

September 10, 2020

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

FROM: Michael Harmon, Staff

STAFF REPORT
SECOND QUARTER 2020 VEGETATION PROJECT STATUS REPORT
AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the Second Quarter 2020 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill revised submittal, dated July 31, 2020. 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 second quarter of 2020. In October 2019, the landfill vegetation sustained significant impact due to the Saddle Ridge Fire (Wildfire) that impacted Sylmar, CA.

During the second quarter of 2020, a weeding strategy was implemented to remove invasive weeds that had flourished since the Wildfire. The following weed species have been targeted for removal; Russian Thistle, Wild Oat, Shortpod Mustard, Brome Grass, False Barley, Tree Tobabcco, and Yellow Star Thistle.

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

- There has been a quick rebound of the several species including: Saltbrush (*Atriplex sp.*) species, Coast Sunflower (*Encelia californica*), horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*) and pockets of wild ryegrass (*Leymus triticoides*).
- Intense weeding efforts implemented by the landfill has greatly reduced the cover of these noxious non-native annual species previously dominated by non-native brome grasses.
- The species exhibiting rebound include; Purple Sage, Coast Sunflower, White Sage, Creeping Wild Rye, Deerweed, Black Sage, and Mexican Elderberry. There are also species from the original seed mix sprouting in decent numbers and including Scarlet Bugler, Telegraph Weed, Monkey Flower and Smooth-Leaf Yerba Santa.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- A substantial amount of the planted vegetation on the Middle Deck completely burned in the fire; however, a large amount of sage scrub has resprouted, and flowered this past spring.
- There is evidence of desiccation of the seedlings especially the Common Yarrow and other native species that have recently spouted and are beginning to seasonally harden and defoliate.
- The weed cover is generally low-to-moderate and most annual species are currently dormant or have desiccated.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- As observed during previous springtime monitoring events, there is a stand of native California goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) located in the southern-center of the Upper Deck that is notable.
- Vegetation is dominant in this portion of the Upper Deck, which includes non-native species, demonstrating that the soils in this portion of the deck are suitable for supporting native vegetation.

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

- Native vegetation coverage is good in vegetated areas; California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and California sunflower (*Encelia ca.*) are dominant.
- Establishment of vegetation remains problematic due to rocky soils with poor soil structure, and boron toxicity has suppressed recruitment of native species (i.e., seed germination and recruitment).