



**Bureau of
Sanitation
City of Los
Angeles**

THE GREENING OF LOPEZ

**Spring
2009**

MAREK FIRE STRIKES LOPEZ CANYON

Over the Columbus Day weekend, Bureau of Sanitation facilities and equipment at Lopez Canyon Landfill were ravaged by wildfires. The astounding efforts of City forces during the course of the fire and the ensuing recovery were highly commendable. LA City Fire Department (LAFD) and LA County Fire Department (LACFD) crews worked tirelessly to suppress the fires on the south ridge of the landfill to prevent further damage to the utilities and the landfill gas collection system in Disposal Area 'C'. Fire helicopters were fueled by LAFD staff at the helipad located on top of the AB+ deck which had been constructed by the landfill staff for just such an occurrence. Fire crews used the Lopez helipad to put out fires in neighboring communities as well. The helipad has been used on many occasions during past dry seasons to put out wildfires in the East Valley hills and canyons. The LAFD and LACFD routinely conduct training operations from the Lopez helipad and were fully prepared to respond to the Marek fire as result of these preparations. Due to electrical power loss on Monday, both the landfill gas power plant and the flare station were out of service. The landfill Engineering/Inspection staff, together with operations crews, worked to isolate the damaged extraction wells and header lines, and to operate the emergency generator so the flare station could be put back in service to restore environmental emission control at the landfill. General Services Department welders repaired the malfunctioning lever arm in the emergency generator to keep it working.

Under the direction of LAFD, our landfill crews operated their own water trucks equipped with water cannons to snuff out flames that threatened structures on-site and also served to refill fire engines staged at various locations throughout the landfill. Wastewater Collection maintenance crews kept the pumps to the waterline in service so there would not be any loss of water to the million-gallon water tank at the top of the landfill that services the helipad. Despite the crews swift and efficient response, there were equipment and property losses; for example, the main communication switchboard was completely consumed in the fire.

RECOVERY EFFORTS

After the fire, landfill staff immediately went into recovery mode. Work crews were ordered to report to Toyon Canyon Landfill except for a select group chosen to work on recovery repairs. DWP came the night of October 13th to restore power to the remaining A/B Administration/Engineering office trailer. By the morning of October 14, 2008 the water line feeding the A/B trailer was put back in service by our landfill crews. Administration support staff worked diligently to secure an office trailer and portable toilets for the operations crew. The equipment arrived on 10/15/2008. A work boot company was hired to dispatch a mobile shoe shop to Lopez Canyon to outfit the workers with new boots so that they could immediately return to their work assignment. Councilman Alarcon's office extended their generosity to the work crews at Lopez by providing tables and chairs during the week until the replacement furnishings could be procured. They were greatly appreciated during lunch breaks.

RETURN TO NORMAL

On October 20, 2008, water, sewer, and electricity were in full service at the temporary operations trailer. Work crews were able to return to operating the green waste processing facility, performing limited closure work, and cleaning up the site. The Mayor's Office assisted in getting cooperation from regulatory agencies to expedite demolition and debris removal. Our own Control Systems staff rose to the challenge and reinstalled the lost T-1 connection. These efforts provided supervisors with email

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access by October 27 and voice communications by October 28.

The efforts by the Mayor's Office, CD 7, and numerous City agencies to return the operations back to normal were remarkable. Thanks are due to all who stepped up. We also want to thank our neighbors who were concerned about our well being and wished us a fast recovery. The dedication and coordination shown during this emergency is a testament to the quality of our employees and family spirit that exists in the City of Los Angeles. Together we persevered and responded admirably in the face of a catastrophe.

THE US COMPOSTING COUNCIL SEAL OF TESTING ASSURANCE PROGRAM

The US Composting Council (USCC), formed in 1990, is a national, non-profit trade and professional organization promoting the recycling of organic materials through composting. It's the only national organization committed to the advancement of the composting industry.

Prior to 2000 there were no uniform, nationally accepted tests or lab analyses for compost. Different labs performed different tests in different parts of the US. Everyone had a different answer to the question "What is compost?". A consensus building process that involved compost research scientists and compost experts from across the US was formed to uniformly answer this question. The USCC Seal of Testing Assurance Program (STA) was an outgrowth of this process. The STA program involves compost testing, labeling, and information disclosure designed to give the public the information needed to maximize the benefits of using compost. Compost producers who participate in the STA program test and label their product just like any other mainstream horticultural product on the market. The goal of this program is to increase consumer confidence when using compost and increase the ultimate success of compost use in the field. Lopez Environmental Center and Griffith Park compost are both STA certified.

Some of the major elements of the STA program involve:

- Regular sampling and testing of compost products.
- Requiring specific lab tests to assure the protection of the environment, public health and safety.
- Requiring lab analysis to be completed in labs certified to participate in this program.
- Requiring compost producers to provide lab analysis at a prescribed frequency to the USCC.
- Making test results available to anyone who requests them. Results must include directions for product use, a list of product ingredients and test results from a certified STA lab.
- Certifying that participating composting facilities are in compliance with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

Visit the USCC at www.compostingcouncil.org. Click on "STA" to learn more about this program.

ZERO WASTE PLAN

The Bureau of Sanitation is seeking input from stakeholders throughout the City of LA to help develop a 20-year master plan for solid waste management. This plan will outline the City's objectives to provide sustainability, resource conservation, source reduction, recycling, renewable energy, maximum material recovery, public health and environmental protection for solid waste management through 2030. It will lead Los Angeles to become a "Zero Waste" city.

During Phase 1 stakeholders from all around the City attended workshops and helped write 12 guiding principles that created the foundation for the Zero Waste Plan.

We are currently in Phase 2 where the plan elements continue to be developed. These elements will determine future policies, programs and facilities that will be implemented over the next 20 years. Everyone is invited to contribute their ideas by attending workshops and the City-Wide conference which will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2009.

For more information contact: Ron Milo, 213-473-4003
Or on the web: www.zerowaste.lacity.org

Ronaldo.Milo@lacity.org

LOPEZ UPDATES

LANDSCAPING

All gardening staff has been temporarily reassigned for approximately one and a half months to comply with a regulatory mandate to complete the closure of Toyon Canyon Landfill. Once that work is completed, which should be by April 24, staff will return to Lopez to begin brush clearance and landscaping work on "B" canyon slopes. The flora and fauna have returned with gusto and the hills are green. Deer, ground squirrels, and coyotes have been seen at the site.

CLOSURE WORK

Closure work was delayed from October 13, 2008 to November 13, 2009 due to fire damage at Lopez. No sooner had we begun functioning after the fire then we began experiencing significant work delays due to rain. We lost 2 days in November, 3 days in December, 3 days in January, 11 days in February, and 5 days in March. We returned to closure work in March and worked on AB+ slopes. That work will be completed in May and we will then work on the haul road and the drainage channel that parallels the road. Over the years, both have settled significantly and need to be restored. This work can only be done when the rainy season is over.

MULCH GIVE-AWAY PROGRAM

We currently have 8 give-away sites throughout Los Angeles. Our newest site, the 9th, was recently completed in Boyle Heights. We are awaiting final authorization to begin mulch deliveries to this site. The give-away sites continue to be very popular with the public. In January over 744 tons were given away to residents, in February, the shortest month of the year, we gave away 1,042 tons, and 523 tons were given away between March 1 and March 25.

DRAFT TRUCK DRIVER ACADEMY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The public review period is over. We received close to 200 comment letters and appreciate the community's active involvement in this proposed project. We are now in the process of reviewing the comments we received. We anticipate scheduling a public hearing before the Board of Public Works around the middle or end of April. Notification will be sent out once a date and time is set.

LOPEZ CANYON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

20,480 tons of green materials were delivered during the months of December 2008, January 2009 and February 2009. During that time period 21,310 tons of mulch was produced.

EAST VALLEY REFUSE YARD OPEN HOUSE MAY 2, 2009

11050 Pendelton Street
Sun Valley

Come tour a refuse yard, See truck demonstrations,
Adopt a 15 - gallon citrus tree (while supplies last),
Enjoy free food & refreshments,
Games and prizes for the kids.

For more information:

- Call 311 or 800-773-2489
- On the web: www.lacity.org/san or
www.kids.lacity.org

CITY BRIEFS

- Mayor Villaraigosa released a Water Supply Action Plan that outlines how the City's water supply demand will be met through 2230. Water conservation and water recycling will play a major role.

- Mayor Villaraigosa challenged the City to divert 75% of our solid waste by 2013.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST CONTACT

LOPEZ CANYON LANDFILL HOTLINE: 818-834-5122

or

REVA FABRIKANT, Community Liaison

1-866-950-7382

Reva.Fabrikant@revafab.com

City of Los Angeles
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Bureau of Sanitation

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Project**
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As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities.

NEXT COMMUNITY MEETING AND TOUR

Wednesday, June 17, 2009
Tour: 7:00 PM - 7:40 PM
Meeting: 7:45 PM - 8:30 PM
Location: Lopez Canyon Landfill

Please note that we will start and end on time.
A meeting notice will be sent to our mailing list. If you did not receive this newsletter via mail or email you are not on our mailing list.
See Page 3 for information on how to join our mailing list.