

January 10, 2019

TO: Members of the Facility & Plan Review Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

FROM: Maria Carlson, Staff

STAFF REPORT
THIRD QUARTER 2018 VEGETATION PROJECT STATUS REPORT
AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the Third Quarter 2018 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill revised submittal, dated November 1, 2018. The Status Report is a requirement of Condition No. 18 of the Finding of Conformance granted to the Landfill by the Task Force on December 18, 2008. The Status Report provides the progress of revegetation projects undertaken during the third quarter of 2018.

City Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area (Pilot Project Area) - Deck C

- Maintenance activities such as removal of invasive plant species and weeding activities were conducted in the third quarter. Most weeds are currently dormant within the lower deck.
- Selective pruning of saltbush was conducted in the third quarter.
- Wildlife observed include the side-blotched lizard during the assessment.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B

- The Deck B mitigation project began on April 9, 2018 and is expected to be done by the end of the fourth quarter.
- Deck B currently consists of a mixture of California Buckwheat, black sage, purple needlegrass, California sagebrush, and chamise.
- Approximately 60% of the deck has been tilled in preparation for planting native seeds, which is anticipated to take place during the fourth quarter. The planting of the seeds will be focused on areas where the native species has not been established yet, due to poor soils.
- Soil samples indicated that the soil has a low pH and high salinity in the area.
- Additional soil amendments and resampling is expected to take place before planting can begin.
- Large boulders have been strategically positioned within the planting area and straw waddles have been installed to control erosion and to save as basins to establish seed.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A

- The upper deck continues to be sparsely covered with native vegetation, due to poor soil conditions. In some areas, the soil is heavily compacted and gravelly, and evidence of previous seeding is no longer discernible in these areas.
- Weeds continue to grow without any level of control within the upper deck. These weeds consist of senesced Russian thistle, wild oats, brome grasses, and mustard. These weeds are especially prevalent where the soil is less compacted.
- Buckwheat is the dominant native plant, most prevalent in the southwestern portion of the upper deck.
- Overall natural recruitment is low, due to the poor soil conditions.

Hydroseeding Trial Project

- A trial hydroseeding project was initiated in April 2017 utilizing the new hydroseed mix approved by the County and City of Los Angeles in February 2017. Currently, 57 acres of the intermediate slope area was completed in December 2017.

- The site is undergoing preparations for hydroseeding of approximately 15 acres, application of the approved seed mix is expected to happen by the end of the fourth quarter.

County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area (Pilot Project Area)

- California buckwheat species is in highest concentration amongst native species where vegetation is present.
- The native plant coverage is assumed to be the direct result of hydroseeding, however some natural recruitment is apparent.
- No revegetation activities took place during the third quarter
- Conditions in the mitigation area have remained unchanged for some time.
- The southern portion of the “county slope” has a greater density of vegetation. The northern portion exhibits minimal vegetative cover due to striations of rocky (hydrophobic) soil conditions, steep slopes, soil erosion, and toxic soils. Soil samples indicate low pH, high salinity, and Boron present in native soils.