

February 14, 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**  
**FOURTH QUARTER 2018 VEGETATION PROJECT STATUS REPORT**  
**AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the Fourth Quarter 2018 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill revised submittal, dated January 31, 2019. The Status Report is a requirement of Condition 18B 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 fourth quarter of 2018.

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

- The saltbush continues to dominate the vegetation cover. Selective thinning of saltbush plants has occurred to encourage more native plant growth.
- Low quantities of weeds sprouting on the Lower Deck.
- Wildlife observed include the side-blotched lizard, cottontail rabbit, and say's phoebe (bird species) during the assessment.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- Before planting began at the end of the fourth quarter, Deck B underwent a leaching schedule, additional soil amendments, and resampling due to the low pH and high salinity in the area.
- Approximately 60% of the deck has been tilled in preparation for planting native seeds, the planting of the seeds will be focused on areas where the native species has not been established yet, due to poor soils.
- 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.
- Weed coverage is low because of the tilling, however there are new sprouts of annual non-native grasses emerging within the vegetated areas.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- The upper deck continues to be sparsely covered with native vegetation, due to poor soil conditions. In the areas north of the central access road, 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 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

- In December 2017, 57 acres the intermediate slope area was established through of the initial hydroseeding trial. Currently this area is in a dormant state. Watering will commence once the rainy season has passed.
- 15 acres were hydroseeded with the approved seed mix at the end of the fourth quarter.

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

- No revegetation activities took place during the fourth 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 consisting of mostly the California buckwheat species. The northern portion of the slope is bare and problematic due to steep slopes, soil erosion, and toxic soils. Soil samples indicate low pH, high salinity, and Boron present in native soils.
- The native plant coverage is assumed to be the direct result of hydroseeding, however some natural recruitment is apparent.