

April 21, 2022

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

FROM: Omid Mazdiyasni, Staff

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

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the Fourth Quarter 2021 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill, dated January 31, 2022. 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 2021.

During the third quarter of 2021, the site completed hydroseeding approximately 155 acres for the purposes of normal winterization efforts and slope revegetation efforts as a result of the Saddle Ridge Wildfire that impacted Sylmar in October 2019. Winterization activities were completed during for 2021 during the month of October.

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 California Sunflower, Saltbush, Horsetweed, 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 other Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS). New species from the original seed mix that have not been previously observed are beginning to sprout.
- During their most recent visit, Architerria Design Group indicated that there was an abundance of Venturan CSS species germinating and crown-sprouting since the fire.
- The decks were noted to be very active with wildlife and several bird species were seen using the protective canopy of the existing vegetation.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- It is reported that a large portion of Deck B that had burned during the Wildfire has rebounded back over the last 18 months and has an abundance of new native seedling filling in what was barren dirt. It has demonstrated that it has become self-sustaining and reestablished without the need for supplemental irrigation.
- Deck B is doing well and 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.
- 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 resprouted and some of which has flowered this past Spring following the damage from the fire.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- As observed during previous 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)

- In the southern-center of the revegetation area, vegetation cover is higher than in other areas and includes native species.
- No vegetation activities were conducted in this area. A trial test plot plan is being evaluated at this time.
- 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.

Front Entrance Toe Berm

- The Landfill is developing a landfill termination berm and construction of a roadway which has 20 coast live oak trees within the project footprint.
- There are currently 48 coast live oak trees in the landfill's mitigation bank, and 20 will be removed by the proposed project.
- At a mitigation ratio of 2:1, a total of 40 coast live oak trees will be deducted from the landfill's oak tree mitigation bank, leaving 4 oak trees remaining in the bank for future removals at the landfill, if needed.