

November 12, 2020

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

FROM: Sarah Solomon, Staff

## **STAFF REPORT**

### **THIRD QUARTER 2020 VEGETATION PROJECT STATUS REPORT AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the Third Quarter 2020 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill revised submittal, dated November 4, 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 third 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 third 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, Short pod Mustard, Brome Grass, False Barley, Tree Tobacco, and Yellow Star Thistle.

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

- A substantial amount of regrowth has occurred, including the most prevalent natives such as California Sunflower, Saltbush, Horseweed, and pockets of Wild Ryegrass.
- Weeding efforts has greatly reduced the cover of the noxious non-native annual species and there has been an abundance of Ventura CSS species germinating and crown-sprouting. The species following the rebound include Purple Sage, Coast Sunflower, White Sage, Creeping Wild Rye, Deerweed, Black Sage, and Mexican Elderberry.
- There are also new species from the original seed mix sprouting up in decent numbers and are Scarlet Bugler, Telegraph Weed, Monkey Flower and Smooth-Leaf Yerba Santa and now the VCSS is going through dormancy.

#### City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- There is evidence of desiccation of the seedlings especially the Common Yarrow and other native species that have recently spouted and are beginning to harden off and defoliate.
- Plant diversity is noted and many of the species in the seed mix have germinated and the containerized plants also are doing well and are blooming or just finished which are the White Sage, Mexican Elderberry, Menzies's Golden bush, and Prickly Pear.
- Large amount of sage scrub has resprouted and some of which are flowered this past Spring. 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 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 and California sunflower are dominant.
- Establishment of vegetation remains problematic due to low pH, high salinity, rocky soils with poor soil structure, and boron toxicity has suppressed recruitment of native species (i.e., seed germination and recruitment).