

July 13, 2023

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

FROM: Alexander Castro, Staff

STAFF REPORT
FIRST QUARTER 2023 VEGETATION PROJECT STATUS AT
SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the First Quarter 2023 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill (Landfill), dated April 30, 2023. The Status Report is a requirement of Conditional Use Permit Condition 44A, and Los Angeles City condition [Q] C8 of Ordinance Number 172933, and Condition 18B of the Finding of Conformance granted to the Landfill by the Task Force on December 18, 2008.

As discussed at the June 15, 2023, Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee meeting, on May 2, 2023, Staff provided the First Quarter 2023 Vegetation Project Status Report to the County Biologist and requested input regarding the vegetation consultant's recommendations for erosion control at the County Sage Mitigation Deck. The County Biologist agreed with the consultant's recommendations for removal of non-native invasive plant species as identified in the Report. Additionally, the County Biologist noted that *Encelia Farinosa*, while native to California, is not native to the project region. *E. Farinosa* is not recommended for full removal at this time as it provides benefits such as soil protection, however flower heads are recommended for removal to prevent further seeding as they can hybridize with *E. Californica*. The County Biologist recommends *E. Farinosa* to be phased out of future native planting efforts.

On June 8, 2023, Staff transmitted the comments from the County Biologist to Republic and requested Republic to address the comments upon the submission of the 2nd Quarter 2023 Vegetation Report, which is due on July 30, 2023.

From: Alexander Castro
Sent: Thursday, June 8, 2023 12:02 PM
To: Alexander Castro
Subject: SCL Vegetation Report Inquiry

From: Joseph Decruyenaere <jdecruyenaere@planning.lacounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 5:21 PM
To: Alexander Castro <ACastro@dpw.lacounty.gov>
Cc: Thuy Hua <THua@planning.lacounty.gov>; Edgar De La Torre <EDeLaTorre@planning.lacounty.gov>; Alex Garcia <agarcia@planning.lacounty.gov>; Anna Gov <AGOV@dpw.lacounty.gov>; Michael Harmon <mharmon@dpw.lacounty.gov>
Subject: RE: SCL Vegetation Report Inquiry

Hi Alexander,

I just read the reports you provided. I agree with the recommendations provided so those should be follow through with.

I note, however, that *Encelia farinosa* is noted in the report as being “native”. Although it is a California native plant, it is not native to the project region and actually hybridizes with locally native *Encelia californica* and can displace other locally native species, so it shouldn’t be included in any native planting efforts going forward. Ideally, it would be good to remove flower heads from this plant to prevent further seeding (and hybridization with *Encelia californica*). I don’t recommend full removal at this time since it is providing other benefits such as soil protection, but it would be good to figure out a way to phase it out of the project if possible. That being said, the other non-native invasive species that are mentioned explicitly in the recommendations are much more important as targets for removal so I second those recommendations.

Thanks,
Joe

JOSEPH DECRUYENAERE (he/him/his)

SENIOR BIOLOGIST, Environmental Planning and Sustainability