

May 13, 2021

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

FROM: Omid Mazdiyasni, Staff ^{OM}

STAFF REPORT

FIRST QUARTER 2021 VEGETATION PROJECT STATUS REPORT AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the First Quarter 2021 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill, dated April 30, 2021. 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 first quarter 2021. In October 2019, the landfill vegetation sustained significant impact due to the Saddle Ridge Fire (Wildfire) that impacted Sylmar, CA.

During the first quarter of 2021, a weeding strategy was implemented to remove invasive weeds. 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. Additionally, vegetation activities included vegetation of interim and permanent slopes and activities conducted for the on-site sage mitigation areas.

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

- Substantial vegetation regrowth has continued to occur, including natives such as Saltbush, Horseweed, California Sunflower, and pockets of Wild Ryegrass.
- New species from the original seed mix are continuing to sprout up and include Scarlet Bugler, Telegraph Weed, Monkey Flower and Smooth-Leaf Yerba Santa and now the VCSS is going through dormancy.
- Weeding efforts has reduced the cover of the noxious non-native annual species; there has been an abundance of Ventura CSS species germinating and crown-sprouting, including Purple Sage, Coast Sunflower, White Sage, Creeping Wild Rye, Deerweed, Black Sage, and Mexican Elderberry.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- Soil samples indicate low pH and high salinity, as a result Deck B underwent a leaching schedule. There is evidence of desiccation of native seedlings species that have spouted and beginning to harden off and defoliate. The weed cover is low-to-moderate and most annual species are currently dormant or have desiccated.
- Much plant diversity is observed, many of the species in the seed mix have germinated, and the containerized plants are blooming which are the White Sage, Mexican Elderberry, Menzies's Golden bush, and Prickly Pear.
- Large amount of sage scrub that flowered this past Spring has re-sprouted.

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 indicating 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 and dominant species include California buckwheat and California sunflower.
- No vegetation activities were conducted in this area during the first quarter of 2021.
- Due to low pH, high salinity, rocky soils with poor soil structure, and boron toxicity the establishment of vegetation remains problematic and has suppressed the seed germination of native species.