

14747 San Fernando Road Sylmar, CA 91342

November 1, 2018

Mr. Martin Aiyetiwa Senior Civil Engineer County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works 900 South Fremont Avenue Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Subject: Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Quarterly Vegetation Report

Third Quarter 2018 Vegetation Report

Mr. Aiyetiwa,

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

- Condition 18B of the Finding of Conformance;
- Condition 44A of the Condition Use Permit (CUP)
- Los Angeles City Condition [Q] C.8 of the Ordinance No. 172,933.

This report presents the progress of the site's landscaping and revegetation activities for the third quarter of 2018. The intent of these reports is to provide detailed information regarding the site's efforts related to vegetation including vegetation of interim and permanent slopes and activities conducted for the on-site sage mitigation areas.

Architerra Design Group continues to assist site personnel in evaluating current site conditions relating to vegetation and provide recommendations for future efforts. This report includes their assessment of the pilot sage vegetation area as well as recommendations for this area. Architerra's evaluation is in addition to the required quarterly monitoring performed by our consulting biologist.

#### 1.0 Interim Slopes

For the purposes of this report, interim slopes are those defined as slope areas where no activities have taken place for 180 days or longer. CUP Condition 44A requires "a temporary hydroseed vegetation cover on any slope

or landfill area that is projected to be inactive for a period of greater than 180 days".

### 1.1 Hydroseeding Activities

Based on the results of the trial project completed in August 2017, a 57 acre vegetative cover project using the approved seed mix was completed in mid-December 2017. Currently, these areas are established and in a dormant state, watering efforts will commence next year on an as-needed basis once the rainy season has passed.

The site is currently undergoing preparations for hydroseeding approximately 15 acres; application of the approved seed mix will be completed by the end of the fourth quarter in 2018.

### 2.0 Permanent Slopes

Permanent slopes are defined as those where no landfilling activities will be conducted in the future.

#### 2.1 City

The permanent slopes on the City portion of Sunshine Canyon Landfill are located on the closed City South and City North areas of the site where no overliner will be placed during future cell development (Drawing 1 – Sage Mitigation Area). No vegetation activities were conducted on the permanent slopes on the City portion of the site during the third quarter of 2018.

### 2.2 County

No vegetation activities were conducted on the permanent slope areas on the County portion of the site during the third quarter of 2018 (Drawing 1 – Sage Mitigation Area).

#### 3.0 Non-Permanent Cut Slopes

Prior quarterly vegetation reports have illustrated one area above the front terminal sedimentation basin and one area near the temporary bypass road as "non-permanent cut slopes". An evaluation of these areas has been conducted and it has been determined that these areas are "permanent

slopes" because no landfilling activities will be conducted against these slopes in the future.

### 4.0 Activities Conducted in Sage Mitigation Areas – 3Q2018

During the third quarter of 2018, the following activities were conducted in the sage mitigation areas at the landfill.

### 4.1 City South Sage Pilot Project Area – Deck C

The following activities were conducted:

- Maintenance activities removal of invasive plant species and weeding activities.
- Selective pruning of saltbush.

### 4.2 City South Deck B

The Deck B sage mitigation project began on April 9, 2018 and is expected to be done by the end of the fourth quarter. Soil samples indicate low pH and high salinity, currently the Deck B is undergoing a leaching schedule. Additional soil amendments and resampling will need to be completed before planting can begin, which is expected to take place during the fourth quarter. Pacific Restoration Group, Inc (PRG) has been working with Architerra for the completion of project. A summary of the progress is included in Attachment 3.

#### 4.3 County Sage Mitigation Area

The County sage mitigation area is located on the western side of the County portion of Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Drawing 1). No revegetation activities were conducted in this area during the third quarter of 2018, and, as noted in multiple JMA progress reports, the conditions in this mitigation area have remained unchanged for some time. JMA notes in their attached third quarter vegetation report that this area is problematic for establishment of vegetation. Soil samples from this location indicate low pH, high salinity, and Boron present in native soils.

### 5.0 Assessments of Sage Mitigation Areas

Assessments of the site's sage mitigation areas are conducted by a qualified biologist on a quarterly basis. The following sections present a summary of the recommendations for the sage mitigation areas from JMA (City and County sage mitigation areas) and Architerra (City South Sage Pilot Project Area (Deck C) and the proposed actions in response to the recommendations.

### 5.1 JMA Recommendations for City Sage Mitigation Areas

JMA's progress reports for the City Sage Mitigation Areas for the third quarter of 2018 are provided in Attachment 1. These reports include recommendations based on the assessments. Table 1 presents a summary of these recommendations and the proposed actions.

Table 1 – JMA Recommendations and Proposed Actions – City Sage Mitigation Areas, Third Quarter 2018

AREA	RECOMMENDATION		PROPOSED ACTION		
LOWER DECK		Continue to monitor	Monitoring will be conducted and		
(Deck C)	1	Continue to monitor	documented by our consultants on an		
(Deck e)			ongoing basis		
			This will be addressed when the plans for		
			Decks B and A are developed. Actions were		
DECKS A	2	Improve root zone and soil	taken to address improving the root zone in		
(Upper Deck)	~	conditions	the pilot project area (Deck C); it is expected		
			these same actions will be incorporated into		
			the plans for Decks B and A		
		Plant Natives in Areas	This will be addressed when the plans for		
		Dominated with Non-	Decks B and A are developed. Various		
		Natives. Use various	planting methods were used for the		
	3	planting methods (i.e.	construction of the pilot project on Deck C;		
DECKS A		container plants and	it is expected these same actions will be		
(Upper Deck)		hydroseeding) to re-	incorporated into the plans for Decks B and		
		establish native plants on	A		
		the middle and upper decks			
		where non-natives			
		currently dominate			

DECKS C, B AND A (Lower, Middle, and Upper Decks)	4	Weed Control - implement a year-round weed control program to control non- native species	A weed control program is currently in place on Deck C as part of the pilot project and will continue. A weed control program on Decks B and A will be implemented along with the mitigation plans for these areas
DECKS A	5	Reseeding - apply native seeds during the rainy season after soil mounds have been established	This will be addressed when the plans for Decks B and A are developed
DECKS A, B, and	6	Prohibit access - continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation areas	Repairs to the T-post fencing will be made as needed

JMA also recommended that a monitoring biologist should be present during weed control activities or the native plants should be flagged to ensure only non-native species are removed. A monitoring biologist will be consulted prior to any weed control activities to ensure native plants are protected.

### 5.2 JMA Recommendations for County Sage Mitigation Area

Table 2 presents a summary of the recommendations proposed by JMA based on the assessment of the County Sage Mitigation Area and the proposed actions. Please refer to the full recommendations in the JMA reports in Attachment 2.

Table 2 – JMA Recommendations and Proposed Actions – County Sage Mitigation Area, Third Quarter 2018

AREA	RECOMMENDATION		PROPOSED ACTION
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	1	Create benches to control soil erosion and improve soil conditions to improve plant establishment and seed dispersal	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION	2	Reseed and plant container plants	This recommendation will be considered at a later date

AREA			
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION	3	Plant within view sheds	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
AREA COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	4	Use soil amendments	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	5	Signage	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	6	Weed control	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	7	Prohibit access	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	8	Employee awareness	This recommendation will be considered at a later date

# 5.3 Architerra Inspection for City South Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area – Third Quarter 2018

The inspection report is included in Attachment 3 along with photos of the area taken at the photo stations.

### 5.4 Quarterly Assessment of City South Sage Pilot Project Area

The methodology for assessment of the City South Sage Pilot Project Area developed by JMA was included in the first quarter 2015 Vegetation Report. The evaluation report for the third quarter of 2018 based on this methodology is included in Attachment 4.

### 6.0 Status of Other Vegetated Areas

### Big Cone Douglas Fir Tree Mitigation

As reported in the vegetation report for the first quarter of 2015, 200 Big Cone Douglas fir tree saplings were planted the third week of March 2015. These trees continue to be monitored and maintenance activities will be conducted in this mitigation area for the remainder of 2018.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (818) 362-2096 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tuong-Phu Ngo, P.E.

**Environmental Manager** 

Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Triong Phu ngo

Cc: Mr. David Thompson, SCL LEA

Ms. Shikari Nakagawa-Ota, SCL LEA

Ms. Ly Lam, City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning

Mr. Nicholas Hendricks, City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning

Dr. Wen Yang, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board

Ms. Maria Masis, County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning

Mr. Wayde Hunter, SCL CAC

Mr. Jim Aidukus, UltraSystems

County DPW Landfill Unit

#### Attachments

Attachment 1	JMA	Progress F	Report, Ci	ty-Side Sage l	Mitigati	on Area
Attachment 2	JMA	Progress	Report,	County-Side	Sage	Mitigation

Area

Attachment 3 Architerra Design Group, Field Observation Report,

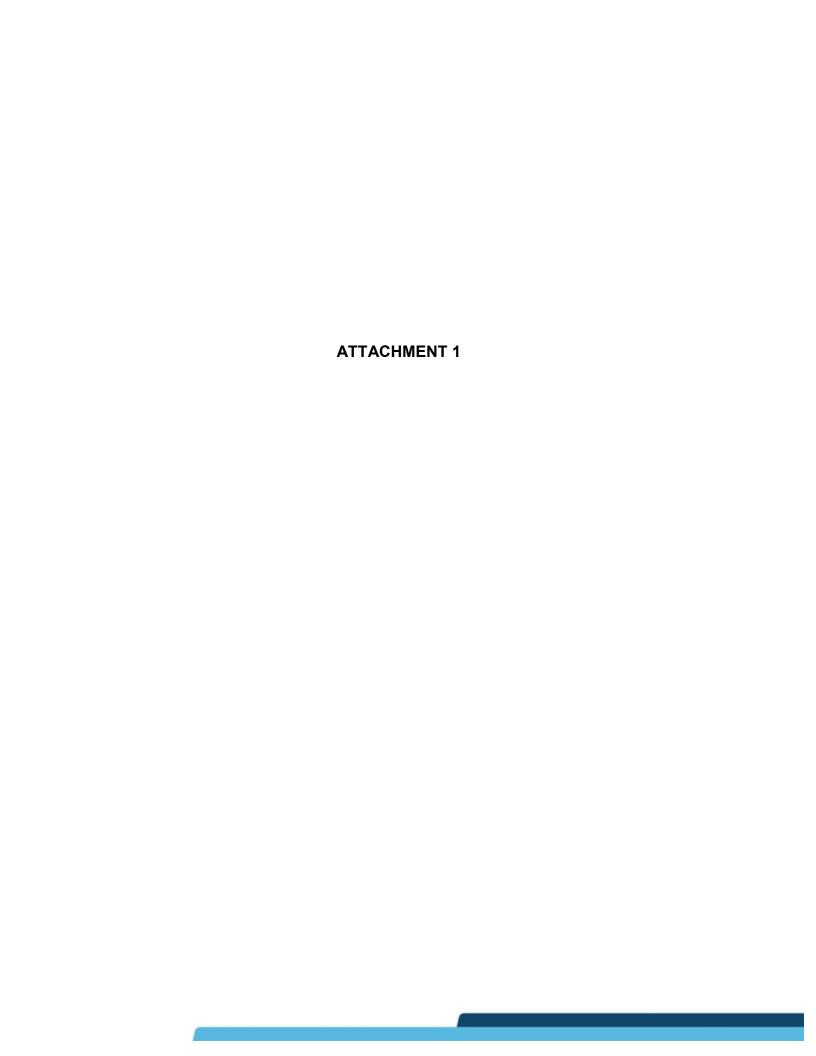
South City Sage Mitigation Pilot Project – 3Q2018

Attachment 4 JMA Quarterly Monitoring Report - Coastal Sage Scrub

Pilot Study, 3Q2018

Drawing

Drawing 1 3Q2018 Site Vegetation Status And Activity





## **SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL MITIGATION SITES**

### **Progress Report**

Submittal Date	October 31, 2018	<b>Inspection Date:</b> October 28, 2018		
<b>To:</b> Tuong-phu N	Ngo, Environmental	From: Greg Ainsw	orth, Monitoring	
Manager	.00,	Biologist		
114114601		*Prepared on behalf of	Republic Services	
	Lowe	r Deck	· ·	
seedlings are vegetat native species such a saltbush canopy; hov The winds were appi	x polycarpa and A. lentiforn ing within the canopy, mos s Encelia Californica, Artem vever, in less quantity. oximately 25 mph during t ever, several side-blotched	t notably <i>Atriplex lentiforr</i> isia californica, and Salvia he assessment; therefore,	nis. Seedlings of other sp. occur within the few wildlife species	
Native Plant	Plant Health	Height of Native	Native Species	
Cover:	Issues:	Species:	Richness:	
[ ] Dense	[ ] Disease/pests	[ ] 0" – 12"	[X] Low	
[X] Moderate	[ ] Plant stress	[] 12" – 24"	[ ] Medium	
[ ] Minimal	[ ] Herbivory	[X] 24" and above	[ ] High	
		onditions		
density) [ ] Minimal weed co Comments Most wee	overage (seeding in high verage eds are currently dormant v		rmant luding Russian thistle	
(Kali tragus), mustar sp.)	d ( <i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> ), wild	d oats ( <i>Avena fatua</i> ) and b	rome grasses ( <i>Bromus</i>	
		le Deck		
<b>General Comments</b>				
Planting will occur pr	of the Middle Deck has been rimarily in areas where few to compacted and gravely so	native species had establ	ished from prior	



positioned within the planting area and straw waddles have been installed to control erosion, and to save as basins to establishing seed. There is a decent mixture of native species that have established on the Middle Deck from previous planting efforts that include California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum foliosium*), black sage (Salvia mellifera), purple needlegrass (Nessella pulchra), California sagebrush, and chamise (Adenostoma fasciculatum). **Native Plant** Height of **Plant Health Native Species** Cover: **Issues: Species: Richness:** [ ] Dense [ ] Disease/pests [ ] 0" – 12" [X] Low [ ] Moderate [ ] 12" – 24" [ ] Plant stress [ ] Medium [X] 24" and above [X] Minimal [ ] Excessive [ ] High herbivory Weed Conditions [ ] Dense weed coverage [X] Weeds germinating /vegetative growth [X] Moderate weed coverage (seeding in high [X] Weeds flowering [ ] Weeds setting seed density) [ ] Minimal weed coverage | Weed desiccant/dormant **Comments:** Weed coverage is low within the middle deck as a result of recent tilling and preparation for seeding. **UPPER DECK General Comments:** Overall, the Upper Deck continues to be sparsely covered with native vegetation, and total vegetation coverage is sparse due to compacted and poor soil conditions. Specifically, the soils to the north of the central access road are heavily compacted and gravelly and vegetation coverage in this area is especially sparse. Evidence of previous seeding is no longer discernible. Wild oats (Avena fatua), brome grasses and mustard have senesced, but continue to dominate the non-native cover throughout the upper deck. Seedlings of Russian thistle have emerged in various location within the upper deck where soil are less compacted. Buckwheat is the dominant native plant, which is most prevalent at the southwestern portion of the upper deck. Overall natural recruitment within the Upper Deck is low, due to poor soil conditions and dry soil. **Native Plant** Height of **Native Species Plant Health** Cover: Species: **Richness: Issues:** [ ] Dense [ ] 0" – 12" [ ] Disease/pests [X] Low [ ] Plant stress [ ] Moderate [ ] 12" – 24" [] Medium [X] Minimal [ ] Excessive [X] 24" and above [] High herbivory **Weed Conditions** [ ] Dense weed coverage [X] Weeds germinating /vegetative growth [X] Weeds flowering [X] Moderate weed coverage (seeding in high [ ] Weeds setting seed

| Weed desiccant/dormant

| Minimal weed coverage



**Comments:** Weeds continue to grow without any level of control within the Upper Deck. Weeds generally consist of senesced Russian thistle, wild oats, brome grasses and mustard.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### **Lower and Middle Decks**

• **Weed control.** Implement a year-round weed control program to control non-native species. The weed control program should incorporate both chemical and mechanical control practices. Following weed control, any dead material harboring seeds should be removed to an off-site location to the extent feasible.

A monitoring biologist should be present during weed control activities or flag the native plants that should remain to ensure only non-native species are removed. A biologist should verify that the weed removal methodology is sound and does not encourage re-colonizing of non-natives. Weeding is best performed just before, or at the onset of flowering, but before seed set. If seeds are already present, additional care should be taken to remove the plants with the seeds attached, or the seeds should be removed from the plants prior to the plant removal. A consistent weed abatement schedule will reduce the potential for non-natives to set seed. Soil disturbance should be limited by hand weeding, where possible, and weeds should be disposed of off-site to avoid any reinfestation through reseeding or from plant propagules. If hand weeding is not possible, the monitoring biologist should be consulted regarding the appropriate method of weed removal. If there continues to be high incidence of weed infestation, weed control may need to be increased to every four to six weeks. Otherwise, weeds should continue to be monitored and controlled on a quarterly basis.

• **Prohibit access.** Continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation areas.

#### **Upper Deck**

• **Improve root zone and soil conditions.** Continue to investigate ways to import the soil layer to improve the root penetration and saturation zone to enable plant growth in heavily compacted areas. Consider applying soil in random undulations or uneven mounds to improve soil porosity and filtration and to control soluble salts from leaching from existing layer.

If permissible, prior to seeding (broadcast, hydroseeding, or drilling) native species, incorporate a soil amendment or mulch with high organic content by tilling into the top 12 inches of the existing compacted soils to improve soil texture, drainage, porosity, and aerobic conditions. If an organic mulch or soil amendment is not feasible or available, incorporate available soil from onborrow sites within the landfill that have the appropriate, so long as these borrowed soils have been determined to not have toxic conditions such as boron or high salinity.

• **Plant natives in areas dominated with non-natives.** The vegetated areas on the Upper Deck that are currently dominated with annual, non-native species, as well as with native shrubs, have decent soil-texture conditions. These areas are not near as compacted as areas within the Upper Deck that are gravelly and mostly void of vegetation. In general, the soil texture within the



vegetated areas with non-native vegetation is friable down to approximately 4-8 inches in depth. Various planting methods (i.e., broadcast, imprint, and hydroseeding) may be used to re-establish native plants on the Upper Deck where non-natives currently dominate.

• **Weed control.** Implement a year-round weed control program to control non-native species. The weed control program should incorporate both chemical and mechanical control practices. Following weed control, any dead material harboring seeds should be removed to an off-site location to the extent feasible.

A monitoring biologist should be present during weed control activities or flag the native plants that should remain to ensure only non-native species are removed. A biologist should verify that the weed removal methodology is sound and does not encourage re-colonizing of non-natives. Weeding is best performed just before, or at the onset of flowering, but before seed set. If seeds are already present, additional care should be taken to remove the plants with the seeds attached, or the seeds should be removed from the plants prior to the plant removal. A consistent weed abatement schedule will reduce the potential for non-natives to set seed. Soil disturbance should be limited by hand weeding, where possible, and weeds should be disposed of off-site to avoid any reinfestation through reseeding or from plant propagules. If hand weeding is not possible, the monitoring biologist should be consulted regarding the appropriate method of weed removal. If there continues to be high incidence of weed infestation, weed control may need to be increased to every four to six weeks. Otherwise, weeds should continue to be monitored and controlled on a quarterly basis.

- **Reseeding.** Following the application of soil mounds as previously described, apply native seed (by means of broadcast seeding, hydroseeding or drilling) during the rainy season, between December and March, or prior to a forecasted rain event.
- Prohibit access. Continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation areas.



## **City-Side Sage Mitigation Area**

### **Photo Locations**





### **City-Side Sage Mitigation Area**



Photo 1. Facing west at lower deck. View of *Atriplex lentiformis* entering dormancy with the pilot study area in the background.



Photo 2. Facing east at lower deck from western boundary.



Photo 3. Facing east at middle deck with lower deck visible in background. View of the area where seeding is occurring.



Photo 4. Facing west at the easterly-facing slope located between middle and upper decks. The vegetation on the slopes is dominated with mustard and brome grasses, both of which have senesced, as well as patches of California buckwheat.



## **City-Side Sage Mitigation Area**



Photo 5. Facing northeast at upper deck. This area is compacted and gravelly and continues to be problematic for supporting vegetation. Senesced non-native grasses, CA buckwheat, and Russian thistle are evident in the background.



Photo 6. Facing southwest at upper deck. The area shown in this photo is dominated by Russian thistle and senesced wild oats and brome grasses.



Photo 7. Facing southeast at the upper deck at the disturbed area that is currently dominated with brome grasses and Russian thistle.





## **SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL MITIGATION SITES**

### **Progress Report**

mostly California buckwheat.

Country Cido Como Mitimation Area	
County-Side Sage Mitigation Area	

County-Side Sage Mitigation Area	
Submittal Date: October 31, 2018	<b>Inspection Date:</b> October 28, 2018
To: Tuong-phu Ngo, Environmental	From: Greg Ainsworth, Monitoring
Manager	Biologist *Prepared on behalf of Republic Services
STATUS OF H	YDROSEEDING
Conditions: [] Fully covered [] Moderate	ely covered [X] Barely covered
moderately covered with vegetation (native and half of the slope. A substantial portion of the nor continues to be bare and problematic for establi erosion, steep slopes and toxic soils (See Recommendative plant coverage is similar to the previous of the mitigation area contains the most vegetatic cover dominated with native species, most notal fasciculatum. Native plant coverage is assumed to some natural recruitment is apparent based on the present, and the various sizes and structure of the conditions, soil erosion and Boron toxic soils on	thern-half of the county-side mitigation area shment of vegetation, primarily because of mendations).  quarterly monitoring reports. The southern-half ion with a substantial portion of the vegetation bly California buckwheat, <i>Eriogonum</i> to be a direct result of hydroseeding; however, the dense cover where native vegetation is the shrubs. Due to rocky (hydrophobic) soil
area, minimal plant growth is present.	D MIX
Conditions:	PAR
[ ] No sign of germination [ ] No cover of native plants from seed mix [ ] Sparse cover of native plants from seed mix	<ul><li>[ ] Dense cover of native plants from seed mix</li><li>[X] Moderate cover of native plants from seed mix (where vegetation is present)</li></ul>
Comments:	
Similar to the hydroseeded areas, the other area are concentrated in the southern-half of the slop mitigation area continues to be bare and problem. However, in areas where vegetation is present, the mostly Colifornia bushy best.	be. A substantial portion of the county-side matic for vegetation to become established.



Germination and plant growth from hydroseeding or seed mix is not discernible. Similar to previous monitoring periods, a moderate cover of native plants exists within vegetated areas. Annual non-native grasses and forbs currently dominate the understory and serve as ground cover in most of the vegetated areas. Brome grasses (*Bromus sp.*), wild oats (*Avena fatua*) and shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) are currently senesced, but still comprise approximately 25 percent of the vegetation cover. California buckwheat dominates the native vegetation coverage, with California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and California sunflower (*Encelia californica*) as co-dominants. These native species comprise of approximately 75 percent of the native vegetation cover (in areas where vegetation is present). Other less dominant native species observed include golden bush (*Ericameria linearifolia*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), black sage (*Salvia millifera*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), and a small cluster of arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) trees that continue to thrive along the v-ditch that extends east-west through the center of the mitigation site.

OVERALL NATIVE PLANT CONDITIONS				
Plant Cover: [ ] Dense [ ] Moderate [X] Minimal	Plant Health Issues: [ ] Disease/pests [ ] Plant stress [ ] Excessive herbivory	Height: [ ] 0" – 12" [X] 12" – 24" [ ] 24" and above	Species Richness: [ ] Low [X] Medium [ ] High	

### **Comments:**

Vegetation cover on the "county slope" is most prevalent on the southern half of the restoration area, with the greatest density of vegetation in the center. The majority of the northern and upper portions of the mitigation area continue to have minimal coverage due to erosion, rocky soils and boron toxicity. Bare areas and non-native annual grasses are intermixed, but characterizes the northern half of the restoration area. Native vegetation density and richness is good in vegetated areas, and the non-native grasses cover is typical of the native, undisturbed areas that surround the landfill.

As indicated previously, California buckwheat dominants the native cover with *Encelia californica* as a co-dominant. Establishment and regeneration of native vegetation is problematic on the upper and northern portions of the restoration area due to rocky soils with poor soil structure, and boron toxicity has made plant growth (i.e., seed germination and recruitment) difficult. The species richness is low to medium within vegetated areas; however, species richness is considerably low when considering the entire county-sage mitigation area.

WEED CONDITIONS				
Conditions:  [ ] Dense weed coverage  [X] Moderate weed coverage (seeding in high density)  [ ] Minimal weed coverage	<ul><li>[ ] Weeds germinating</li><li>[X] Weeds flowering</li><li>[X] Weeds setting seed</li><li>[ ] Weed desiccant/dormant</li></ul>			



### **Comments:**

Annual, non-native weed species consist primarily of brome grasses (*Bromus* sp.), shortpod mustard, and wild oats (*Avena fatua*), all of which are currently senesced. Other established weedy species that were observed include red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) and (native) telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*). Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*) and tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) are scattered within the vegetated areas, but in less densities than the other non-native species noted above.

MISCELLANEOUS					
<b>Conditions:</b>					
[] Trash	[] Vandalism	[] Erosion			
Comments:					
None					
DECOMMENDATIONS					

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Create benches.** Consider creation of benches throughout the mitigation area to control soil erosion and to improve soil conditions to improve plant establishment and seed dispersal. This technique has been widely used on steep slopes and in areas where soil erosion is problematic. This technique also allows for opportunities to introduce a high quality soil layer above the poor soils that exist.
- **Reseed and plant container plants.** If creation of benches is feasible, planting methods should include Hydroseeding and broadcast seeding just before a forecasted rain event and planting with container plants with supplemental irrigation during the period of establishment. Container plants should only be planted if temporary irrigation source is available.
- **Plant within view sheds**. Consider planting native species on upper portion of the slope that is visible from public view sheds with appropriate native species. Planting should occur prior to fall/winter rains.
- **Use soil amendments.** Incorporate a soil amendment or mulch with high organic content in select areas as determined by a restoration specialist.
- **Signage.** Install signs indicating that the area is undergoing revegetation.
- **Weed control.** Continue weed control program as needed on a quarterly basis.
- **Prohibit access.** Continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation area. Extend fencing around southeastern and southern boundary of lower deck and review fencing on the upper deck to determine if additional area can be reasonably enclosed.
- **Employee awareness.** Conduct an employee awareness program to inform staff on the importance of preserving all restoration areas.



## **County-Side Sage Mitigation Area**

### **Photo Locations**





## **County-Side Sage Mitigation Area**



Photo 1. Facing west at the county sage slope. Senesced grasses and forbs, and California buckwheat are currently the dominant species.



Photo 2. Facing west at the northern-half of the county sage hill, where plant growth has been problematic due to poor soil conditions.



### ARCHITERRA DESIGN GROUP

### FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

DATE OF VISIT:	10/17/18
PROJECT:	Sunshine Canyon Mitigation Sites
PROJECT NUMBER:	1214
PROJECT MANAGER:	Gregg Denson
SITE INSPECTION #:	
PURPOSE OF VISIT:	Review site conditions/Photo Catalog
TIME OF SITE VISIT:	11:00am
WEATHER/TEMPERATURE:	Sunny and Breezy 85°
ESTIMATED % COMPLETED:	100%
CONFORMANCE WITH SCHEDULE (+, -)	

WORK IN PROGRESS:	Weed abatement / Monitoring Period /Construction Observation
PRESENT ON SITE:	Gregg Denson

A site visit walk and evaluation has been completed to review the Venturan CSS vegetation establishment on the Trial Site (Deck C), Deck B and County Mitigation Slopes. Additional items noted during the site visit are as follows:

### City-Side Sage Mitigation (Trial Site):

- With recent rains in early October, Russian Thistle (Salsola ssp.), Shortpod Mustard (Hirshfeldia incana), Tree Tobacco (Nicotiana glauca), and Tamarix and Eucalyptus Species are actively germinating. These invasive weeds should be immediately be removed prior to flowering. The maintenance contractor should use caution when removing invasive weeds so that juvenile CSS plants remain in place. Identification of targeted invasive species are key to successful removal without disturbance of CSS species.
- Many of the CSS natives are still in the dormancy period. Some of these include, Coast Sunflower (Encelia californica), Black Sage (Salvia mellifera), Purple Sage (Salvia leucophylla), White Sage (Salvia apiana), Creeping Wild Rye (Leymus triticoides), Deerweed (Lotus scoparius), Mexican Elderberry (Sambucus mexicana). California Buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum) has finished flowering and has gone to seed.
- Highest priority for Deck C is removal of invasive species.
- Discussions regarding the PM10 Berm included review of the existing Coast Live Oak trees along the south side of Deck C where evident foliage damage occurred and as a result of sun scald during the extreme heat wave a few months ago (estimated max. daytime temperatures to 118°). Upon review of the trees, it appears that they could benefit from supplemental irrigation. Some foliage has begun to recover now that daytime temperatures are more favorable. ADG recommends irrigating these Oaks weekly with a deep watering (from existing drip system) and inspecting system to make sure it is properly working including drip emitters and bug caps at distribution tubing ends. Additional recommendations include planting native large shrubs (at 1 gallon containers)

to be dispersed between Oaks to help close cover of the PM10 Berm and potentially aid in shading understory of the Oaks and minimizing the quick moisture loss due to dry daily winds that blow over the ridge where the PM10 Berm exists. Recommended species include *Rhus integrifolia* (Lemonade Berry) and *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon).



Side-Blotched Lizard hiding in leaf litter of Atriplex



Coast Sunflower seedlings still in dormancy



Dormant Black Sage awaits winter rains



Dormant Deerweed (Acmispon glaber -formally Lotus scoprius) appears as dry sticks



Eucalyptus sapling (8'-10') – several exist on deck and should be removed



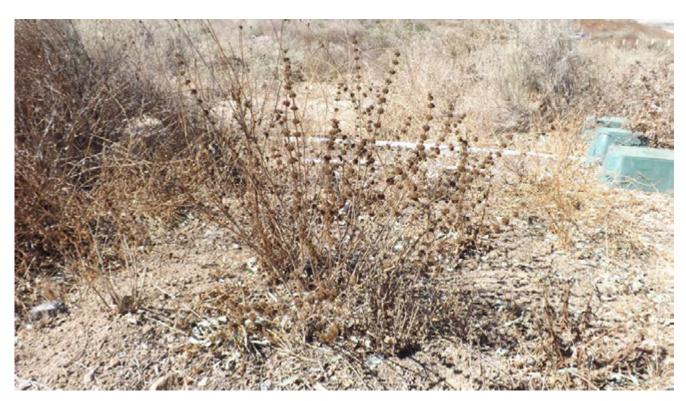
Coast Sunflower (Encelia californica) in dormancy at downstream side of straw wattle



Black Sage and California Sagebrush seedlings comparison (Spring - Left, Fall - Right)



Local Bird perched on Saltbush



Defoliated Black Sage



Sunscald on vegetation of Oak Trees at PM10 Berm



Galls on some branches from Gall Wasps

ARCHITERRA DESIGN GROUP 10221-A TRADEMARK STREET, RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 Phone (909) 484-2800, Fax (909) 484-2802



Healthy Oak Trees at PM10 Berm beginning to close the canopy along east end where there is more protection for prevailing winds



ARCHITERRA DESIGN GROUP 10221-A TRADEMARK STREET, RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730 Phone (909) 484-2800, Fax (909) 484-2802



Struggling Oaks shown circled in red and healthier more vigorous growth in green circled area







Suggested large native shrubs to be planted and dispersed between Oaks to help close cover of the PM10 Berm and potentially aid in shading understory





Good example of Saltbush as primary succession species providing shelter cover for new Venturan CSS species seedlings

### City-Side Sage Mitigation (Deck B):

- Soils testing will occur during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2018 in preparation for soil amending and seeding/planting.
- Currently some germination has occurred in selected areas within the graded deck project area



Growth of new seedlings of Atriplex on Deck B





New grasses germinated at swale line (straw wattle repair needed in some areas)



Invasive Castor Bean to be removed



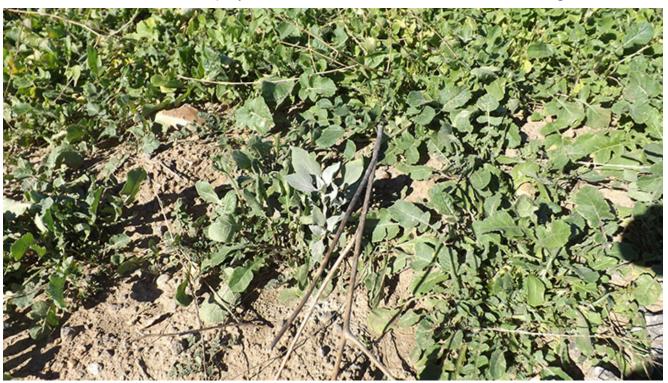
View of deck look east with boulders set into graded swales



Newly germinated Tree Tobacco (Nicotiana glauca) to be removed



North East end of Deck B project area where Mustard and Saltbush have germinated



Caution should be taken as to not remove desirable species like the Encelia Californica



Shortpod Mustard and Coast Sunflower intermixed along eastern edge of deck



Irrigation was not properly working at time of visit. Appeared to be a pressure issue with radius throw only 1/3 of designed distance

Signed:		Date:	
	<u>DISTRIBU</u>	TION_	
Republic Services		Contractor	
Project Manager (Gregg Denson)		Other	



Photo Station #1 - October 2017 (East)



Photo Station #1 - October 2018 (East)



Photo Station #1 - October 2017 (North)



Photo Station #1 - October 2018 (North)



Photo Station #1 - October 2017 (West)



Photo Station #1 - October 2018 (West)



Photo Station #2 - October 2017 (East)



Photo Station #2 - October 2018 (East)



Photo Station #2 - October 2017 (North)



Photo Station #2 - October 2018 (North)



Photo Station #2 - October 2017 (South)



Photo Station #2 - October 2018 (South)



Photo Station #3 - October 2017 (East)



Photo Station #3 - October 2018 (East)



Photo Station #3 - October 2017 (North)



Photo Station #3 - October 2018 (North)



Photo Station #3 - October 2017 (West)



Photo Station #3 - October 2018 (West)



Photo Station #4 - October 2017 (South)



Photo Station #4 - October 2017 (East)



Photo Station #4 - October 2018 (South)



Photo Station #4 - October 2018 (East)



Photo Station #4 - October 2017 (West)



Photo Station #4 - October 2018 (West)



Photo Station #5 - October 2017 (East)



Photo Station #5 - October 2018 (East)



Photo Station #5 - October 2017 (North)



Photo Station #5 - October 2018 (North)



Photo Station #5 - October 2017 - (West)



Photo Station #5 - October 2018 (West)



Photo Station #6 - October 2017 (East)



Photo Station #6 - October 2018 (East)



Photo Station #6 - October 2017 (North)



Photo Station #6 - October 2018 (North)



Photo Station #6 - October 2017 (West)



Photo Station #6 - October 2018 (West)



Photo Station #7 - October 2017 (South)



Photo Station #7 - October 2018 (South)



Photo Station #7 - October 2017 (West)



Photo Station #7 - October 2018 (West)



Photo Station #7 - October 2017 (North)



Photo Station #7 - October 2018 (North)



Photo Station #8 - October 2017 (East)



Photo Station #8 - October 2018 (East)



Photo Station #8 - October 2017 (North)



Photo Station #8 - October 2018 (North)



Photo Station #8 - Ocotober 2017 (West)



Photo Station #8 - October 2018 (West)



Photo Station #9 - October 2017 (East)



Photo Station #9 - October 2018 (East)



Photo Station #9 - October 2017 (South)



Photo Station #9 - October 2018 (South)



Photo Station #9 - October 2017 (West)



Photo Station #9 - October 2018 (West)





# memorandum

date October 31, 2018

to Tuong-phu Ngo, Environmental Manager, Republic Services

from Greg Ainsworth, Consulting Biologist

subject Coastal Sage Scrub City South C Trial Plot Monitoring Report, Sunshine Canyon Landfill -

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, 2018

## INTRODUCTION

On October 26, 2018, biologist Greg Ainsworth monitored the coastal sage scrub revegetation area at the Landfill's City South 'C' Trial Plot, which constitutes the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter monitoring of the trial plot for 2018. The sample methodology generally followed the *Methodology for Monitoring Percent Cover and Species Richness within Each Seeded Application Method on the Coastal Sage Scrub Pilot Project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (JMA, April 23, 2014)*. Quadrat sampling of the sage pilot study area consists of four, 50-meter quadrats that are randomly sampled within each of the following three seeded areas: hydroseed, imprint and hand broadcast. The quadrats were randomly selected prior to the first initial monitoring event from a grid that was placed over the entire trial plot, and each quadrat is delineated in the field with wooden stakes. As shown on the attached planting plan, each quadrat that was sampled was given a corresponding letter from A-L.

A total of 200 meters were sampled for each of the three seeded areas and the following data was collected in each quadrat that was sampled:

- **Percent basil cover (shrubs)** –Visual estimate of the amount of basil cover within each quadrat for all shrub species.
- **Percent basil cover (herbs)** Visual estimate of the amount of basil cover within each quadrat for all herb species.
- **Percent bare ground** Visual estimate of the amount of available bare ground with no vegetation, but suitable for plant growth.
- **Percent rock or other** Visual estimate of the amount of unavailable ground for supporting plant growth. Inhibitors generally included rocks and boulders, irrigation lines and valve boxes, and mulch.
- **Percent canopy** Visual estimate of the percent canopy of each shrub and herbaceous species.
- **Photographs** A photograph was taken from the southwest corner (facing northeast) of each quadrat.

To obtain estimate cover of each species, the point intercept method was used, which consisted of data collection points every 0.5 meter along the perimeter of each quadrat. Sampling began at the southwest corner of each quadrat and continued around the quadrat in a clockwise direction. The species located precisely at every 0.5-meter point was tallied, including areas of bare ground, rock and other.

#### **RESULTS**

Below are the average data collected for the hydroseed, imprint, and hand broadcast application areas. The number in parenthesis represents the previous quarterly monitoring results.

## **Quadrat Sampling:**

### Average Hydroseed - Quadrats A, B, C, D

Percent basil cover (shrubs) – 17% (17%)

Percent basil cover (herbs) – 17% (17%)

Percent bare ground – 44% (44%)

Percent rock or other -3% (5%)

Percent canopy (shrub) – 32% (39%)

Percent canopy (herb) -6% (9%)

## Average Imprint - Quadrats E, F, GH

Percent basil cover (shrubs) – 24% (24%)

Percent basil cover (herbs) – 11% (11%)

Percent bare ground – 43% (43%)

Percent rock or other -8% (8%)

Percent canopy (shrub) – 32% (36%)

Percent canopy (herb) -17% (20%)

#### Average Hand Broadcast – Quadrats I, J, K L (average)

Percent basil cover (shrubs) – 26% (26%)

Percent basil cover (herbs) –23% (23%)

Percent bare ground – 18% (18%)

Percent rock or other -3% (3%)

Percent canopy (shrub) – 39% (46%)

Percent canopy (herb) – 18% (24%)

# **Point Intercept:**

The representation of each species within a quadrat was estimated by broad cover classes (<1%, 1-5%, 5-25%, 25-50%, 50-75% and >75%). The percent cover of each species based on the point intercept method is as follows:

# Hydroseed- Quadrats A, B, C, D (average)

Species	% Cover Shrub	% Cover Herb
Acmispon glaber		
Adenostema fasciculatum		
Achillia mellifoluim		
Artemisia californica	1%	
Atriplex lentiformis	11%	
Atriplex polycarpa	15%	
Atriplex spinosa	1%	
Baccharis pilularis		
Encelia californica	4%	
Eschscholzia californica		
Leymus triticoides		
Mimulus aurantiacus longiflorus		
Nasella pulchra		
Other herb		1%
Salvia mellifera		
Sisyrinchium bellum		
Vulpia microstachys		
Echinochloa crus-galli		
Salsola kali		1%
Hordeum vulgare		
Bromus sp.		2%
Hirshfeldia incana		2%

# Imprint – Quadrats E, F, G H (average)

Species	% Cover Shrub	% Cover Herb
Adenostema fasciculatum		
Achillia mellifoluim		
Artemisia californica		
Atriplex lentiformis	13%	
Atriplex polycarpa	15%	
Atriplex spinosa	1%	
Baccharis pilularis		
Encelia californica	2%	
Eschscholzia californica		
Eriogonum fasciculatum		
Leymus triticoides		
Mimulus aurantiacus longiflorus		
Nasella pulchra		
Sisyrinchium bellum		
Salvia apiana		

Salvia leucophylla	1%	
Salvia mellifera		
Echinochloa crus-galli		
Salsola kali		1%
Bromus sp.		11%
Hirshfeldia incana		3%
Centaurea melitensis		
Leymus triticoides		
Other herb		1%

### Hand Broadcast - Quadrats I, J, K L (average)

Species	% Cover Shrub	% Cover Herb
Adenostema fasciculatum	1%	
Achillia mellifoluim		
Artemisia californica	1%	
Atriplex lentiformis	13%	
Atriplex polycarpa	10%	
Atriplex spinosa	1%	
Baccharis pilularis	1%	
Encelia californica	4%	
Eriogonum fasciculatum		
Eschscholzia californica		
Leymus triticoides		6%
Mimulus aurantiacus longiflorus		
Nasella pulchra		
Other herb		
Salvia apiana		
Salvia leucophylla	1%	
Salvia mellifera	1%	
Sisyrinchium bellum		
Hirshfeldia incana		5%
Vulpia microstachys		
Salsola kali		1%
Bromus sp.		12%

#### **DISCUSSION**

There was not a substantial change in the density or richness of species within the pilot study area compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter monitoring period of 2018. It appears that weed control has not been conducted, and most weedy species have set seed and senesced. Most notably, mats of senesced dense brome grass (*Bromus sp.*) have developed in several of the quadrats, including an increase of mustard (*Hershfeldia incana*). If seasonal rainfall is near average, it should be expected that there will be a high germination rate of non-native species throughout the pilot study site. As depicted in several of the photos (attached), *Atriplex lentiformis*) has the highest amount of seedlings throughout the pilot study area and is of highest concentration.

Quadrats H, I and L have the greatest amount of relative cover, mostly comprised of A. lentiformis and A. polycarpa,, because these plots are located at a low, relatively flat portion of the pilot study area, where water

generally accumulates after rain events. The hand broadcast seeding method has the highest percentage of shrub canopy cover (i.e., *A. lentiformis*) compared to hydroseed and imprint seeding methods. That said, the northwest portion of the hand broadcast area (quadrats I and J) is at a low-point compared to the rest of the pilot study area, and as indicated above, water tends to pool in this area and therefore it has the greatest density of vegetation compared to other portions of the pilot study area. As noted in past monitoring reports, both the quadrat method and the point intercept method confirm that *A. lentiformis* has the highest relative cover of all plant species in the pilot study site, with *A. polycarpa* as a co-dominant. The qualitative monitoring results also confirm that these species are of highest abundance. Selective thinning of *Atriplex* in select areas will create openings and opportunities for natural recruitment and establishment of other native shrub species. Photographs of each quadrat are provided on the following pages, as well as the raw data obtained within each quadrat sampled.



# **Photograph Log**



Quadrat A. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat B. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat C. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat D. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat E. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat F. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat G. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat H. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat I. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat J. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat K. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat L. Facing northeast from southwest corner.

# (F Avaguer of Borde S E or Arthur 6 to

# Quadrat Method: Raw Data

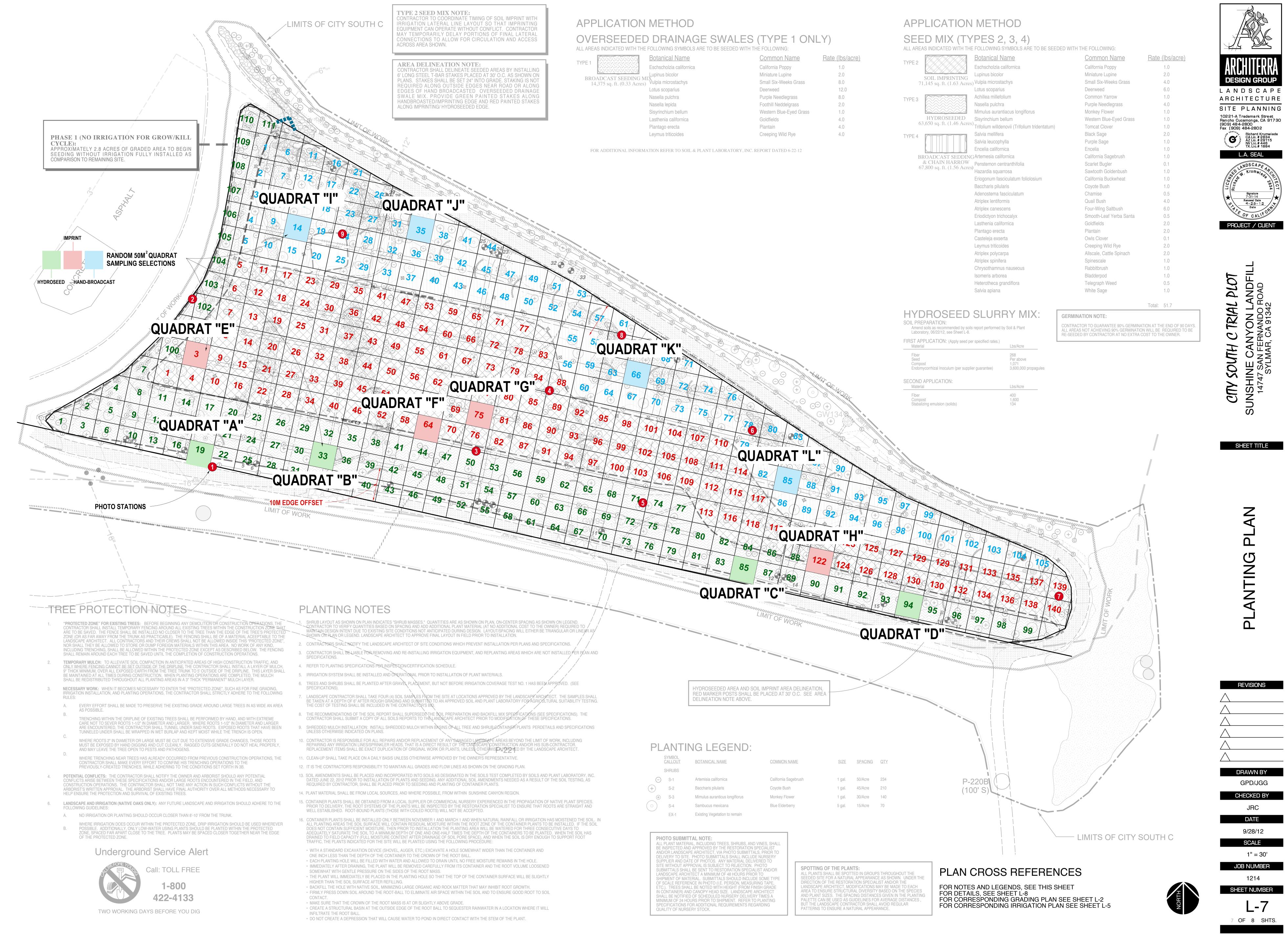
	1	17%	17%	44%	3%	32%	6%
	Deerweed						
	Russian thistle						2%
	Mustard						8%
	Bromus sp.						2%
	Tocalote						2%
	california					2%	201
	Artemisia					20/	
	polycarpa					6%	
	Atriplex						
	lentiformis					15%	
	Atriplex						
D	Encelia california	20%	15%	40%	3%	8%	
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	70 Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb.)
		% basal	% basal	%	% Rock/	% canopy	% canopy
	Bromus sp.	0/	0/			0/	3%
	Black sage					1%	20/
	Atriplex spinosa					1%	
	polycarpa					13%	
	Atriplex					430/	
С	lentiformis	11%	2%	75%	4%	2%	
	Atriplex						
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb.)
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canopy
		%	%			%	%
	Mustard						5%
	Bromus sp.						7%
	Russian thistle						
	polycarpa					8%	
	Atriplex						
	lentiformis			<u></u>		13%	<u></u>
	Atriplex						
В	Encelia california	25%	15%	35%	2%	5%	
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb.)
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canopy
	Bromus sp	%	%			%	% %
	Dramus an						40%
	polycarpa					35%	
	Atriplex						
	lentiformis					5%	
	Atriplex						
Α	Encelia california	12%	35%	25%	2%	3%	
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb.)
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canopy

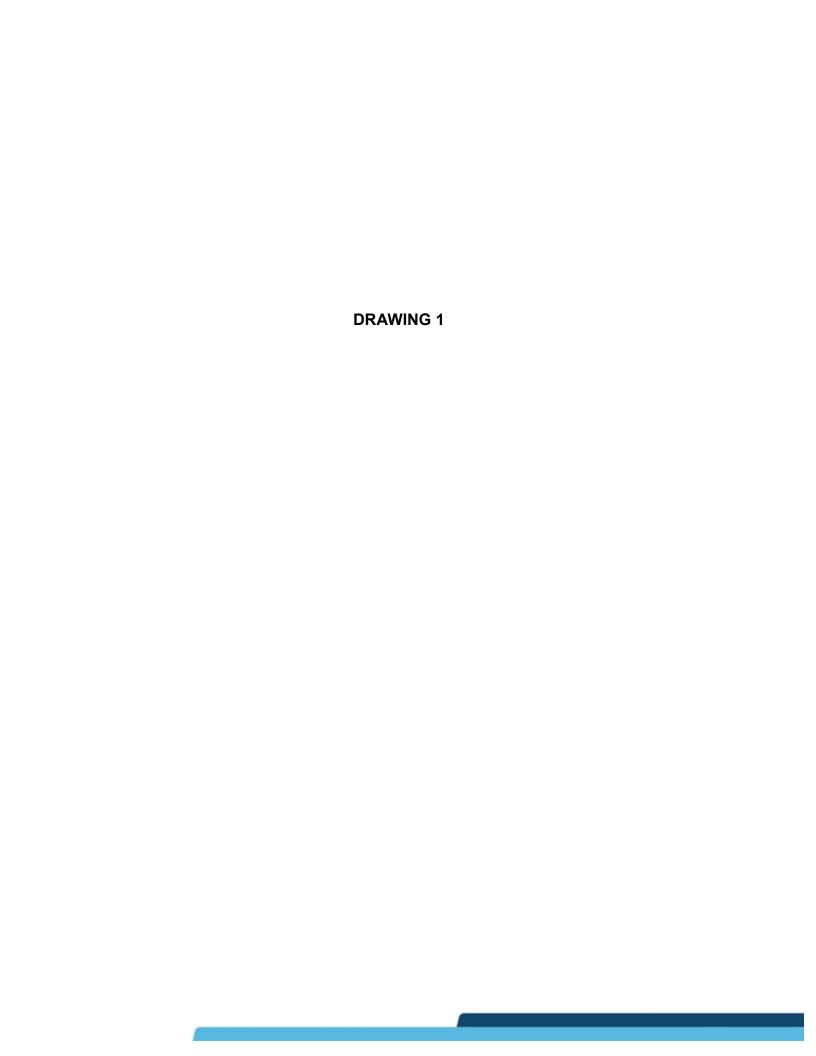
		%	%	1		%	%
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canopy
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb.)
	Atriplex						
E	lentiformis	20%	5%	50%	4%	12%	
	Atriplex						
	polycarpa					10%	
	Encelia california					4%	
	Atriplex spinosa					3%	
	Mustard						8%
	bromus sp.						8%
	·	%	%			%	%
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canopy
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb.)
	Atriplex						
F	lentiformis	18%	25%	55%	5%	12%	
	Atriplex						
	polycarpa					18%	
	Bromus sp.						18%
	Russian thistle						1%
	Purple						
	nightshade						
		%	%	_,		%	%
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canopy
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb.)
G	Atriplex lentiformis	25%	10%	35%	3%	5%	
G	Atriplex	23%	10%	33%	370	3%	
	polycarpa					23%	
	Encelia california					3%	
	Bromus sp.					370	16%
	этоппазэр.	%	%			%	%
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canopy
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb.)
	Atriplex	,	` ,			,	, ,
Н	lentiformis	32%	3%	30%	20%	22%	
	Atriplex						
	polycarpa					15%	
	Encelia california					2%	
	Purple sage					2%	
	Mustard						4%
AVERAGE		24%	11%	43%	8%	32%	17%

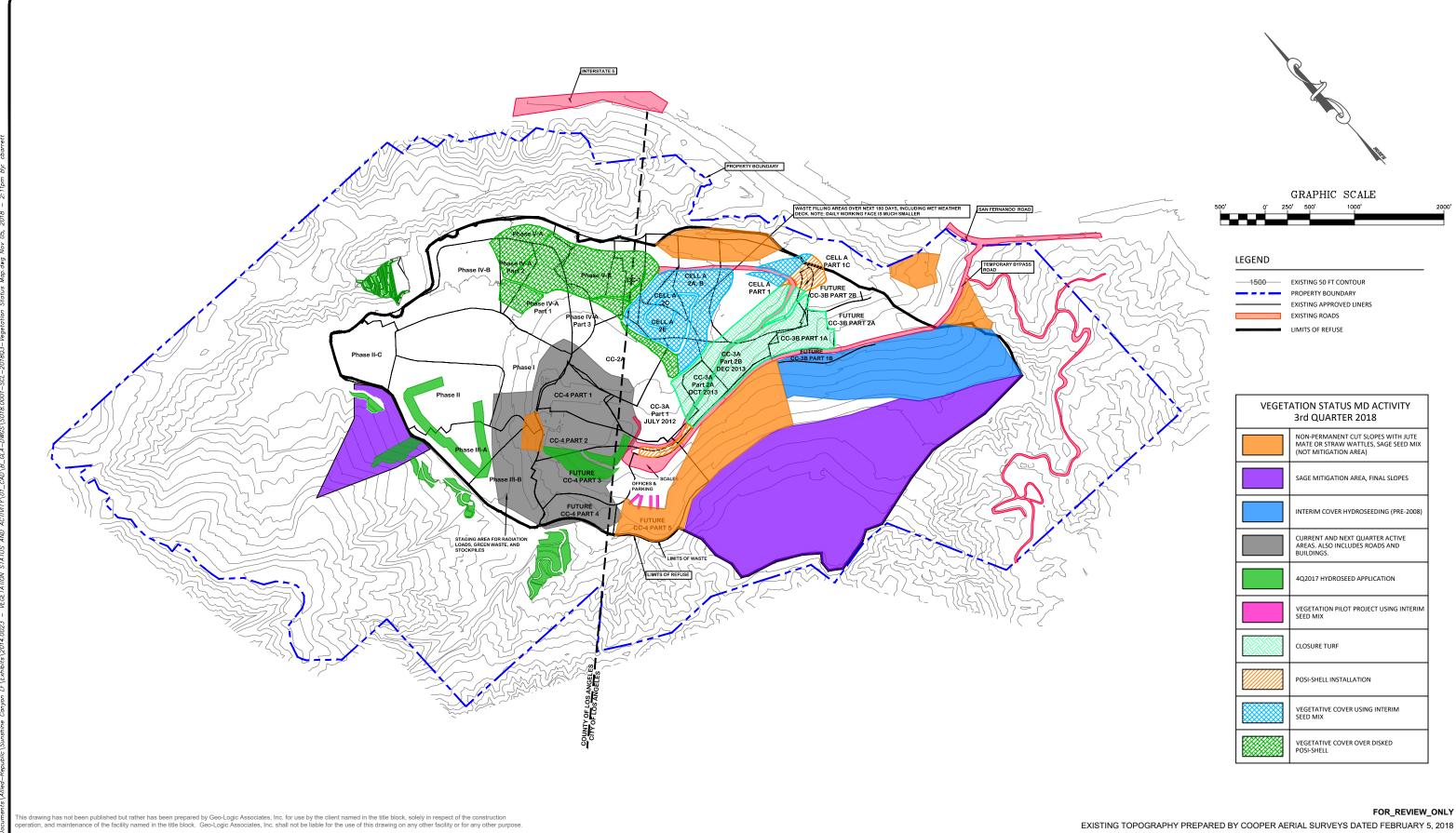
		%	%		l	%	%
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canop
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb
	Atriplex	470/	200/	F0/	20/	4.70/	
l	lentiformis	47%	30%	5%	2%	17%	
	Atriplex					100/	
	polycarpa					10%	
	Encelia california					5%	
	Purple sage					1%	
	Black sage					1%	
	Artemisia					40/	
	california					1%	_
	Bromus sp.						1
	Mustard						
		%	%	l _,		%	%
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	cano
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb
	Atriplex	250/	2=0/		20/	2.01	
J	lentiformis	25%	35%	5%	2%	24%	
	Atriplex					20/	
	polycarpa					2%	
	Atriplex spinosa					1%	
	Encelia california					7%	
	bromus sp.						3
	Mustard						
	Russian thistle						
		%	%			%	%
		basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canor
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb
	Atriplex						
K	polycarpa	10%	25%	27%	3%	17%	
	Artemisia					40/	
	california					1%	
	Atriplex					20/	
	lentiformis					2%	
	Coyote bush					2%	
	Leymus						_
	triticoides						2
	Mustard					_,	
		%	%	0,4	0/ 5 1/	%	%
0	C	basal	basal	%	% Rock/	canopy	canor
Quadrat	Species	(shrub)	(herb.)	Bare	unusable	(shrub)	(herb
L	Atriplex polycarpa	22%	3%	35%	3%	9%	
L	Atriplex	2270	3%	33%	370	970	
	lentiformis					10%	
	Artemisia		1	<del>                                     </del>		10%	
	california					1%	
			1	<del>                                     </del>			
	Encelia california	1		-		5%	
	Deerweed		1	-		1%	
	Mustard						
	bromus sp.	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<b>.</b>			
	Leymus						
	triticoides	1	1	1	1	I	



City South 'C' Trial Plot Planting Plan and Quadrat Layout					







Ď	REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BY	DATE OF ISSUE:	NOV 2018
ŝ	REV1	DATE1	DESCRIPTION	DRAWN1	DATE OF 1000E.	1107_2010
75	REV2	DATE2	DESCRIPTION2	DRAWN2	DESIGNED BY:	C BARRETT
5	REV3	DATE3	DESCRIPTION3	DRAWN3	DRAWN BY:	C BARRETT
2	REV4	DATE4	DESCRIPTION4	DRAWN4	l	
٥	REV5	DATE5	DESCRIPTION5	DRAWN5	CHECKED BY:	C_BARRETT
-	REV6	DATE6	DESCRIPTION6	DRAWN6	APPROVED BY:	C_BARRETT





2777 E. GUASTI RD. ONTARIO, CA 91761 909) 626-2282 www.geo-logic.com

53
REPUBLIC SERVICES

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL SYLMAR, CALIFORNIA

Q3 2018

SITE VEGETATION STATUS AND ACTIVITY

DWG NO.

PROJECT NO. SO18.0001