



**Bureau of
Sanitation
City of Los
Angeles**

THE GREENING OF LOPEZ

**Spring
2008**

LOPEZ CANYON RECREATIONAL PARK

On May 25, 2007, the Los Angeles City Council approved a motion introduced by Councilmember Richard Alarcón, instructing the Bureau of Sanitation to develop a Community Use Recreation Plan for Lopez Canyon Landfill. The plan would include active and passive recreation and other safe and appropriate uses of the site. The Bureau of Sanitation was instructed to enlist the assistance of other departments to develop the plan's outline and timeline. An inter-departmental task force was formed made up of representatives of the Department of Public Works Bureaus of Sanitation and Engineering and the Department of Recreation and Parks.

The implementation plan that was developed consisted of the following actions:

- Reviewing the current landfill closure plan
- Evaluating the existing park facilities and possible expansions
- Meeting with the Councilman Alarcón's office and the Councilman's Lake View Terrace Community Advisory Committee as needed
- Assessing community needs and requesting community feedback as the plan is developed
- Proposing appropriate recreational uses in conjunction with a phased-in plan to accommodate landfill closure activities
- Preparing a Community Use Implementation Plan outline and timeline for City Council

A draft conceptual plan consisting of three phases of development over twenty years has been developed and presented to the community. It involves three phases:

Phase 1: 2-4 years: Two parks will be developed and connected to each other with a trail. The park adjacent to the Lopez landfill entrance will be expanded, provided with new playground equipment and the picnic area will be improved. A new park will be built in the 'White Horse' area that is adjacent to the new housing developments near Fenton and Van Nuys. The parks will cover about 4 acres. Amenities in the parks will include: include new play structures, picnic areas, landscaping, a hitching area and bathroom facilities.

Phase 2: 7-10 years: Hiking, bicycle and equestrian trails will be developed with access to buffer lands. The old Dubois barn site at the end of Van Nuys will be developed to serve as an equestrian staging area.

Phase 3: 20+ years: The top of the landfill will be developed for recreational use including playing fields, vista points and picnic areas.

This plan was first presented in July 2007 to the Lake View Terrace/Pacoima Community Advisory Committee that was created by Councilman Alarcón. At that meeting members of that Advisory Committee expressed a desire for equestrian access to trails and amenities. The plan was revised and presented to the larger community at a Lopez Canyon Restoration Project Community Meeting in November, 2007. Additional comments were received and incorporated into the plan. This revised plan was presented at the February, 2008 Lopez Canyon Restoration Project Community Meeting. The community emphasized their desire for multi-use trails and requested opening up Bartholomaeus Canyon as part of Phase 1.

A revised plan that incorporates these requests will be presented at the June, 2008 Lopez Canyon Restoration Project Community Meeting. Information about this meeting will be sent out within several weeks. Everyone is invited to attend.

NON-PROFIT TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING ACADEMY AT LOPEZ

The Southern CA region is a major hub of the import/export business and truck drivers play a critical role in moving these goods around the region. A joint council that included the LA Port, the Community Development Department, the State of CA and the Teamsters Union joined forces to take advantage of the need for truck drivers by developing a program to train new truck drivers. This non-profit truck driver training academy was so successful that they needed to expand beyond their initial base. They hoped to establish a site in the San Fernando Valley because a high number of their applicants reside there.

Since the City of Los Angeles needs well trained, highly competent truck drivers and the Bureau of Sanitation employs about 700 truck drivers, City Council decided to explore the possibility of partnering with the Academy to take advantage of their expertise. With the assistance of Councilman Alarcón of Council District 7 (CD7), Lopez Canyon Landfill was identified as an appropriate site since it's easily accessible, has buffer area that distances the driving practice area from residents and is operated by the Bureau of Sanitation. The best location for the site is "A" deck since it is away from the line of site of local neighbors.

The Academy proposed to provide 160 hours of free driver training to pre-screened individuals. For more information about the prescreening and requirements, contact Raul Valiente at El Proyecto WorkSource Center in Sun Valley: 818-504-0334 ext 108.

The proposal was presented in November 2007 to the Lake View Terrace/Pacoima Community Advisory Committee that was formed by Councilman Alarcón. The Advisory Committee supported it, acknowledging the need for well trained truck drivers and increased employment for SF Valley residents, particularly in CD7.

On January 11, 2008 City Council approved Councilmember Alarcón's motion and instructed the Bureau of Sanitation and City Attorney to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement with the Training Academy to establish a truck driver training program at Lopez Canyon Landfill. As part of the agreement the Academy will be required to:

- ♦ include 25% of its training participants from CD7
- ♦ make sincere efforts to partner with local workforce development agencies and/or similar organizations to identify potential participants
- ♦ have their trucks meet clean air operating practices established by the Bureau of Sanitation.

Councilman Alarcón's motion was presented to the greater Lopez Canyon Community at the February 2008 Lopez Canyon Restoration Project Community Meeting and no objections were noted.

In addition to the requirements listed in Councilman Alarcón's motion the following conditions provide a sample of those that will be included in the lease agreement:

- ♦ Academy activities must not interfere with any landfill related activities and plans.
- ♦ Operations must be confined to designated areas and only the main haul road can be used to enter and leave the landfill.
- ♦ The training academy must provide the City with a training/operation plan that includes emergency actions and an evacuation plan.
- ♦ All training vehicles must be equipped with special back up alarms that reduce the noise impact on the surrounding communities.
- ♦ Truck driving will not be allowed before 8:00 A.M.
- ♦ The City has the right to inspect and monitor the premises for compliance with the lease agreement.

The City requested and received approval from the Local Enforcement Agency to site the training program and on March 26, 2008. The Bureau of Sanitation prepared a draft lease agreement and forwarded it to the City Attorney and the Dept. of General Services for their review on April 24, 2008.

NON-PROFIT TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING ACADEMY AT LOPEZ (continued from page 2)

If all goes well we look forward to having the ribbon cutting ceremony during the summer of 2008.

For more information on registering for the training program see the attached flyer from Councilman Alarcon's website or access the flyer at:

http://www.lacity.org/council/cd7/articles/cd7articles15152323_04212008.pdf

or Contact:

Raul Valiente at El Proyecto WorkSource Center in Sun Valley

818-504-0334 ext 108

CLOSURE UPDATE

Final cover has been completed on the west facing AB+ slopes south of the drain line. We are waiting for delivery of piping material from a vendor in order to install the temporary gas collection header from Bench B9 across the AB+ top deck to the gas system on the AB+ face. This must be installed before crews can remove the gas system on AB+ north slopes. Once that's completed closure of the AB+ north slopes, the haul road and drainage channel will be done. It will take the rest of the year to complete this work

NEWS BRIEFS

LANDSCAPING

- Phase 1 is 80% complete for 'B' canyon slope. Crews are in the process of stripping the slope of old vegetation.
- A purchase request for hydroseeding is out to bid.
- The 'B' slope irrigation system design is being completed by a landscape architect.

KAGEL CANYON GREEN TRIMMINGS CLEAN UP

- Lopez staff assisted by placing 6 collection bins at the cleanup location at no charge. We received about 30 tons of green waste. The community did an excellent job of keeping contaminants out of the green material.

COMPOSTING

- In March we gave away 945 tons of mulch to City residents, 2 tons to the Million Tree Program and 93 tons of compost made with horse manure to Lopez neighbors.
- 5,476 tons of mulch were delivered to farmers in LA and Ventura County.
- On an average basis we donate 660 tons of mulch each month to LA residents and 4,152 tons are delivered to farmers.
- The horse manure compost pilot program is close to completion and will be discussed in more detail at the June community meeting.

INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK

- The City of LA is a member of the US Composting Council. The Composting Council is a nonprofit dedicated to the development and expansion of the composting industry. They direct a charitable foundation which administers public and private research and education initiatives.
- May 4-10 was Compost Awareness Week which focused on broadening an understanding of compost use and promotes awareness of composting.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

LOPEZ CANYON LANDFILL HOTLINE: 818-834-5122

or

REVA FABRIKANT, Community Liaison

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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 WILL BE ON

Wednesday, June 18, 2008
at Lopez Canyon Landfill

This meeting will include a tour.

A meeting notice will be sent out.