

December 10, 2009

TO: Members of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management
Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force

FROM: Linda Lee
Staff



**FINDING OF CONFORMANCE
SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL—CITY/COUNTY PROJECT**

On December 18, 2008, the Task Force granted a Finding of Conformance (FOC) to Browning-Ferris Industries of California, Inc. (BFI). Condition 18 of the FOC requires BFI to submit a quarterly status report on the following:

- a. Progress of the City/County Project; and;
- b. Progress of the site's landscaping activities and revegetation of the permanent slope areas.

BFI submitted the 3rd quarter status report on October 26, 2009. Due to its large volume, only the cover letter is attached. The *Quarterly Vegetation Project Status Report* which accompanied the status report can be accessed online at www.dpw.lacounty.gov/epd/tf/Attachments/AgendaItems_Attachments/SCL_Status_Report_3rd_Quarter_2009.pdf. A hardcopy is available upon request.

The Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, which oversees the Landfill's revegetation work pursuant to Conditional Use Permit 00-194-(5) Condition No. 44, in coordination with Task Force staff, prepared a follow-up letter to BFI (see attached).

If you have any questions or would like to place this matter on an upcoming agenda, please contact me at (626) 458-6973, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

LL:

P:\leppub\ENGPLAN\Linda\SCL\Task Force\2nd Qrt 2009 Cover Memo.doc

Attach.



October 26, 2009

Ms. Gail Farber
Director - County of Los Angeles Public Works
Integrated Waste Management Task Force
P.O. Box 1460, 900 South Fremont Street
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Re: BFI Sunshine Canyon Landfill Status Report, 3rd Quarter 2009

Dear Ms. Farber,

Please find the quarterly status report for the third quarter of 2009 as required by Condition 18 of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force Findings of Conformance (FOC) for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill City/County Project dated December 18, 2008.

A. Progress of City/County Project:

As of mid-January 2009, all sign-offs required by the City and County of Los Angeles were obtained and a joint City/County Landfill project began operating. Since then, the only physical changes at the site have been:

1. There have been two working faces during the 3rd Quarter 2009. Operations were predominantly on the County side of the landfill site for most of the third quarter. This is advantageous because the facility has had fewer operating hours for heavy equipment, resulting in fewer emissions.
2. Increased volume. Waste acceptance averaged between 9,000 to 10,000 TPD (M-F) as of September 30th. The site is permitted to accept 12,100 TPD maximum daily capacity (M-F)

B. Progress of the site's landscaping activities and RE-vegetation of the permanent slope areas:

We have enclosed with this report a copy of our "Quarterly Vegetation Project Status Report-Third Quarter 2009." This report outlines the vegetation activities for the 3rd quarter of 2009 and the activities expected to take place in the 4th quarter 2009.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill • 14747 San Fernando Road
Sylmar, California 91342 • Phone (818) 833-6500 • Fax (818) 362-5484

Hard copies of the vegetation report have also been provided to the following individuals and departments as of October 19, 2009:

Ms. Emiko Thompson-County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dr. Wayne Aller-LA County Community Advisory Committee
Mr. Stefan Klemm-C2Rem
Mr. Ralph Kroy-City of Los Angeles Community Advisory Committee
Ms. Ly Lam-City of Los Angeles Department of Planning
Mr. Wayne Tsuda-SCL-LEA
Dr. Wen Yang-LA Regional Water Quality Control Board

If you have any questions regarding this status report, feel free to contact me at 818-833-6500.

Sincerely,



Kurt Bratton
General Manager

Encl. (Q 3-09 Re-Vegetation Report)

Cc: (Cover letter only)

Emiko Thompson, County DPW
Sorin Alexanian, County Planning
Tom Bruen, Esq.
Larry Hafetz, County Counsel
Susan Jennings, Republic Services
Burt Kumagawa, County CEO's Office
Linda Lee, County DPW
Rafael Garcia, Republic Services
Maria Masis, County Planning
Carlos Ruiz, County DPW
Lari Sheehan, County CEO's Office
Gerry Villalobos, County DPH
Wayne Tsuda, SCL LEA



October 14, 2009

To:

SCL-LEA –Wayne Tsuda
County Department of Public Works – Emiko Thompson
City of Los Angeles Planning Department – Ly Lam
Regional Water Quality Control Board – Dr. Wen Yang
City Community Advisory Committee – Ralph Kroy
County Community Advisory Committee – Wayne Aller
C2Rem – Stefan Klemm

Subject: Transmittal of 3rd Quarter 2009 Quarterly Vegetation Report, Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Sunshine Canyon Landfill is pleased to provide the attached quarterly report on vegetation activities occurring at the landfill. The report summarizes revegetation projects undertaken in the third quarter of 2009 and projects anticipated to be active in the fourth quarter 2009.

We are providing this report for your information. If you do not wish to receive the report in the future, please contact us and we will remove you from the distribution list. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,


Susan Jennings
Environmental Manager



*Quarterly
Vegetation Project Status Report*

Third Quarter 2009

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Sylmar, California 91342
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www.SunshineCanyonLandfill.com
24 hour hotline: (800) 926-0607

SUNSHINE CANYON *Landfill*



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1.0 Introduction and Executive Summary

In order to keep regulatory agencies and other interested parties advised of Sunshine Canyon Landfill's (SCL's) ongoing vegetation projects, SCL has prepared this summary report.

Though operated as one contiguous landfill, SCL has two land use permits, one from the County of Los Angeles' jurisdiction, and one from the City of Los Angeles' jurisdiction. This report is divided accordingly due to different regulatory agencies and requirements for each area.

Typically the planting projects covered by this report fall into one of three categories: Sage, Final Landfill Cover, or Interim Planting. Sage planting is typically done on slopes that are at grade and may or may not be part of designated mitigation areas. Final Landfill Cover planting applies to slopes that area at final grade that are not designated a sage mitigation area. Interim planting treatments are primarily for short term dust and erosion control and are used on to slopes that will not be disturbed for 180 days or more, but that ultimately will be disturbed.

SCL is committed to taking the best approach possible to its planting projects. In the fall of 2007, SCL interviewed multiple potential expert consultants to assist with vegetation specifications. After an extensive review process, The Chambers Group Inc. (Chambers) was retained for their technical expertise and restoration experience. To date, Chambers has prepared detailed master plans for sage and interim planting. The document "Coastal Sage Scrub and Interim Cover Revegetation Plan for Sunshine Canyon County Landfill" (Chambers, 1/08) is available upon request.

The SCL does additional work with tree planting both on and offsite. This work is described in separate reports and will not be addressed in this document.

This report is designed to outline which planting projects were completed in the past quarter (Section 2.0) and which are planned for the upcoming quarter (Section 3.0.) Monitoring reports, where applicable, are discussed in Section 4.0.

1.1 Active Installations, 3rd Quarter 2009

For the 3rd Quarter 2009, the following vegetation projects were being implemented:

County side:

- BFI Interim Projects

City side:

- BFI Interim Projects

These projects are shown on the map in Appendix A. Photos of various current and past project areas, if available, are included in Appendix D.

1.2 Projected Installations, 4th Quarter 2009

In the 4th quarter of 2009, the following projects are expected to be active:

County side:

- BFI Interim Projects

City side:

- City Phase VB Cut Slope Stabilization
- BFI Interim Projects

Note that construction, contractor delays or rainfall conditions may dictate a change in projected planting schedules at any time. Landfill operational demands may also alter the work areas. A map of the planned project areas for the upcoming quarter is provided in Appendix B.

1.3 Vegetation Projects Being Formally Monitored

Some mitigation areas include provisions for monitoring by the restoration specialists. The projects currently being monitored include the following:

County Side:

- Sage Hill

City Side:

- City Upper Deck Sage

Monitoring reports for the areas being monitored are included in Appendix C.

2.0 Work Installed in Immediate Past Quarter

All work installed in the immediate past quarter is shown on the map in Appendix A.

2.1 County

2.1.1 County Interim Slopes by BFI

County vegetation work for this quarter was completed in August and September.

Area C slopes were treated with greenwaste mulch only. The greenwaste mulch will serve as a slope stabilizer as well as a nutrient and seed source.

Area D slopes were treated with amendments and the interim seed mix from Chamber's Plan (1/08). The area was then covered with a layer of greenwaste during the period of May through July. The greenwaste is an alternative to the top compost/tackifier layer specified by Chamber's for interim slopes.

2.2 City

2.2.1 City Interim Slopes by BFI

City slope vegetation work was completed in July and August.

Area A slopes had been previously seeded. During this quarter the area was covered with a layer of greenwaste mulch. The greenwaste is an alternative to the top compost/tackifier layer specified by Chambers for interim slopes and is also considered a nutrient/seed source. Area B slopes were treated with greenwaste mulch only.

3.0 Work Planned for Upcoming Quarter

Weather, contractor schedules, and landfill operational requirements may cause variations in the schedule or areas planted. A map showing where vegetation work is planned for the upcoming quarter is provided in Appendix B.

3.1 County

3.1.1 BFI Interim Projects

Area Y will be treated with amendments and seed mix as specified by Chambers (1/08), then covered with greenwaste mulch.

3.2 City

3.2.1 City Phase VB Cut Slope Stabilization

Cut slopes shown as Area X, also known as Phase VB, require stabilization. These slopes are not at final grades, but will be in existence for an extended time period, so sage seed mix will be used. The area is not part of the formal sage mitigation areas. BFI has secured bids for work in this area, which will be treated with a sage seed mix as designed by Chambers. Installation will begin in fourth quarter of 2009.

3.2.2 BFI Interim Projects

Area Z will be treated with greenwaste mulch only.

4.0 Status Reports on Vegetated Areas Being Monitored

4.1 County

4.1.1 Sage Hill

Per Chambers specifications, the Sage Hill test plot is being formally monitored. The monitoring frequency has now changed from monthly to quarterly as per the planting plan. The area is being monitored by Chambers Group staff, and their written notes are provided in Appendix C.

4.2 City

4.2.1 City Upper Deck Sage

Upon Chambers' recommendation, the City Upper Deck sage went from initial bi-weekly monitoring phase to a monthly monitoring during the summer dormancy period. The City Sage area is being monitored by Chambers Group staff, and their written notes are provided in Appendix C.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill

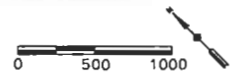
Quarterly Vegetation Report
Third Quarter 2009

Appendix A

Projects underway 3rd Quarter 2009

Area	Color Code	Installed by	Details	Status
A		BFI	Interim Slopes. Greenwaste mulch applied over previously seeded slopes.	Completed July and August 2009
B		BFI	Interim Slopes. Greenwaste mulch applied to stabilize surface and provide seed source.	Completed July and August 2009
C		BFI	Interim Slopes. Greenwaste mulch applied to stabilize surface and provide seed source.	Completed August and September 2009.
D		BFI	Interim Slopes. Two pass amendment and seed hydroseeding per Chamber's Plan, followed by greenwaste mulch layer.	Completed August and September 2009.

All areas on maps are approximate. Future projections depend on operational patterns and weather conditions and may vary.



Sunshine Canyon Landfill

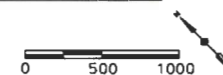
Quarterly Vegetation Report
Third Quarter 2009

Appendix B

Projects planned for 4th Quarter 2009

Area	Color Code	To Be Installed By	Details	Status
X		BFI or Contractor	Final Slopes. To be hydroseeded with sage-based seed mix per Chambers' plan.	To be installed by end of quarter.
Y		BFI or Contractor	Interim Slopes. Two pass amendment and seed hydroseeding per Chamber's Plan, to be followed by greenwaste mulch layer.	To be installed by end of quarter.
Z		BFI or Contractor	Interim Slopes. Greenwaste mulch to be applied to stabilize surface and provide seed source.	To be installed by end of quarter.

All areas on maps are approximate. Future projections depend on operational patterns and weather conditions and may vary.



Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Quarterly Vegetation Report

Third Quarter 2009

Appendix C

**Chambers Group Inc.**

17671 Cowan Avenue, Suite 100
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PROGRESS REPORT
for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Mitigation Sites
City Side Mitigation Area

Prepared by Chambers Group

on behalf of Browning-Ferris Industries and Compliance Plus.

Date: July 28, 2009

Completed by: Kun Liu

Inspection Date: July 24, 2009

Inspected by: Kun Liu

Original to: Maria Gutzeit, Dave Hauser

Copies to: Tiffany Leo, Ted St. John

STATUS OF HYDROSEEDING

CONDITIONS:

- ☒ Fully covered
- ☐ Medium covered
- ☐ Barely covered

COMMENTS:

The hydroseeding has been completed. The hillside and the top deck were fully covered.

SEED MIX

CONDITIONS:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dense cover of plants from seedlings | <input type="checkbox"/> Dense cover of native plants from seed mix |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate cover of plants from seedlings | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate cover of native plants from seed mix |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sparse cover of plants from seedlings | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sparse cover of native plants from seed mix |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No germination yet | <input type="checkbox"/> No cover of native plants from seed mix |

COMMENTS:

No new germination from seed mixes was observed during this survey.

OVERALL NATIVE PLANT CONDITIONS			
PLANT COVER: <input type="checkbox"/> Dense <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal	PLANT HEALTH ISSUES <input type="checkbox"/> Disease/pests <input type="checkbox"/> Plant stress <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive herbivory	HEIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> 0" – 12" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12" – 24" <input type="checkbox"/> 24" +	SPECIES RICHNESS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
COMMENTS: Pre-existing natives, California sagebrush (<i>Artemisia californica</i>), deerweed (<i>Lotus scoparius</i>), California buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>), black sage (<i>Salvia mellifera</i>), and white sage (<i>Salvia apiana</i>) look healthy. Horseweed (<i>Conyza sp.</i>), dove weed (<i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>), and Douglas' nightshade (<i>Solanum douglasii</i>) were natives that were not in the seed mix, but have appeared as volunteers. However, they were mistakenly trimmed recently. Most native plants from the seed mix are healthy. Young California sagebrush was turning grayish, which is normal at the time of the year. Some buckwheat and needle grass (<i>Nassella sp.</i>) from seed mixes were mistakenly mowed.			
WEED CONDITIONS			
CONDITIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Dense weed coverage <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate weed coverage (seedlings in high density) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal weed coverage		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weeds germinating <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weeds flowering <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weeds setting seed	
COMMENTS: The site has been mowed since the last visit. Most of the upper slopes have been trimmed and cleared of lamb's quarters (<i>Chenopodium album</i>) and short-pod mustard (<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>). Winter vetch (<i>Vicia villosa</i>) was almost gone from the top slopes. Young plants of tree tobacco (<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>) were mowed mostly on the bottom of the upper slopes. The slopes are currently producing very few dangerous weeds. Sow thistle (<i>Sonchus sp.</i>) and Bermuda grass (<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>) were setting seeds at the time of the survey. No weeding has occurred on the top deck, and weed cover there is higher than on the slopes. Lamb's quarter is the dominant weed growing on the top deck. Short-pod mustard was setting seeds at the time of the survey. They were missed when the weeded areas were trimmed. Even though neither of them is very invasive, they should not be missed during the trimming.			
MISCELLANEOUS			
CONDITIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trash <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input type="checkbox"/> Erosion			
COMMENTS: Several plastic bags were observed.			

Sunshine Landfill

City Side



The slope that faces the office



Dove weed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*) that was mowed is growing back



The slopes were infested with lamb's quarter (*Chenopodium album*) and mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) that were mowed recently



Mustard is setting seeds on the top deck

Sunshine Landfill

City Side



A mistakenly trimmed California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)



Healthy pre-existing California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*)



Dove weed and needle grass (*Nassella* sp.) were mistakenly mowed.



A mistakenly trimmed horse weed (*Conyza* sp.),

**Chambers Group Inc.**

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PROGRESS REPORT
for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Mitigation Sites
City Side Mitigation Area

Prepared by Chambers Group

on behalf of Browning-Ferris Industries and Compliance Plus.

Date: September 8, 2009

Completed by: Kun Liu

Inspection Date: September 2, 2009
Inspected by: Kun Liu

Original to: Maria Gutzeit, Kurt Bratton
Copies to: Tiffany Leo, Ted St. John

STATUS OF HYDROSEEDING

CONDITIONS:

- ☒ Fully covered
☐ Medium covered
☐ Barely covered

COMMENTS:

The hydroseeding has been completed. The hillside and the top deck were fully covered.

SEED MIX

CONDITIONS:

- ☐ No germination yet

- ☐ Dense cover of native plants from seed mix
☐ Moderate cover of native plants from seed mix
☒ Sparse cover of native plants from seed mix
☐ No cover of native plants from seed mix

COMMENTS:

No new germination from seed mixes was observed during this survey.

OVERALL NATIVE PLANT CONDITIONS

PLANT COVER:

- ☐ Dense
☒ Moderate
☒ Minimal

PLANT HEALTH ISSUES

- ☐ Disease/pests
☐ Plant stress
☐ Excessive herbivory

HEIGHT

- ☐ 0" – 12"
☒ 12" – 24"
☐ 24" +

SPECIES RICHNESS

- ☒ Low
☐ Medium
☐ High

COMMENTS:

Pre-existing natives, including California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*) look healthy. California sagebrush was turning grayish and brown, which is normal at the time of the year. California buckwheat was setting seeds. Coastal goldenbush was flowering on the top deck and upper slopes.

Dove weed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*) is the most abundant native volunteer. It showed noticeable growth since last visit. False Jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*) and Douglas' nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*) from natural recruitment were flowering and bearing fruits on the slopes. Common horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*), which appeared as volunteers, were flowering.

Sparse cover of natives from the seed mix was observed at the time of the survey. California sagebrush was the most abundant native from seed. Some buckwheat plants were flowering. Needle grass (*Nassella* sp.) was dormant.

WEED CONDITIONS**CONDITIONS:**

- ☐ Dense weed coverage
☐ Moderate weed coverage (seedlings in high density)
☒ Minimal weed coverage

- ☒ Weeds germinating
☒ Weeds flowering
☒ Weeds setting seed

COMMENTS:

The upper slopes have been trimmed and cleared of lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium album*). Only a few lamb's quarter plants grew back after being mowed. No weeding has occurred on the lower slopes facing the office. Trimming is recommended for those slopes to reduce the high cover of lamb's quarter. Short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and winter vetch (*Vicia villosa*) have completed their life cycles and were not observed at the time of the survey. Knotweed (*Polygonum argyrocoleon*) was turning red, especially on the top deck. Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) was actively growing on the bottom of the lower slopes. Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) growing the lower slopes should be controlled before it spreads to other areas on the site.

MISCELLANEOUS**CONDITIONS:**

- ☒ Trash ☐ Vandalism ☐ Erosion

COMMENTS:

Several plastic bags had blown into the project area.



The slope that faces the office. The slope has been cleared of lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium album*). California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) is turning brown.



Dove weed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*) showed noticeable growth.



This upper slope has been cleared of lamb's quarters.



The lower slopes facing the office have not been cleared of lamb's quarters.



A flowering California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) from the seed mix on the slopes



Healthy pre-existing California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) on the lower slope



Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) on the bottom of the lower slopes. Both are exotic weeds that should be excluded from the restoration area.



Healthy pre-existing coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*) on the top deck.

**Chambers Group Inc.**

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Mitigation Sites
County Side Mitigation Area

Prepared by Chambers Group
on behalf of Browning-Ferris Industries and Compliance Plus.

Date: October 7, 2009

Completed by: Kun Liu

Inspection Date: September 25, 2009

Inspected by: Kun Liu

Original to: Becky Van Sickle, Maria Gutzeit, Kurt Bratton

Copies to: Tiffany Leo, Ted St. John

SEED MIX

CONDITIONS:

- ☐ Dense cover of plants from seedlings
- ☐ Moderate cover of plants from seedlings
- ☒ Sparse cover of plants from seedlings
- ☐ No germination yet

- ☐ Dense cover of native plants from seed mix
- ☒ Moderate cover of native plants from seed mix
- ☒ Sparse cover of native plants from seed mix
- ☐ No cover of native plants from seed mix

COMMENTS:

No significant increase in seed germination was observed. There was moderate cover of native seedlings on the lower slope in the center. There are some young California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) plants from the seed mix on the northern and southern slopes where the soil is moist.

CONTAINER PLANTS

PLANT HEALTH ISSUES:

- ☒ Stunted growth
- ☐ Mechanical damage
- ☐ Disease/pests
- ☒ Substantial dieback/mortality
- ☐ Excessive herbivory

HEIGHT:

- ☐ 0" – 12"
- ☒ 12" – 24"
- ☐ 24" +

COMMENTS:

There have been substantial die-backs in toxic soils that are mainly located on the southern and northern portions of the slopes. There are several laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), needle grasses (*Nassella sp.*), monkey flower (*Mimulus sp.*) and giant wild rye (*Leymus condensatus*) that have survived. Laurel sumac is doing the best among the container plants. Some laurel sumac plants have shown noticeable growth, while some have barely grown since they were installed. Most needle grasses are dormant. Surviving giant wild rye and monkey flower had stunted growth. Most surviving containers are close to the erosion rills or on flat areas that collects irrigation runoff.

OVERALL NATIVE PLANT CONDITIONS			
PLANT COVER: <input type="checkbox"/> Dense <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal	PLANT HEALTH ISSUES <input type="checkbox"/> Disease/pests <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plant stress <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive herbivory	HEIGHT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0" – 12" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12" – 24" <input type="checkbox"/> 24" +	SPECIES RICHNESS <input type="checkbox"/> Low <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
COMMENTS: <p>The county sage hill is divided into three segments by two V-ditches. These slopes are designated here as southern, middle and northern segments. The middle slope has higher cover of native plants than the southern and northern slopes. The native plant cover was medium to high on the lower portion of the middle slope. Telegraph weed (<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>) and horse weed (<i>Conyza canadensis</i>) are flowering. A cocklebur (<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>) plant was bearing seeds on one of the slopes on the southern side. California buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>) plants are setting seeds. California sagebrush and deer weed (<i>Lotus scoparius</i>) plants are turning brown on the dry areas. California poppy (<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>) and most of needle grass plants are dormant. On a flat area that collects water there are lots of actively growing native plants. California bush sunflower (<i>Encelia californica</i>) plants are flowering in these areas. Young California sagebrush is green. Mule fat (<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>) and willow (<i>Salix</i> sp.) seedlings were observed on wet spots.</p> <p>The native plant cover was minimal on the southern and northern slopes. Most of the plants established in erosion rills, flat areas, and areas around sprinklers are mature now. These areas have received enough water to leach excessive salts which prevent plant germination and growth. A field trial of soil amendments is recommended on those barren slopes to find out effective soil amendments that will improve soil conditions for native plants growth.</p>			
WEED CONDITIONS			
CONDITIONS: <input type="checkbox"/> Dense weed coverage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate weed coverage (seedlings in high density) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal weed coverage		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weeds flowering <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds setting seed	
COMMENTS: <p>Weeds are growing in locally favorable spots such as erosion rills, container plant pits and areas close to the irrigation sprinklers. Most of the annual grasses that used to grow densely in favorable spots have set seeds and are dormant. Russian thistle (<i>Salsola tragus</i>) is growing on the upper slope and along the v-ditches. Russian thistle usually invades dry disturbed areas and can tolerate salty soils. Several young fennel (<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>) plants were growing in moist areas. Fennel occurs in disturbed areas and can exclude and prevent the establishment of native species. Mowing or cutting of Russian thistle before seed matures is recommended. Individual fennel plants may be controlled with repeated herbicide applications or by digging out the large storage roots. Tree tobacco (<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>) and fennel are flowering.</p>			

IRRIGATION SYSTEM		
REPAIRS NEEDED: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Over-irrigation <input type="checkbox"/> Under-irrigation (last 2-3 weeks) <input type="checkbox"/> Inoperative head </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Inoperative controller <input type="checkbox"/> Leaking components <input type="checkbox"/> Damaged components </div> </div>	WAYPOINTS: 	
COMMENTS: The irrigation system was not working during this site visit. No leakage was observed.		
MISCELLANEOUS		
CONDITIONS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trash <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erosion		
COMMENTS: <p>Erosion problems mentioned in several previous reports are still threatening to become worse during the next rainy season.</p> <p>Erosion rills have developed around the leaking pipes and sprinklers since the installation of the irrigation system. Application of wood chips, compost or erosion blanket would help to decrease the velocity of water flow, increase water infiltration rate, and boost leaching of excessive salts. These effects potentially improve soil properties for plant growth.</p> <p>No vandalism was observed. Several plastic bags had blown onto the slopes.</p>		



The southern section of the county sage slopes. These slopes have toxic soils and minimal vegetative cover.



The middle slopes have better soil and higher vegetative cover



The northern slopes have toxic soils and minimal vegetative cover



Pre-existing California bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*), Telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) on the middle slopes.



Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) along a v-ditch



Monkey flower (*Mimulus* sp.) from containers on a flat area of southern slopes.



Giant wild rye (*Leymus condensatus*) from a container on one of the southern slopes



Mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) seedling on a flat area of the middle slopes



California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) on the lower slope is turning brown. It is normal for sagebrush to die back this time of year



This laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) has barely grown since it was installed in May 2008.



California sagebrush from seeds is still green where the soil is moist. However, no leakage was observed.



This laurel sumac has grown substantially since it was installed in May 2008. This laurel sumac was observed on the flat area that collects water and runoff from sprinklers.



Chambers Group Inc.

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Santa Ana, California 92707-8714
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PROGRESS REPORT
for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Mitigation Sites
City Side Mitigation Area

Prepared by Chambers Group
on behalf of Browning-Ferris Industries and Compliance Plus.

Date: October 7, 2009

Completed by: Kun Liu

Inspection Date: September 25, 2009
Inspected by: Kun Liu

Original to: Becky VanSickle, Maria Gutzeit, Kurt Bratton
Copies to: Tiffany Leo, Ted St. John

STATUS OF HYDROSEEDING

CONDITIONS:

- ☒ Fully covered
☐ Medium covered
☐ Barely covered

COMMENTS:

The hydroseeding has been completed. The hillside and the top deck were fully covered.

SEED MIX

CONDITIONS:

- ☐ No germination yet

- ☐ Dense cover of native plants from seed mix
☐ Moderate cover of native plants from seed mix
☒ Sparse cover of native plants from seed mix
☐ No cover of native plants from seed mix

COMMENTS:

No new germination from seed mixes was observed during this survey.

OVERALL NATIVE PLANT CONDITIONS

PLANT COVER:

- ☐ Dense
☒ Moderate
☒ Minimal

PLANT HEALTH ISSUES

- ☐ Disease/pests
☐ Plant stress
☐ Excessive herbivory

HEIGHT

- ☐ 0" – 12"
☒ 12" – 24"
☐ 24" +

SPECIES RICHNESS

- ☒ Low
☐ Medium
☐ High

COMMENTS:

Pre-existing natives, including California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and white sage (*Salvia apiana*) look healthy. California sagebrush was dormant, which is normal at the time of the year. California buckwheat was setting seeds. Coastal goldenbush was flowering on the top deck and upper slopes.

Dove weed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*) is the most abundant native volunteer. It has shown noticeable growth since last visit. False Jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*) and Douglas' nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*) from natural recruitment were flowering and bearing fruit on the slopes. Common horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*), which appeared as volunteers, were flowering and setting seeds. Needle grass (*Nassella* sp.) was dormant.

Sparse cover of natives from the seed mix was observed at the time of the survey.

WEED CONDITIONS**CONDITIONS:**

- ☐ Dense weed coverage
☐ Moderate weed coverage (seedlings in high density)
☒ Minimal weed coverage

- ☒ Weeds germinating
☒ Weeds flowering
☒ Weeds setting seed

COMMENTS:

The planting areas have been trimmed recently. The slopes facing the office have been trimmed and cleared of lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium album*). Only the lower slopes facing the landfill operation have not been trimmed. Trimming is encouraged for those slopes to reduce the high cover of lamb's quarter. Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) was actively growing at the bottom of the lower slopes. It tends to grow where water is available. To control bermuda grass chemically, herbicide can be applied when the plants are actively growing but before flowering. Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) is growing on the lower and the upper slopes. It usually invades dry disturbed areas and tolerates salty soils. It may be controlled by herbicide or trimming, but will disappear when restoration is successful.

MISCELLANEOUS**CONDITIONS:**

- ☒ Trash ☐ Vandalism ☐ Erosion

COMMENTS:

Several plastic bags had blown into the project area.



The slope that faces the office has been cleared of lamb's quarters (*Chenopodium album*). Pre-existing California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) is turning brown.



The top deck has been cleared of lamb's quarters



This upper slope facing the operations area has not been completely cleared of lamb's quarters.



The lower slopes facing the office have been cleared of lamb's quarters recently



Fragrant everlasting (*Gnaphalium canescens*) on one of the slopes facing the operations area.



Healthy pre-existing California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) on the lower slope



Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) on the lower slopes. It is an exotic weed that grows on highly disturbed sites.



Flowering telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*) on the upper slope. Although somewhat weedy, telegraph weed is a native species

Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Quarterly Vegetation Report
Third Quarter 2009

Appendix D

(nothing to report this quarter)



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Jon Sanabria
Acting Director of Planning

December 7, 2009

Allied/BFI
Sunshine Canyon Landfill
14747 San Fernando Road
Sylmar, CA 91342
Attn: Susan Jennings

SUBJECT: SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL VEGETATION QUARTERLY STATUS REPORTS

Dear Ms. Jennings:

The following comments are in response to the second and third 2009 quarterly reports on the Sunshine Canyon Landfill vegetation project. The reports include assessments (in Appendix C) of the vegetation project for the County Side Mitigation Area based on field inspections by staff of Chambers Group Inc. The assessments dated June 22, 2009 and October 7, 2009, identify several issues related to native plant seed mix, container plants, overall native plant conditions, weed conditions, and the irrigation system.

Seed Mix

Both assessments indicate sparse cover of plants from seedlings and sparse/moderate cover of native plants from seed mix, and that there has been no significant increase in seed germination over the time covered by the assessments. Assessments of "Dense cover" of plants from seedlings and seed mix would be considered successful by the Department of Regional Planning.

Container Plants

The assessments identify stunted growth and substantial dieback/mortality in relation to container plantings. According to the assessments, substantial die-backs have occurred in toxic soils in the southern and northern portions of the slopes. Assessments that indicates greater establishment of container plantings would be considered successful by the DRP.

Overall Native Plant Conditions

The assessments indicate minimal to moderate native plant cover and evidence of plant stress. The northern and southern segments of Sage Hill appear to have minimal plant cover, while only the middle segment has medium to high cover on the lower portion of this area of the slope. Assessments of "Dense" plant coverage and "High" species richness would be considered successful by the DRP.

Weed Conditions

The assessments indicate minimal to moderate weed coverage and weed flowering. No improvements to weed conditions and weed coverage are identified in the assessments over the time covered. Assessments of less than minimal weed coverage would be considered successful by the DRP.

Irrigation System

The assessments indicate several problems with respect to the project site's irrigation system. Specifically, the irrigation system was not working or working well during the field inspections. Other issues have also

been noted. Assessments indicating an efficient irrigation system and sufficient irrigation would be considered successful by the DRP.

In addition, the assessments indicate that erosion problems persist despite being mentioned in "several previous reports." Recommendations have been included in the assessments to address erosion issues. Based on the assessments, the recommendations are not being followed.

The reports provide information on the work that has been done in the immediate past quarter, as well as work planned for the upcoming quarter. However, the reports fail to respond to recommendations provided in the assessments. Specifically, the reports give no indication of following the recommendations identified in the assessments, nor do they demonstrate any attempts to address ongoing problems, such as with the irrigation system. Of greatest concern to DRP staff is the lack of attention to the repeated calls for improvements to erosion and toxic soils conditions. Because soil health and stability is tantamount to successful native plant growth and coverage, the site's erosion and soil conditions must be remedied.

The next and subsequent vegetation quarterly reports must demonstrate that the recommendations of Chambers Group Inc. are being followed to: address erosion and soil conditions; improve plant coverage and growth; reduce weeds; and improve the irrigation system. Overall, the reports and assessments must indicate that successful vegetation growth and coverage is being achieved in the County Side Mitigation Area.

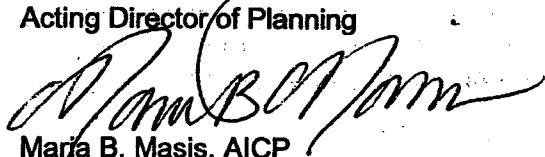
Please respond to the comments in this letter in the 2009 fourth quarterly report. Because you may need more time to provide an adequate response, the report submittal date may be extended 30 days. However, keep in mind that the 2010 first quarterly report submittal date is unchanged. If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact Maria Masis at (213) 974-6435 or via email at mmasis@planning.lacounty.gov.

Very truly yours,

DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

Jon Sanabria

Acting Director of Planning



Maria B. Masis, AICP

Supervising Regional Planner

Zoning Permits II

MM: JS

cc: Linda Lee, Los Angeles County DPW
Gerry Villalobos, Sunshine Canyon LEA
Ly Lam, City of Los Angeles, Dept. of City Planning