpose. We will continue to have two meetings a year at the landfill. Any other meetings will be at the community association's request as long as we're provided with a date, time, location, and description of the specific information they'd like covered.

COMMITMENTS TO THE COMMUNITY

1. Contact the FTDNC Equestrian Committee Chair to set up a special meeting to review and discuss the trails for the Equestrian Project. The meeting should include a representative from the City's Bureau of Engineering Architectural Division who is responsible for these plans.
2. The proposed equestrian trails will be built before the proposed equestrian staging area.
3. If the City moves forward with the proposed Solar Power Generation Project the removal of the solar panels will to be included in the next study.
4. The solar panels will only be in place for 20 years.
5. The number of solar panels listed in the Solar Power Generation Feasibility study is the maximum number that will be installed on 'C' deck.
6. The community will be informed if the Bureau of Sanitation decides to move forward beyond the Solar Power Generation Feasibility Study and will be kept informed of public hearings.

CONTACT INFORMATION

HOTLINE PHONE NUMBER: 818-485-0703

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

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Reva Fabrikant, Community Liaison (until Oct 31, 2015)

(office) 866-950-7382

Reva.Fabrikant@revafab.com

Jimmy Tokeshi, Public Information Officer, City of LA, Board of Public Works Public Information Office (replacing Reva starting Nov. 1, 2015)

Jimmy.Tokeshi@lacity.org (best way to contact him)

NEXT MEETING

TBA

Attachments

- Solar Power Feasibility Study Presentation Handout
- City Council Report CF#15-0314 – Lopez Canyon Landfill Equestrian Project and Post-Closure Stability and Environmental Restoration