November 13, 2025

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

FROM: Alexander Fitchmun, Staff AF

STAFF REPORT
THIRD QUARTER 2025 VEGETATION PROJECT STATUS REPORT
AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the Third Quarter 2025 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill, received on October 31, 2025. 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. This report presents the progress of the site's landscaping and revegetation activities for the third quarter of 2025.

City Side South Sage Pilot Project Area - Deck C / Lower Deck

- Native shrub and plant species, such as Beardless Wild Rye and California Sunflower, were the most prevalent on the lower deck. These native species continue to outcompete non-native forbs.
- Non-native annual plant species have set seeds and in general, annual plant cover has decreased from the second to third quarter due to water availability and the dry conditions of the summer and early fall.
- Much of the non-native plant cover observed in the third quarter of 2025 include Short-Podded Mustard, Red Brome, and Centaurea Melitensis.
- During the recommended year-round weed control, some scalping activities removed California Bush Sunflower and Creeping Rye Grass, as these species are difficult to distinguish during their dormancy period. However, the native beardless wild rye has shown some recovery from the previous year's weeding activity in Fall 2024. Further education of landscaping maintenance staff will help prevent similar occurrences from happening in the future.

City Side South - Deck B Area / Middle Deck

- Invasive Slenderleaf Iceplant continues to spread slowly across the deck in the exposed areas where no vegetation cover exists. The invasive California Stinkwort was observed to be established and spreading on Deck B and may require the treatment of herbicides and/or cultivation to control.

- Native vegetation on the Middle Deck is either in their fruiting or vegetative state, with abundant woody shrubs such as Brittlebush, Coastal Goldenbush, California Sagebrush, and Deerweed. Species diversity continues to be greater here than on the lower and upper decks.
- Non-native species such as Red Brome, Short-Podded Mustard, and Iceplant are in moderate abundance, were observed in their senesced state, and are expected to decrease as water availability decreases.
- California Pepper Trees and Tamarix species were identified again in the area during the third quarter inspection and have been recommended for removal to prevent possible overturn and cap damage during high wind events.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- Vegetation coverage is higher in the southern center of Deck A, with native California Buckwheat being the most dominant and is currently fruiting. The most dominant non-native herbaceous plant species include Red Brome, Small Flowered Iceplant, and Short Podded Mustard.
- During the third quarter, two areas on the Upper Deck A were regraded to eliminate ponding. Additional efforts are planned to begin after the first significant rainfall, allowing the soil to properly leach.

County Sage Mitigation Areas

- No revegetation activities were conducted at this area for the third quarter.
- Small patches of native vegetation have been observed in the north-central area. The southeastern area continues to show moderate cover of both native and non-native vegetation with the southern half of the mitigation area showing good coverage of native species.
- The most prevalent native species in these areas are California Buckwheat, California Sagebrush, and California Sunflower, which together comprise approximately 75 percent to 80 percent of the cover within the mitigation area. These species were observed in either vegetative or fruiting states.
- Non-native vegetation dominates the understory of the mitigation area, comprising roughly 15 percent to 25 percent of the total cover. It primarily consists of brome grasses, wild oats, and mustards. This cover is expected to decline in the fall due to reduced water availability.

Big Cone Douglas Fir Tree Mitigation and Coastal Live Oak

- Plans to replenish Douglas Fir Tree mitigation bank include:
  - Seeds were collected during the third quarter are currently being potted where they will germinate for at least one year at a nursery.
  - After saplings are viable, they will be transplanted at the mitigation site through Fall 2026.
- The PM10 Coast Live Oak trees continue to thrive and are well established along the south edge on Deck C.

SUNSHINE CANYON Landfill

14747 San Fernando Road
Sylmar, CA 91342

October 31, 2025

Mr. David Nguyen
County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Subject: Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Quarterly Vegetation Report
Third Quarter 2025 Vegetation Report

Mr. Nguyen,

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

- Condition 18B of the Finding of Conformance
- Condition 44A of the Condition Use Permit (CUP)
- Los Angeles City Condition [Q] C.8 of the Ordinance No. 172,933

This report presents the progress of the site's landscaping and revegetation activities for the third quarter of 2025. The intent of these reports is to provide detailed information regarding the site's efforts related to vegetation including vegetation of interim and permanent slopes and activities conducted for the on-site sage mitigation areas.

Architerra Design Group continues to assist site personnel in evaluating current site conditions relating to vegetation and provide recommendations for future efforts. This report includes their assessment of the pilot sage vegetation area as well as recommendations for this area. Architerra's evaluation is in addition to the required quarterly monitoring performed by our consulting biologist.

1.0 Interim Slopes

For the purposes of this report, interim slopes are those defined as slope areas where no activities have taken place for 180 days or longer. CUP Condition 44A requires "a temporary hydroseed vegetation cover on any slope or landfill area that is projected to be inactive for a period of greater than 180 days".

1.1 Hydroseeding Activities

Based on the results of the trial project completed in August 2017, a 57-acre vegetative cover project using the approved seed mix was completed in mid-December 2017. Additionally, the site completed hydroseeding approximately 155 acres; application of the approved seed mix was completed during 2019. The increase in hydroseeding application is a result of our normal winterization efforts along with slope revegetation as a result of the Saddle Ridge Fire that impacted Sylmar, CA on October 2019. These areas continue to have successful vegetation growth.

2.0 Permanent Slopes

Permanent slopes are defined as those where no landfilling activities will be conducted in the future.

As part of our Saddle Ridge Fire recovery efforts both the City and County permanent slopes of the landfill had hydroseed applied as necessary. This application of hydroseed was completed for soil stabilization purposes.

3.0 Non-Permanent Cut Slopes

Prior quarterly vegetation reports have illustrated one area above the front terminal sedimentation basin and one area near the temporary bypass road as “non-permanent cut slopes”. An evaluation of these areas has been conducted and it has been determined that these areas are “permanent slopes” because no landfilling activities will be conducted against these slopes in the future.

4.0 Activities Conducted in Sage Mitigation Areas – 3Q2025

During the third quarter of 2025, the following activities were conducted in the sage mitigation areas at the landfill.

4.1 City South Sage Pilot Project Area – Deck C

The lower Deck C mitigation project area was impacted by the Saddle Ridge fire in October 2019. As noted in Rincon’s (formerly JMA) City-Side Sage Mitigation Area Lower Deck report a substantial amount of the lower deck was burned or scorched. However, in previous reports they note that because this was an established site, they expect natural re-establishment of the native vegetation within the first two to three years. Rincon has noted a substantial amount of regrowth has occurred following the fire and included the most prevalent natives such as California Sunflower, Saltbush, Horseweed, and pockets of Wild Ryegrass. Rincon also noted non-native plant cover has decreased between first and second quarter monitoring.

As reported previously, Architerra Design Group indicates that there has been an abundance of Venturan CSS species germinating and crown-sprouting since the fire. The species following the rebound include Purple Sage, Coast Sunflower,

White Sage, Creeping Wild Rye, Deerweed, Black Sage, and Mexican Elderberry. Surprisingly there are also new species from the original seed mix are now sprouting up in decent numbers and included in the list below:

- Purple Sage (Salvia leucophylla)
- Coast Sunflower (Encelia californica)
- White Sage (Salvia apiana)
- Creeping Wild Rye (Leymus triticoides)
- Deerweed (Lotus scoparius)
- Black Sage (Salvia mellifera)
- Mexican Elderberry (Sambucus mexicana)
- Scarlet Bugler (Penstemon centranthifolia)
- Telegraph Weed (Heterotheca grandiflora)
- Monkey Flower (Mimulus aurantiacus)
- Smooth-Leaf Yerba Santa (Eriodictyon trichocalyx)
- Thickleaf Yerba Santa (Eriodictyon crassifolium)
- Sunflower (Helianthus annuus)
- California Bush Sunflower (Encelia californica)
- California Sagebrush (Artemisia californica)
- California Buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum)
- Quail Bush (Atriplex lentiformis)
- Four-Wing Saltbush (Atriplex canescens)
- Cattle Spinach (Atriplex polycarpa)
- Spinescale (Atriplex spinifera)
- Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia)
- Foothill Needlegrass (Nassella lepida)
- Coyote Bush (Baccharis pilularis)
- Showy Penstemon (Penstemon spectabilis)
- Wright's Cudweed (Pseudognaphalium microcephalum)
- White Horehound (Marrubium vulgare) Non-Native
- Australian Saltbush (Atriplex semibaccata) Non-Native

As reported from Architerra, the abundance of historic level rains last two winters and the summer 2023 storm Hillary has assisted in the emergence of many of the Venturan CSS Species. Between Q2 and Q3 of 2025 the dry conditions of the summer have caused both these Venturan CCS Species along with the non-native species to decrease in abundance. These dry conditions have caused most of these species to go dormant and lose their foliage. Currently, species such as Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub, California Bush Sunflower (Encelia californica) have began to see some minimal vegetative growth. In addition, a few areas have begun to see non-native plants begin to resestablish such as Shortpod Mustard (Hirschfeldia incana) and Russian Thistle (Salsola ssp.).

It was recommended a year-round weed control program be implemented beginning in the late winter to early spring (February-April) so that non-native plants don't set seed, using both chemical and mechanical control practices. Some weed abatement did take place during Q3 of 2025. Unfortunately, during these scalping

efforts some California Bush Sunflower along with Creeping Rye Grass were scalped. This was likely due to these shrubs being mistaken as dead since they are in their dormancy period. Efforts are being made to educate landscape maintenance crews to properly identify and differentiate between these plants in their dormancy from dead non-native plants that need to be removed. It was also recommended that the frequency of these weed abatements should increase during the winter and spring months to reduce non-native plant abundance.

4.2 City South Deck B

The Deck B sage mitigation project began on April 9, 2018 and planting was completed by the end of the fourth quarter 2018. Soil samples indicated low pH and high salinity, as a result Deck B underwent a leaching schedule. Additional soil amendments and resampling were completed before planting began, which took place during the fourth quarter 2018. Pacific Restoration Group, Inc (PRG) has been working with Architerra for the completion of project. A summary of the progress is included in Attachment 3. The northwest portion of the Middle Deck burned during the Saddle Ridge Fire in October 2019. Architerra Design Group (ADG) indicated previously Deck B was doing quite well and there was minimal weed growth occurring with the exception of Shortpod Mustard and Slenderleaf Iceplant. These species have been observed to be in their vegetative state. Non-native plants are expected to increase in the late spring to early summer months of 2025 due to the recent seasonal rainfall.

During Ricon's observation of Deck B, dominate native cover included brittlebush (E*ncelia farinosa)*, coast prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*), big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), California buckwheat *(Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), white sage (Salvia apiana), coyote brush (Baccharis pilularis), and herbaceous species such as beardless wild rye.

Revegetation efforts have been successful in the establishment of the Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub habitat and evidence of species and age diversity and resprouting of larger species. Architera also noted Deck B site is similar to those found on Deck C in the growth of the VCSS. The VCSS continues to grow and close off the canopy in several areas. Deck B is also dominated by California Buckwheat (*Eriogonum faciculatum*). However, the downslopes are primarily covered with little to no native species and should be addressed to remove the invasive weeds as soon as possible. It was also noted the native Creeeping Rye Grass was also scalped in this area. Maintenance crews have been educated to distinguish natives versus non-native species. Invasive Slenderleaf Iceplant (*Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*) has been growing in the revegetation area and has gradually spread northward where no vegetation cover exists. Maintenance of the ice plant has been minimal and continues to spread. The northern part of Deck B has been completely filled in and is well established with shading to prevent weed growth.

Overall, there is a good species diversity on this deck and planting is responding well with vigorous growth. It was also noted several California Pepper Trees (*Schinus molle*) and Saltcedar (*Tamarisk sp.*) should be removed.

4.3 City South Deck A

In December 2022, Conversations with Architerra were started to discuss a plan to address the potential mitigation plans for Deck A. An onsite meeting occurred during May 2023 for an initial assessment of Deck A and determine what will need to be done. We anticipate a tentative schedule to be established in the coming months.

Prior to any mitigation efforts, soil was placed in a large area affected by subsidence and graded for proper drainage. This occurred in June and July 2023 and in quarter three 2025, mitigation plans will commence to address the area. Low lying areas were identified and filled in with soil during Q3 of 2025.

The Deck A sage mitigation restarted during Q3 of 2025. These mitigation efforts commenced with grading work to the deck. This grading activity was completed in order to fill a couple of low spots resulting from subsidence which led to ponding during the past winter. The recently graded area will be part of the initial revegetation plot and is expected to start after the first heavy rains to allow the soil to properly leach. This is anticipated to begin during the first quarter of 2026.

4.4 County Sage Mitigation Area

The County sage mitigation area is located on the western side of the County portion of Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Drawing 1). As noted in the first quarter Rincon County-Side Sage Mitigation Area Report the upper half of the mitigation site was burned in the Saddle Ridge fire in October of 2019. No revegetation activities were conducted in this area during the third quarter of 2025, and as noted in multiple Rincon progress reports, the conditions in this mitigation area have remained unchanged for some time. Rincon notes in their attached 2025 third quarter vegetation report that this area remains problematic for establishment of vegetation due to barren soils. However, the southeastern portion of the plot is moderately covered with native and non-native vegetation, and some small patches of vegetation have begun to establish a presence in the northern-central area. Soil samples from this location indicate low pH, high salinity, and Boron present in native soils.

5.0 Assessments of Sage Mitigation Areas

Assessments of the site's sage mitigation areas are conducted by a qualified biologist on a quarterly basis. The following sections present a summary of the recommendations for the sage mitigation areas from Rincon (City and County sage mitigation areas) and

Architerra (City South Sage Pilot Project Area (Deck C) and Middle Deck (Deck B) and the proposed actions in response to the recommendations.

5.1 Rincon Recommendations for City Sage Mitigation Areas

Rincon's progress reports for the City Sage Mitigation Areas for the third quarter of 2025 are provided in Attachment 1. These reports include recommendations based on the assessments. Table 1 presents a summary of these recommendations and the proposed actions.

- The booster pump and power that was destroyed in the Saddleridge Fire will need to be replaced for irrigation to deck A. Architerra' s initial recommendation is to get a team on site to walk the deck and determine best strategy moving forwards to tackle the approximately 25 acres. This has been delayed to late 2026.

Table 1 – Rincon Recommendations and Proposed Actions – City Sage Mitigation Areas, Third Quarter 2025

AREA	RECOMMENDATION		PROPOSED ACTION
Lower, Middle, and Upper Decks (Decks C, B, and A)	1	Weed Control – Implement a year-round weed control program to control non-native species.	A weed control program is already in place on Deck C and B as part of the pilot project and will continue. A weed control program on A will be implemented along with the mitigation plans for these areas.
Lower, Middle Decks (Decks C, B)	2	Irrigation – Reinstall irrigation system if drought conditions continue to the areas to alleviate stress on regrowth	Even with above average rainfall this winter, supplemental irrigation systems may be reinstalled to promote germination and growth of native plants is signs of desiccation appear. We will continue to evaluate and proceed as warranted.
Lower, Middle, and Upper Decks (Decks C, B, and A)	3	Prohibit Access – Continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation areas.	Repairs to the T-post fencing will be made as needed.
Upper Deck (Deck A)	3	Improve root zone and soil conditions	This will be addressed when the plans for Deck A is developed. Actions were taken to address improving the root zone in Decks B & C; it is expected that similar actions will be incorporated into the plans for Deck A.
Upper Deck (Deck A)	4	Plant natives in areas dominated with non-natives	This will be addressed when the plans for Deck A are developed. Various planting methods were used for the construction of the pilot project on Decks B & C; it is

			expected that similar actions will be incorporated into the plans for Deck A.
Upper Deck (Deck A)	5	Reseeding – apply native seeds during the rainy season after soil mounds have been established	Deck A was partially regraded to fill in ponding locations. Reseeding will continue into Q1 2026.

Rincon also recommended that a monitoring biologist should be present during weed control activities or the native plants should be flagged to ensure only non-native species are removed. A monitoring biologist will be consulted prior to any weed control activities to ensure native plants are protected.

Architerra and Rincon continue to provide support to the Oakridge maintenance personnel to assist in removal of the invasive weeds on both Deck B and C. Architerra has pointed out some of the more aggressive weeds that have flourished since the Saddle Ridge Fire. Architerra provided them with images of the invasive weeds to help identify and target these invasive species. Oakridge Landscape have been diligently removing Russian Thistle, Wild Oat, Shortpod Mustard, Red Brome Grass, False Barley, Tree Tobacco, and Yellow Star Thistle that took hold in the burned barren areas.

5.2 Rincon Recommendations for County Sage Mitigation Area

Table 2 presents a summary of the recommendations proposed by Rincon based on the assessment of the County Sage Mitigation Area and the proposed actions. Please refer to the full recommendations in the Rincon reports in Attachment 2.

Table 2 – Rincon Recommendations and Proposed Actions – County Sage Mitigation Area, Third Quarter 2025

AREA	RECOMMENDATION		PROPOSED ACTION
County Sage Mitigation Area	1	Create benches to control soil erosion and improve soil conditions to improve plant establishment and seed dispersal	Rincon and ADG continue to evaluate recommendations from the County Task Force and UltraSystems.

County Sage Mitigation Area	2	Reseed and plant container plants	A trail test pilot plan will be discussed with California Native shrubs.
County Sage Mitigation Area	3	Use soil amendments	A trial test plot would need to be developed. This recommendation will be considered at a later date.
County Sage Mitigation Area	5	Signage – Install signage indicating revegetation efforts.	Due to the slopes, stormwater channel and overall difficulty to access this area, personnel are limited to access this area.
County Sage Mitigation Area	6	Weed Control – Continue weeding as needed on a quarterly basis.	Personnel continues to evaluate the current status.
County Sage Mitigation Area	7	Prohibit Access – continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation deck.	Upper entrance has a locked gate, no further action is required.

5.3 Architerra Inspection for City South Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area – Third Quarter 2025

The inspection report is included in Attachment 3 along with photos of the area taken at the photo stations.

5.4 Quarterly Assessment of City South Sage Pilot Project Area

The methodology for assessment of the City South Sage Pilot Project Area developed by Rincon (formerly JMA) was included in the first quarter 2015 Vegetation Report. The evaluation report for the third quarter of 2025 based on this methodology is included in Attachment 4 and Attachment 5 for Deck C and Deck B, respectively. Concerns for the county-side stability for soil erosion have been addressed with the filling in of low-lying areas throughout the decks with soil. The recent rain events have shown that the filling and grading of these areas was successful in minimizing erosion and ponding.

6.0 Status of Other Vegetated Areas

Big Cone Douglas Fir Tree Mitigation

As reported in the vegetation report for the first quarter of 2015, 200 Big Cone Douglas fir tree saplings were planted the third week of March 2015. These big cone Douglas fir pine trees continue to be monitored and maintenance activities were conducted in this mitigation area for 2022 and into the future.

A meeting with Rincon biologist was conducted on November 18, 2022 at the Big Cone Mitigation area. We will begin to work with local nurseries to help replace and replant some

of the existing dead big cone pine and canyon oak. We are also evaluating a new location for planting more big cone pines and canyon oak in this area, and finally to establish healthy big cone pine and canyon oak in a timely established schedule. Plans to replenish the mitigation bank will continue from seed collection in quarter two 2025 and quarter three 2025. Seeds have been collected throughout the third quarter of 2025 and are in the process of being potted and prepared for germination. Once saplings are viable, they will be brought to site to be planted in the mitigation area on site. This planting is anticipated the fall of 2026.

PM10 Berm

Republic Services hosted an Adopt-A-Tree event for employees and their family members. On Saturday, November 14th, 2020, at 2:00 pm, Fourteen (14) Coast Live Oak trees were planted in critical areas of the PM10 Berm that was damaged during the Saddleridge Fire. Architerra and JMA (i.e. Rincon) assisted in the planting efforts with their expertise and knowledge of tree growth and ideal planting locations.

Front Entrance Toe Berm

The proposed project involves the development of a landfill termination berm and construction of a roadway. There were 20 coast live oak trees surveyed within the project footprint by Rincon and project leads. One of the oak trees was dead, and all of them would be removed by the project activities. There are currently 48 coast live oak trees in

the landfill's mitigation bank. As noted, the 20 coast live oak trees would be removed by the proposed project, therefore 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. A report detailing the survey is located in Attachment 6.

Donation to Local Community

As part of community outreach, a rancher in the area asked if he could plant some oaks trees on his ranch nearby, and Sunshine Canyon agreed it would be a great idea. Thereafter on September 9th 2021, twenty-two (22) coast live oaks and two sycamores were donated from the Sunshine Canyon nursery and given to the rancher. The rancher mentioned the oak trees shall provide shade for his livestock and beautify the surrounding private property and was very pleased with the trees.

In April 2025, the site gave away 33 Live Oak and Coastal Scrub Oaks to the City of Los Angeles to be planted at local parks.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (818) 923-4816 if you have any questions.

Regards,

Andrew Asaro

Andrew Asaro
Environmental Specialist
Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Cc: Ms. Dorcas Dee Hanson-Lugo, SCL LEA
Mr. David Thompson, SCL LEA
Ms. Tiffany Butler, City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
Ms. Devon Zatorski, City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning
Ms. Ly Lam, City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
Mr. Nicholas Hendricks, City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
Enrique Casas, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Ms. Maria Masis, County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning
Mr. Wayde Hunter, SCL CAC
Mr. Jim Aidukus, UltraSystems
County DPW Landfill Unit

Attachments

Attachment 1	Rincon Progress Report, 3Q2025 City-Side Sage Mitigation Area
Attachment 2	Rincon Progress Report, 3Q2025 County-Side Sage Mitigation Area
Attachment 3	Architerra Design Group, Field Observation Report, South City Sage Mitigation Pilot Project – 3Q2025 with Photo Log
Attachment 4	Rincon Quarterly Monitoring Report - Coastal Sage Scrub Deck C Pilot Study, 3Q2025
Attachment 5	Rincon Quarterly Monitoring Report - Coastal Sage Scrub Deck B Pilot Study, 3Q2025
Attachment 6	Rincon Sunshine Canyon Landfill Ultimate Entry Improvement Project, Oak Tree Survey Report

Drawing

Drawing 1	Site Vegetation Status and Activity

ATTACHMENT 1

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003
805-644-4455

September 29, 2025
Project No: 21-11086

Andrew Asaro
Environmental Specialist
Republic Services
14747 San Fernando Road
Sylmar, California 91342
Via email: AAsaro@republicservices.com

Subject: Qualitative Monitoring Report for the City-Side Sage Mitigation Area – 3rd Quarter 2025 Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Sylmar, California

Dear Mr. Asaro,

On September 18, 2025, Rincon Consultants performed the third quarter qualitative monitoring of 2025 for the Republic Services City-Side Sage Mitigation Area. This report qualitatively documents the current conditions of the City-Side Sage Mitigation Area with regards to the Landfill's coastal sage scrub restoration efforts. The City-Side Sage Mitigation Area consists of the Lower Deck, Middle Deck, and Upper Deck (including slope between middle and upper decks), which are discussed in detail below.

General Conditions

Lower Deck

In 2014, the Landfill initiated a pilot study at the Lower Deck (Deck C) to assess three different seeding applications of native species that included hand broadcasting, imprinting, and hydroseeding. Some container plants were also planted at the Lower Deck, but in low quantities. Germination, establishment, and natural recruitment of native plants ensued; however, the Lower Deck and surrounding area burned during the Saddleridge Fire in October 2019. The fire burned a substantial amount of the Lower Deck, scorching some of the vegetation entirely and partially burning some of the vegetation. The fire also burned the irrigation system, and the vegetation has been without supplemental water ever since.

A substantial amount of regrowth has occurred following the fire, including germination from the seed bank in the soil and resprouting of below- and above-ground plant parts. The Lower Deck appears to have fully recovered from the fire. The most prevalent native plant species observed within the Lower Deck in the third quarter of 2025 were California sunflower (*Encelia californica*), big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), allscale saltbush (*Atriplex polycarpa*), and beardless wild rye (*Elymus triticoides*). Immediately following the Saddleridge Fire, areas that were previously dominated with saltbush species were largely replaced by mats of non-native grasses such as red brome (*Bromus rubens*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*), and non-native forbs such as redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*). Native shrub species have resprouted and are fully re-established, and have shown signs of continuous growth since the fire. Seedlings of native shrub species have germinated from native seed in the seed bank, indicating that a sustainable shrubland vegetation community has established in the Lower Deck. Due to this increased shrub establishment, non-native forbs have decreased in cover as they have been outcompeted.

Between the second and third quarter of 2025, non-native annual plant species have decreased in abundance as a result of annual senescence and decreased water availability during the dry, summer season. Beardless wild rye, a native grass species, has shown a small amount of recovery from previous weeding activities (i.e., weed whipping) performed by landfill staff in fall 2024. This species is intermixed with non-native forbs and grasses and is easy to misidentify as a non-native grass species. Exotic annual plant species have set seed by the third quarter of 2025. Non-native plant species cover is anticipated to continue slightly decreasing as fall 2025 begins and before seasonal rains begin, as a result of natural seasonal progression. The majority of non-native vegetation observed at the Lower Deck in the third quarter of 2025 consisted of non-native annual grasses, short podded mustard mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), red brome, and tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*).

Middle Deck

In 2019, the Landfill initiated a pilot study at the Middle Deck (Deck B) to assess germination and establishment rates (e.g., percent cover) of soil imprinting and broadcast seeding methods. Some container plants were also planted at the Middle Deck, but in low quantities. Germination and establishment of native plants ensued; however, there was not much evidence of natural recruitment due to the short timeframe from when the deck was seeded to when it burned during the Saddleridge Fire, which also decimated the irrigation system.

Native vegetation observed at the Middle Deck during the third quarter of 2025 consists of woody species such as brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), California sunflower (*Encelia californica*), big saltbush, California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and herbaceous species such as beardless wild rye. Native shrub species diversity in the Middle Deck is generally greater than that observed in the Lower and Upper Decks. Of all the observed native species, brittlebush, big saltbush, California sagebrush, and California buckwheat are in the greatest abundance. The native shrub species were primarily fruiting or in their vegetative state.

Non-native plants are in moderate abundance throughout the Middle Deck. Dominant not-native plants observed include exotic grasses such as red brome, and forbs such as short podded mustard, tocalote, and small flowered iceplant (*Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*). These species were observed in their senesced state during the third quarter of 2025. Non-native weed cover is moderate. Small flowered iceplant has decreased in cover between 2024 and 2025. Non-native plants are anticipated to decrease in the early fall months of 2025 as a result of reduced water availability.

Upper Deck

Overall, the Upper Deck (Deck A) continues to be sparsely covered with native vegetation due to compacted and poor soil conditions. However, in the southern-center of the Upper Deck, vegetation cover is higher than in other areas and includes native species such as California buckwheat, as well as non-native species such as red brome and short podded mustard. The presence of vegetation in the southern-center portion of the Upper Deck generally demonstrates that the soils in this area are suitable for supporting vegetation, both native and exotic. However, the soils elsewhere on the Upper Deck appear to be heavily compacted and gravelly, and vegetation coverage in these areas is sparse. Evidence of previous seeding is no longer discernible within the portions of the Upper Deck where plant establishment is visibly poor.

Non-native herbaceous species that dominate the southern-central portion of the Upper Deck currently include small flowered iceplant, red brome, short podded mustard, and tocalote. California buckwheat is the most dominant native perennial woody plant species on the Upper Deck, and is currently fruiting.

However, as described in previous monitoring reports, overall natural recruitment of native plant species within the Upper Deck is low due to poor and dry soil conditions.

Table 1 Summary of Observations in the Lower, Middle, and Upper Decks in Quarter 3, 2025

	Native Plant Vegetation				Exotic Plant Vegetation	
Location	Native Plant Cover	Plant Health Issues	Height of Native Species	Native Species Richness	Exotic Plant Cover	Phenological State
Lower Deck	Moderate-High	Competition from non-native forb species	12-72 inches	Shrubs: Moderate Herbs: Low	Low	Senesced
Middle Deck	Moderate	Competition from non-native forb species	12-72 inches	Shrubs: Moderate Herbs: Low	Low	Senesced
Upper Deck	Low	Poor soils	12-36 inches	Shrubs: Low Herbs: Low	Low	Senesced

Recommendations

Lower and Middle Decks

Weed Control

- Implement a year-round weed control program to control non-native species. The weed control program should incorporate both chemical and mechanical control practices and should be initiated in the late winter to early spring prior to seed set, which typically occurs between the months of February and April. This will prevent further dispersal of exotic plants.
- Following weed control, any dead material harboring seeds should be removed to an off-site location to the extent feasible. Dense areas covered with red brome, ripgut brome, foxtail barley, and short podded mustard should be controlled by removing flowers and immature seeds heads before they drop. These areas should be reseeded with native herbaceous species that are known to grow well in the Lower and Middle decks, such as beardless wild rye and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*).
- A qualified biologist should be present during weed control activities or flag the native plants that should remain prior to weed control activities to ensure only non-native species are removed and to minimize damage to native plant species to the greatest extent feasible. If a contractor is responsible for weed control, the contractor should verify with the Landfill that all personnel are experienced in native and non-native plant identification.
- Weeding is best performed just before, or at the onset of flowering, but before seed set. If seeds are already present, additional care should be taken to remove the plants with the seeds attached, or the seeds should be removed from the plants prior to the plant removal. A consistent weed abatement schedule will reduce the potential for non-natives to set seed. Soil disturbance should be limited by hand weeding, wherever possible, and weeds should be disposed of off-site to avoid any reinfestation through reseeding or from plant propagules. If hand weeding is not possible, the monitoring biologist should be consulted regarding the appropriate method of weed removal. For example, using mechanical equipment to remove flowers and immature seed heads may be

appropriate where dense mats of non-native grasses have established. If there continues to be high incidence of weed infestation, weed control may need to be increased to every four to six weeks. Otherwise, weeds should continue to be monitored and controlled on a quarterly basis.

Irrigation

- The irrigation systems in the Lower and Middle decks were burned during the Saddleridge Fire in October 2019. The vegetation has been without supplemental water ever since. While southern California received above-average rainfall in the winter of 2023 and spring of 2024, it received below average rainfall in the winter of 2024 and spring of 2025. Supplemental irrigation may be necessary if native plants show signs of desiccation stress. If indicators of drought stress are observed, it is recommended that the irrigation system within the Lower and Middle decks are re-installed to promote germination and growth of native plant species.

Prohibit Access

- Continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation areas.

Upper Deck

Improve Root Zone and Soil Conditions

- Continue to investigate ways to improve the soil layer to increase the root penetration and saturation zone to enable plant growth in heavily compacted areas. Consider applying soil in random undulations or uneven mounds to improve soil porosity and filtration and to control soluble salts from leaching from existing layer.
- Prior to seeding (broadcast, hydroseeding, or imprinting) of native species, incorporate a soil amendment or mulch with high organic content by tilling it into the top 12 inches of the existing compacted soils to improve soil texture, drainage, porosity, and aerobic conditions. If an organic mulch or soil amendment is not feasible or available, incorporate available soil from borrow sites within the landfill that have the appropriate soil properties, so long as these borrowed soils have been determined to not have toxic conditions, such as boron or high salinity, and lack a non-native seed bank.

Plant Natives in Areas Dominated with Non-Natives

- The vegetated areas on the Upper Deck that are currently dominated with non-native annual species have decent soil-texture conditions. These areas are less compacted than adjacent areas that are gravelly and mostly devoid of vegetation. In general, the soil texture within the vegetated areas with non-native vegetation is friable down to approximately 8-12 inches in depth. Various planting methods (i.e., planting container plants and hydroseeding) may be used to re-establish native plants on the Upper Deck where non-natives currently dominate.

Reseeding

- Following the application of soil mounds as previously described, apply native seed (by means of broadcast seeding, hydroseeding or drilling) during the rainy season, between December and March, or prior to a forecasted rain event.

Weed Control

- Implement a year-round weed control program to control non-native species. The weed control program should incorporate both chemical and mechanical control practices. Following weed control, any dead material harboring seeds should be removed to an off-site location to the extent feasible.
- A qualified biologist should be present during weed control activities or flag the native plants that should remain prior to weed control activities to ensure only non-native species are removed and to minimize damage to native plant species to the greatest extent feasible. A biologist should verify that the weed removal methodology does not encourage re-colonizing of non-native plant species.
- Weeding is best performed just before, or at the onset of flowering, but before seed set. If seeds are already present, additional care should be taken to remove the plants with the seeds attached, or the seeds should be removed from the plants prior to the plant removal. A consistent weed abatement schedule will reduce the potential for non-natives to set seed. Soil disturbance should be limited by hand weeding, wherever possible, and weeds should be disposed of off-site to avoid any reinfestation through reseeding or from plant propagules. If hand weeding is not possible, the monitoring biologist should be consulted regarding the appropriate method of weed removal. For example, using mechanical equipment to remove flowers and immature seed heads may be appropriate where dense mats of non-native grasses have established. If there continues to be high incidence of weed infestation, weed control frequency may need to be increased. Otherwise, weeds should continue to be monitored and controlled on a quarterly basis.

Prohibit Access

- Continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this important project. Please contact Kyle Gern if you have questions concerning the contents of this report. He may be reached by telephone at 805-844-1492, or by email at kgern@rinconconsultants.com.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Kyle Gern
Biologist

Attachments

Attachment 1 Figure 1 Photograph Locations
Attachment 2 Site Photographs

Attachment 1

Figure 1 Photograph Locations

Figure 1 Photograph Locations

Imagery provided by Microsoft Bing and its licensors © 2023.
Photo Locations have been georeferenced and are approximate locations.

21-11086 BIO
Fig 2 City Sage - Photo Locations

Attachment 2

Site Photographs

Photograph 1. Facing west at Lower Deck. View of eastern limits dominated by *Atriplex* spp. and California sunflower (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 2. Lower Deck from western boundary (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 3. Facing east at the Middle Deck from western boundary (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 4. Facing west at the easterly-facing slope located between the Middle and Upper decks. The vegetation on the slopes between the Middle and Upper deck is dominated by California buckwheat (currently fruiting) and non-native annual grasses (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 5. Facing northeast at the Upper Deck. This area is compacted and gravelly and continues to be problematic for supporting vegetation. Non-native annual grasses and forbs, and California buckwheat shrubs are evident in the background (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 6. Facing southwest at the Upper Deck. This area is primarily dominated by California buckwheat, wild oats, brome grasses, and short podded mustard (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 7. Facing southeast at the western portion of the Upper Deck. This area is dominated by short podded mustard, Australian saltbush, and California buckwheat (June 23, 2025).

ATTACHMENT 2

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003
805-644-4455

September 29, 2025
Project No: 21-11086

Andrew Asaro
Environmental Specialist
Republic Services
14747 San Fernando Road
Sylmar, California 91342
Via email: AAsaro@republicservices.com

Subject: Qualitative Monitoring Report for the County-Side Sage Mitigation Area – 3rd Quarter 2025 Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Sylmar, California

Dear Mr. Asaro,

On September 18, 2025, Rincon Consultants conducted the third quarter qualitative monitoring of 2025 for the County-Side Sage Mitigation Area (mitigation area). This report documents the current conditions of the mitigation area.

General Conditions

Hydroseeded Areas

Germination and plant growth from hydroseeding that occurred several years ago is not discernible in some portions of the mitigation area. Conditions in the mitigation area have remained relatively unchanged since the first quarter of 2025. Areas that are moderately covered with native and non-native vegetation are concentrated in the southeastern portion of the mitigation area. The northern and upper portions of the mitigation area continue to be bare and problematic for establishment of vegetation, primarily because of highly eroded soils, steep slopes, and boron-toxic soils (see *Recommendations* section). However, there are some small patches of vegetation that have established in the northern-central portion of the mitigation area and include shrubs such as California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*).

Native plant coverage is similar to the previous quarterly monitoring reports. The southern half of the mitigation area has relatively good coverage of native species, mostly California buckwheat and California sunflower (*Encelia californica*), which were either in their vegetative state or fruiting during the third quarter of 2025. Established laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) individuals are present as well. The native vegetation coverage is assumed to be a direct result of seeding; however, some natural recruitment of native plant species is apparent based on the various sizes of shrubs and the presence of shrub seedings in the understory. Due to rocky (hydrophobic) soil conditions, soil erosion and boron-toxic soils on the northern-half and upper portions of the mitigation area, minimal plant growth is present. Due to the lack of plant establishment in these areas, erosional features have become prominent, especially following above-average rainfall events in 2023 and 2024.

Annual non-native grasses and forbs currently dominate the understory and serve as ground cover in most of the vegetated areas. Brome grasses (*Bromus* spp.), wild oats (*Avena fatua*), short podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*) are the most dominant non-native species present and comprise approximately 15 to 25 percent of the total cover. Annual non-native cover is anticipated to continue to decrease in the fall season as a result of decreased water availability. California buckwheat dominates the native vegetation coverage

with California sagebrush and California sunflower present as co-dominants. Native species comprise approximately 75 to 80 percent of the native vegetation cover in areas where vegetation is present. Other less dominant native species observed include golden bush (*Ericameria linearifolia*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), deerweed, and laurel sumac.

Seed Mix Areas

Like the hydroseeded areas, germination and plant growth from the seed mix areas that occurred several years ago is not discernible. As described in previous monitoring reports, a substantial portion of the mitigation area continues to be bare and problematic, which has inhibited the establishment and growth of vegetation. However, in areas where vegetation is present, there is a moderate coverage of native species (e.g., California buckwheat and California sunflower).

As described in the *Hydroseeded Areas* discussion above, a moderate cover of native plants exists within vegetated areas in the southeastern portion of the mitigation area, and annual non-native grasses and forbs currently dominate the understory.

Native Plant Conditions

The plant cover rating indicated below in Table 1 applies where vegetation is dominant in the southeastern portion of the mitigation area. Vegetation cover is moderate in the southeastern portion of the mitigation area and sparse along the upper slopes where rocky and eroded soil conditions occur, and in the northern portion of the mitigation area due to problematic soil conditions. As a result, most of the northern and upper portions of the mitigation area continue to have minimal coverage. Native vegetation coverage is good in vegetated areas and non-native plant cover is relatively low. Bare areas and non-native annual grasses are intermixed; however, as noted the northern and upper areas continue to be mostly bare where erosion and rocks are apparent.

California buckwheat is dominant and California sunflower is sub-dominant. Establishment of vegetation is problematic due to rocky soils with poor soil structure, and boron toxicity has made plant growth (i.e., seed germination and recruitment) difficult. The species richness is low to medium within vegetated areas; however, species richness is considerably low when considering the entire mitigation area.

Exotic Plant Conditions

Annual non-native weed species consist primarily of brome grasses, wild oats, and mustards, which were primarily senesced during the third quarter of 2025, but were opportunistically present in small amounts, which aligns with their natural growth. Russian thistle, a late-season plant species, is currently flowering. Non-native plant cover is anticipated to decrease in the fall months of 2025 as a result of decreased water availability.

Table 1 Summary of Native and Exotic Plant Cover in the County-Side Sage Mitigation Area in Quarter 3, 2025

	Native Plant Vegetation				Exotic Plant Vegetation	
Location	**Native Plant Cover**	**Plant Health Issues**	**Height of Native Species**	**Native Species Richness**	**Exotic Plant Cover**	**Phenological State**
County-Side Sage Mitigation Area	Moderate	Poor soils, erosion	12-60 inches	Medium	Moderate	Senesced

Recommendations

The following recommendations within the mitigation area are suggested based upon the field survey performed in the third quarter of 2025.

- **Create Benches.** Consider creation of several benches throughout the mitigation area to control soil erosion and to improve soil conditions to improve plant establishment and seed dispersal. This technique has been widely used on steep slopes and in areas where soil erosion is problematic. This technique also allows for opportunities to introduce a high-quality soil layer above the poor soils that exist.
- **Reseed and Plant Container Plants with Irrigation**. If creation of benches is feasible, planting methods should include hydroseeding, broadcast seeding, and/or imprinting no more than 10 days prior to a forecasted rain event, unless an irrigation system is installed. Planting with container plants with supplemental irrigation should also be considered.
- **Use Soil Amendments.** Incorporate a soil amendment or mulch with high organic content in select areas as determined by a restoration specialist.
- **Signage.** Install signs indicating that the area is undergoing revegetation.
- **Weed Control.** Continue weed control program on a quarterly basis.
- **Prohibit Access.** Prohibit equipment access to mitigation area.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this important project. Please contact Kyle Gern if you have questions concerning the contents of this report. He may be reached by telephone at (805) 844-1492, or by email at kgern@rinconconsultants.com.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Kyle Gern
Biologist

Attachments

Attachment 1 Figure 1 Photograph Locations
Attachment 2 Site Photographs

Attachment 1

Figure 1 Photograph Locations

Figure 1 Photograph Locations

Attachment 2

Site Photographs

Photograph 1. Facing southwest at the County-Side Sage Mitigation Area (foreground), and the surrounding slope outside the mitigation area (background) (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 2. Facing northwest at the northern portion of the County-Side Sage Mitigation Area where plant growth has been problematic due to poor soil conditions (September 18, 2025).

ATTACHMENT 3

ARCHITERRA design group
landscape architecture and planning

ARCHITERRA DESIGN GROUP FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

DATE OF VISIT:	10/15/25
PROJECT:	**Sunshine Canyon Mitigation Sites**
PROJECT NUMBER:	1214
PROJECT MANAGER:	Gregg Denson
SITE INSPECTION #:	
PURPOSE OF VISIT:	Review site conditions/Photo Catalog
TIME OF SITE VISIT:	11:00am
WEATHER/TEMPERATURE:	Sunny 67° - Winds 0-5 mph
ESTIMATED % COMPLETED:	100%
CONFORMANCE WITH SCHEDULE (+, -)	

WORK IN PROGRESS:	Weed abatement / Monitoring Period /Construction Observation
PRESENT ON SITE:	Gregg Denson

A site visit walk and evaluation has been completed to review the Venturan CSS vegetation establishment on the Trial Site (Deck C), Deck B and County Mitigation Slopes. Additional items noted during the site visit are as follows:

City-Side Sage Mitigation (Trial Site Deck C):

- Some weed abatement was completed over the last quarter, but native plants were removed as part of this effort. It has been brought up multiple times in past that the maintenance of scalping the dormant native Creeping Rye Grass (*Leymus triticoides*) should not be performed. Significant stands of Creeping Rye Grass are continuously scalped down to just a few inches, allowing non-native species to establish due to the exposed soils. There are also several piles of recently removed vegetation on the deck. Unfortunately, most of this vegetation is the native Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub, California Bush Sunflower (*Encelia californica*). These shrubs go dormant and lose their foliage during the summer and fall seasons and possibly were mistaken as dead. They are currently pushing new vegetative growth. California Bush Sunflower along with Creeping Rye Grass should be left alone and not removed as part of the maintenance efforts. **The landscape maintenance contractor needs to educate their field personnel so that this does not happen again.**

- There are areas of Shortpod Mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and Russian Thistle (*Salsola* ssp.), beginning to reestablish on the east side of the deck. Additional weed species noted include: Yellow Thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), Tree Tabacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), Red Brome Grass (*Bromus madritensis* ssp *rubens*). The maintenance contractor should increase weeding frequency on the deck during the winter and spring months to minimize takeover. **Do not leave weed seeds on the decks when performing weed abatement.**

- Two large Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus sp.*) are taking over on Deck C and should be removed immediately. These tree species have been photos and noted for removal for the last two years. Tree species should be removed from the deck to avoid overturning during high wind events.

- The PM10 Coast Live Oak trees are thriving and are well established along the south edge of Deck C. There are gaps in the berm planting where trees were burned during the Saddleridge Fire of 2019.

Scalping of dormant native Creeping Rye Grass (*Leymus triticoides*)

This is what the dormant native Creeping Rye Grass (*Leymus triticoides*) should look like during the Fall

Native California Bush Sunflower (*Encelia californica*) removed and piled up on Deck C

Native California Bush Sunflower (*Encelia californica*) removed and piled up on Deck C

Eucalyptus tree growing on Deck C (To be removed)

Eucalyptus tree trunk size +/- 6"

ARCHITERRA DESIGN GROUP
10221-A TRADEMARK STREET, RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730
Phone (909) 484-2800, Fax (909) 484-2802

Eucalyptus tree growing on Deck C (To be removed)

Eucalyptus tree trunk size +/- 4"

ARCHITERRA DESIGN GROUP
10221-A TRADEMARK STREET, RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730
Phone (909) 484-2800, Fax (909) 484-2802

Native Narrow-leaved Yerba Santa (*Eriodictyon angustifolium*) seedling

Invasive weed Russian Thistle (*Salsola* ssp.) on east side of Deck C (To be removed)

Seedlings & established Invasive weed California Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) on Deck C (To be removed)

Invasive Tree Tabacco (*Nicotiana glauca*) on Deck C (To be removed)

Coast Sunflower (*Encelia californica*) foliage emerging with cooler temperatures

Native Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*)

City-Side Sage Mitigation (Trial Site Deck B):

- Invasive weed growth on Deck B is limited. Slenderleaf Iceplant (*Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*) is dormant and spread will be aggressive rainfall stimulates new growth. California Stinkwort (*Dittrichia graveolens*) is also establishing on this deck and is spreading. Treatment of control may require application of herbicides, cultivation or a combination of both.
- The Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub (VCSS) is establishing and the canopy is closing in several areas. The west side of the deck has been slow to establish, potential due to the erosion or soil conditions.
- California Pepper Trees (*Schinus molle*), and Saltcedar (*Tamarisk sp.)* trees have established on the deck and should be removed. These species were noted for removal for the last two years and is extremely close to an existing gas well.

Invasive California Pepper Trees (*Schinus molle*) on Deck B (To be Removed)

Native VCSS Menzies' Goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*)

Native VCSS Menzies' Goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*)

Erosion of soils adjacent to the Chaparral Yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*)

Invasive California Pepper Trees (*Schinus molle*) on Deck B (To be removed)

Invasive Salt Cedar (Tamarix species) on Deck B (To be removed)

Flowering Coyote Bush (*Baccharis pilularis*)

City-Side Sage Mitigation (Deck A):

- The fill area previously repaired is vegetated with mostly exotic weeds, Russian Thistle (*Salsola* ssp.), Yellow Thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), Horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), Red Brome Grass (*Bromus madritensis* ssp *rubens*) and Shortpod Mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*).
- Two newer areas on the deck where soil settlement occurred have been repaired. These areas should be seeded now that we are within the optimal time of the year for seed germination and native plant establishment.

Existing conditions of Deck A

ARCHITERRA DESIGN GROUP
10221-A TRADEMARK STREET, RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730
Phone (909) 484-2800, Fax (909) 484-2802

New grading on Deck A to fill in areas where settlement occurred

Signed: Gregg Denson Date: 10/23/25

DISTRIBUTION

Republic Services	☑	Contractor	☑
Project Manager (Gregg Denson)	☑	Other_____	☐

Photo Station #1 - October 2024 (North)

Photo Station #1 - October 2025 (North)

Photo Station #1 - October 2024 (East)

Photo Station #1 - October 2025 (East)

Photo Station #1 - October 2024 (West)

Photo Station #1 - October 2025 (West)

Photo Station #2 - October 2024 (North)

Photo Station #2 - October 2025 (North)

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ATTACHMENT 4

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003
805-644-4455

September 29, 2025
Project No: 21-11086

Andrew Asaro
Environmental Specialist
Republic Services
14747 San Fernando Road
Sylmar, California 91342
Via email: AAsaro@republicservices.com

Subject: Coastal Sage Scrub City South C Trial Plot 3rd Quarter 2025 Monitoring Report, Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Dear Mr. Asaro,

This monitoring report has been prepared by Rincon Consultants (Rincon) to inform Republic Services on the status of coastal sage scrub restoration at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill located at 14747 San Fernando Road, Sylmar, California 91342. Specifically, this report serves to document the abundance of vegetation at the Coastal Sage Scrub City South C Trial Plot in the third quarter of 2025.

Methods

On September 18, 2025, Rincon monitored the Coastal Sage Scrub City South C Trial Plot (trial plot) at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, which constitutes the third quarter of monitoring for 2025. The sample methodology generally followed the *Methodology for Monitoring Percent Cover and Species Richness within Each Seeded Application Method on the Coastal Sage Scrub Pilot Project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill* (JMA, April 23, 2014). Quadrat sampling of the Coastal Sage Scrub City South C Trial Plot consists of four 50-meter squared quadrats that are randomly sampled within each of the following three seeded areas: hydroseed, imprint, and hand broadcast. The 12 quadrats sampled were randomly selected prior to the first initial monitoring event from a grid that was placed over the entire trial plot, and each quadrat was given a letter (A-L) and delineated in the field with wooden stakes (Attachment 1).

As shown in Attachment 1, three different seeding methods were used as follows:

- Hydroseed (Quadrats A, B, C, and D)
- Imprint (Quadrats E, F, G, and H)
- Hand broadcast (Quadrats I, J, K, and L)

Absolute Cover

The following qualitative data was collected in each quadrat to determine the absolute cover of native and non-native herbaceous and woody species:

- **Percent basal cover (shrubs).** Visual estimate of the amount of basal cover within each quadrat for all shrub species.
- **Percent basal cover (herbs).** Visual estimate of the amount of basal cover within each quadrat for all herb species.

- **Percent bare ground.** Visual estimate of the amount of available bare ground with no vegetation, but suitable for plant growth.
- **Percent rock or other.** Visual estimate of the amount of unavailable ground for supporting plant growth. Inhibitors generally included rocks and boulders, irrigation lines and valve boxes, and mulch.
- **Percent canopy.** Visual estimate of the percent canopy of each shrub and herbaceous species.
- **Photographs.** A photograph was taken from the southwest corner (facing northeast) of each quadrat.

Percent Cover

The following quantitative data was collected in each quadrat to determine the percent cover of native and non-native species.

- **Point intercept method.** Sampling began at the southwest corner of each quadrat and continued around the quadrat in a clockwise direction. The species located precisely at every meter point was tallied, including areas of bare ground, rock and other.

Field Results

Below are the average data collected for each planting method.

Absolute Cover (Qualitative)

Hydroseed – Quadrats A, B, C, and D (average)

- Percent basal cover (shrubs) – 11%
- Percent basal cover (herbs) – 1%
- Percent bare ground – 25%
- Percent rock or other – 0%
- Percent canopy (shrubs) – 70%
- Percent canopy (herbs) – 3%

Imprint – Quadrats E, F, G, and H (average)

- Percent basal cover (shrubs) – 15%
- Percent basal cover (herbs) – 1%
- Percent bare ground – 17%
- Percent rock or other – 0%
- Percent canopy (shrubs) – 82%
- Percent canopy (herbs) – 1%

Hand broadcast – Quadrats I, J, K, and L (average)

- Percent basal cover (shrubs) – 9%
- Percent basal cover (herbs) – 5%
- Percent bare ground – 36%
- Percent rock or other – 0%
- Percent canopy (shrubs) – 49%
- Percent canopy (herbs) – 15%

Percent Cover (Quantitative)

The representation of each species within a quadrat was estimated by broad cover classes (<1%, 1-5%, 5-25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, and >75%). The percent cover of each species based upon the point intercept method is presented in Table 1 through Table 3.

Table 1 Hydroseed – Quadrats A, B, C, and D (Average)

Species	Plot A		Plot B		Plot C		Plot D	
	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover
Native Shrubs								
Acmispon glaber								
Artemisia californica					1	2%		
Atriplex canescens	8	16%	9	18%	5	10%		
Atriplex lentiformis	4	8%	6	12%	16	32%	20	40%
Atriplex polycarpa			7	14%	4	8%		
Atriplex spinosa								
Diplacus aurantiacus								
Encelia californica	22	44%	10	20%	8	16%	12	24%
Salvia apiana								
Salvia mellifera			1	2%				
Native Herbs								
Achillea millefolium								
Cryptantha intermedia								
Helianthus annuus								
Elymus triticoides								
Trichostema lanceolatum								
Non-Native Herbs								
Carduus pycnocephalus								
Centaurea melitensis					4	8%		
Dittrichia graveolens			3	6%				
Elymus hispidus								
Hirschfeldia incana			4	8%				
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum								
Sonchus oleraceus								
Salsola tragus								
Bare ground	**16**	**32%**	**10**	**20%**	**12**	**24%**	**18**	**36%**

	Plot A	Plot B	Plot C	Plot D	A,B,C,D Percent Cover
Percent Cover Native Shrub	**68%**	**66%**	**68%**	**64%**	**67%**
Percent Cover Native Herb	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Shrub	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Herb	**0%**	**14%**	**8%**	**0%**	**6%**
Percent Bare Ground	**32%**	**20%**	**24%**	**36%**	**28%**

Table 2 Imprint – Quadrats E, F, G, and H (Average)

Species	Plot E		Plot F		Plot G		Plot H	
	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover
Native Shrubs								
Acmispon glaber								
Artemisia californica							1	2%
Atriplex canescens	3	6%	4	8%	1	2%	10	20%
Atriplex lentiformis			16	32%	7	14%		
Atriplex polycarpa								
Atriplex spinosa								
Baccharis pilularis								
Diplacus aurantiacus								
Encelia californica	36	72%	15	30%	27	54%	29	58%
Salvia leucophylla								
Salvia mellifera							2	4%
Native Herbs								
Achillea millefolium								
Cryptantha intermedia								
Helianthus annuus								
Elymus triticoides								
Nasella pulchra								
Sisyrinchium bellum								
Vulpia microstachys								
Non-Native Herbs								
Bromus rubens								
Centaurea melitensis								
Echinochloa crus-galli								
Erigeron canadensis								
Erodium cicutarium								
Hirschfeldia incana								
Hordeum murinum								
Salsola tragus								
Bare ground	**11**	**22%**	**15**	**30%**	**15**	**30%**	**8**	**16%**

	Plot E	Plot F	Plot G	Plot H	E,F,G,H Percent Cover
Percent Cover Native Shrub	**78%**	**70%**	**70%**	**84%**	**76%**
Percent Cover Native Herb	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Shrub	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Herb	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Bare Ground	**22%**	**30%**	**30%**	**16%**	**25%**

Table 3 Hand Broadcast – Quadrats I, J, K, and L (Average)

Species	Plot I		Plot J		Plot K		Plot L	
	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover
Native Shrubs								
Acmispon glaber								
Artemisia californica			4	8%				
Atriplex canescens							11	22%
Atriplex lentiformis	4	8%	16	32%	2	4%		
Atriplex polycarpa								
Atriplex spinosa								
Baccharis pilularis							5	10%
Diplacus aurantiacus								
Encelia californica	36	72%	15	30%	27	54%	29	58%
Non-Native Shrubs								
Atriplex semibaccata								
Native Herbs								
Achillia millefoluim								
Cryptantha intermedia								
Helianthus annuus								
Elymus triticoides					16	32%		
Nasella pulchra								
Sisyrinchium bellum								
Trichostema lanceolatum								
Non-Native Herbs								
Avena barbata								
Carduus pycnocephalus								
Centaurea melitensis			1	2%	1	2%	2	4%
Dittrichia graveolens			3	6%				
Erodium cicutarium								
Hirschfeldia incana					1	2%		
Hordeum murinum								
Sonchus oleraceus								
Bare ground	**20**	**40%**	**23**	**46%**	**30**	**60%**	**23**	**46%**

	Plot I	Plot J	Plot K	Plot L	I,J,K,L Percent Cover
Percent Cover Native Shrub	**60%**	**46%**	**4%**	**50%**	**40%**
Percent Cover Native Herb	**0%**	**0%**	**32%**	**0%**	**8%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Shrub	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Herb	**0%**	**8%**	**4%**	**4%**	**4%**
Percent Bare Ground	**40%**	**46%**	**60%**	**46%**	**48%**

Discussion

Table 4 provides a summary of the vegetation cover of shrubs and herbs, including areas of bare ground.

Table 4 Summary of Vegetation Cover for Each Planting Method at the Coastal Sage Scrub City South C Trial Plot

	Hydroseed (Quadrats A, B, C, and D)		Imprint (Quadrats E, F, G, and H)		Hand Broadcast (Quadrats I, J, K, and L)	
	Qualitative	Quantitative	Qualitative	Quantitative	Qualitative	Quantitative
Percent Cover Shrub	70%	67%	82%	76%	49%	40%
Percent Cover Herb	3%	6%	1%	0%	15%	12%
Percent Bare Ground	25%	28%	17%	25%	36%	48%

Native shrub species account for the majority of the vegetative cover in Trial Plot C. Shrub species observed in Trial Plot C include fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), allscale saltbush (*Atriplex polycarpa*), big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California sunflower (*Encelia californica*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). California sunflower was the most dominant shrub species across all treatment areas.

The quantitative percent cover of native shrub species currently has an average of 67 percent within the hydroseed quadrats, 76 percent within the imprint quadrats, and 40 percent within the hand broadcast quadrats (Tables 1-3). Native shrub quantitative percent cover has slightly decreased across all treatment types between the second and third quarter of 2025. During the Q3 monitoring visit, it was observed that some native shrubs, including California sunflower, appeared to be cut to the base of their stem, decreasing their canopy cover within the plots. Most shrub species within the trial plot were dormant or vegetative during the third quarter of 2025. Beardless wild rye (*Elymus triticoides*), a native grass species that was trimmed during weed management efforts in 2024, has not shown any notable change in cover from the second quarter of 2025.

Non-native plant cover has decreased within the trial plot between the second and third quarter of 2025. The most prominent non-native plant species observed in the third quarter of 2025 included short podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*). The majority of the mid- to late- season non-native plant species have senesced. Non-native plant species cover is expected to continue to decrease throughout fall of 2025 as a result of decreased water availability as the dry season continues. Total non-native herbaceous cover currently has an average of 6 percent within the hydroseed quadrats (down from 13 percent in the second quarter of 2025), 0 percent within the imprint quadrats (down from 3 percent in the second quarter of 2025), and 4 percent (down from 15 percent in the second quarter of 2025) within the hand broadcast quadrats (Tables 1-3).

Recommendations

Successional Growth and Weed Control

Wildfires in Southern California have become more common in recent years and have impacted the native landscape, including established restoration sites. Non-native weed control is essential in establishing post-fire restoration sites and is recommended by such organizations as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Society of Ecological Restoration. Successional regrowth of herbaceous non-native species is to be expected within the first two to three

years following a wildfire, which is currently being observed at the trial plot. Native shrubs are expected to recover over a longer period through germination of existing seed within the topsoil and basal growth from charred plants. Native shrubs have shown notable growth following the fire and appear to be well established in the trial plot.

Successional growth of herbaceous species is also important, as native herbaceous species provide natural erosion of topsoil. To control the spread non-native herbaceous species such as tocalote, red brome, and short podded mustard, and minimize competition with native herbaceous and woody species for water, nutrients, and sunlight, weed maintenance should occur no less than every four months, and special attention should be afforded to minimizing impacts to native grasses that may appear to be non-native (i.e., beardless wild rye), native seedlings, and native shrub resprouts. Weed maintenance should be scheduled to maximize removal of non-native species prior to seed set, which typically occurs in spring between the months of February and April, but may also occur throughout the growing season based upon precipitation events.

Supplemental Irrigation

While Southern California received above-average rainfall in the winter of 2023 and spring of 2024, it received below average rainfall in the winter of 2024 and spring of 2025. Supplemental irrigation is a valuable restoration technique to promote re-establishment of native vegetation, particularly during the dry months of the year (i.e., summer and fall). If native herbaceous vegetation continues to be sparse throughout the trial plot, and/or if native shrubs senesce or show indicators of drought stress, the irrigation system within the trial plot should be re-installed to increase water availability and promote seed germination and re-establishment of native vegetation.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this important project. Please contact Kyle Gern if you have questions concerning the contents of this report. He may be reached by telephone at (805) 844-1492, or by email at kgern@rinconconsultants.com.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Kyle Gern
Biologist

Attachments

Attachment 1 Deck C Revegetation Area Quadrat Layout and Planting Plan
Attachment 2 Representative Site Photographs

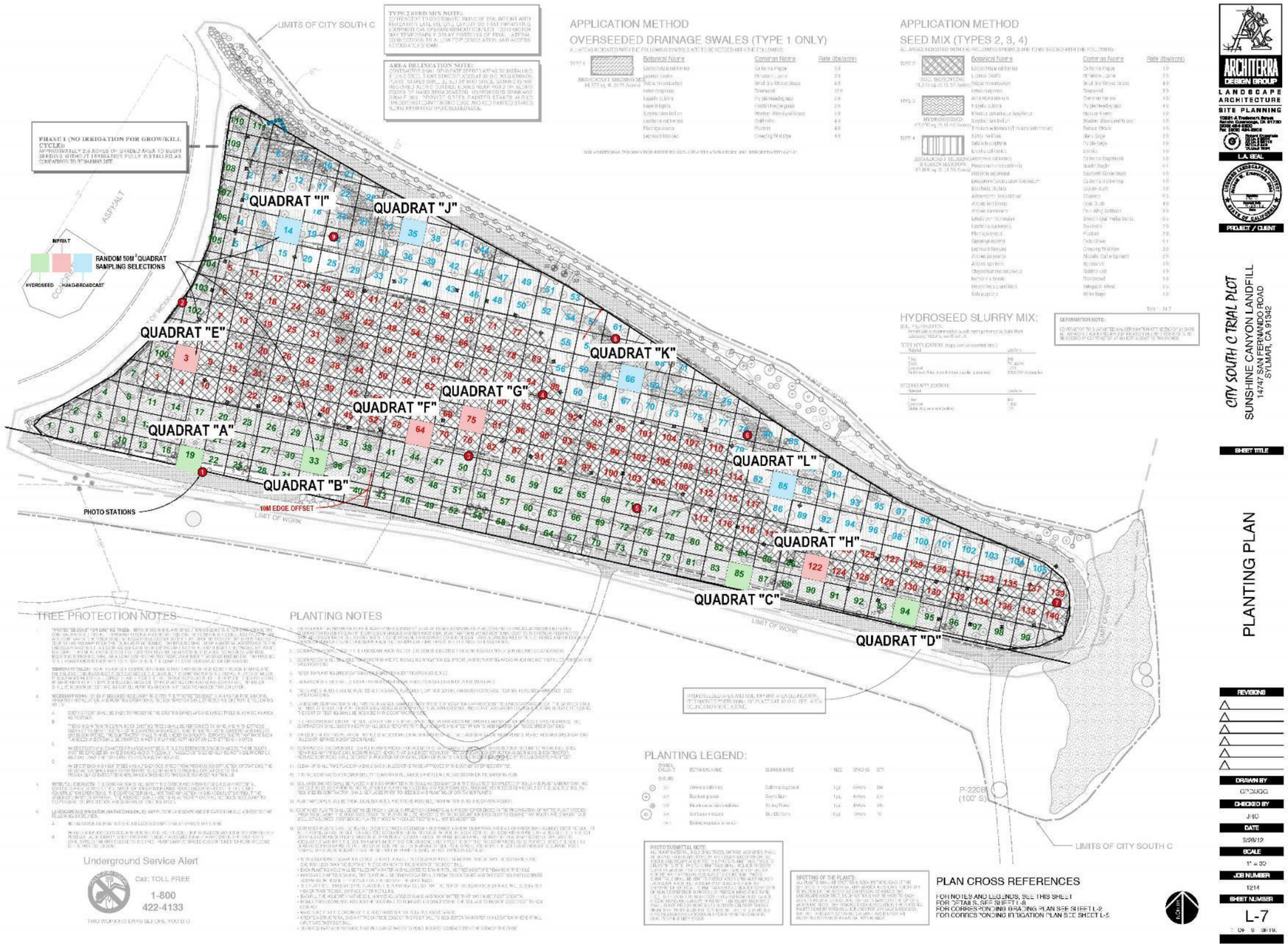
References

John Minch and Associates, Inc. (JMA). 2014. Methodology for Monitoring Percent Cover and Species Richness within Each Seeded Application Method on the Coastal Sage Scrub Pilot Project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Attachment 1

Deck C Revegetation Area Quadrat Layout and Planting Plan

Deck C Revegetation Area Quadrat Layout and Planting Plan



Attachment 2

Photographs of Sample Plots

Photograph 1. Quadrat A facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 2. Quadrat B facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 3. Quadrat C facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 4. Quadrat D facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 5. Quadrat E facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 6. Quadrat F facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 7. Quadrat G facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 8. Quadrat H facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 9. Quadrat I facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 10. Quadrat J facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 11. Quadrat K facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 12. Quadrat L facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

ATTACHMENT 5

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
180 North Ashwood Avenue
Ventura, California 93003
805-644-4455

September 29, 2025
Project No: 21-11086

Andrew Asaro
Environmental Specialist
Republic Services
14747 San Fernando Road
Sylmar, California 91342
Via email: AAsaro@republicservices.com

Subject: Coastal Sage Scrub City South B Trial Plot 3rd Quarter 2025 Monitoring Report, Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Dear Mr. Asaro,

This monitoring report has been prepared by Rincon Consultants (Rincon) to inform Republic Services on the status of coastal sage scrub restoration at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill located at 14747 San Fernando Road, Sylmar, California 91342. Specifically, this letter report serves to document the abundance of vegetation at the Coastal Sage Scrub City South B Trial Plot in the third quarter of 2025.

Methods

On September 18, 2025, Rincon monitored the Coastal Sage Scrub City South B Trial Plot (trial plot) at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, which constitutes the third quarter of monitoring for 2025. The sample methodology generally followed the *Methodology for Monitoring Percent Cover and Species Richness within Each Seeded Application Method on the Coastal Sage Scrub Pilot Project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill* (JMA, April 23, 2014). Quadrat sampling of the revegetation area consists of nine 50-meter square quadrats that are randomly located throughout the revegetation area. The quadrats were randomly selected prior to the first initial monitoring event from a grid that was placed over the entire trial plot, and each quadrat was given a letter (A-I) and delineated in the field with wooden stakes. As shown in Attachment 1, five different planting methods were used as follows:

- Soil imprinting with hand broadcast overseeded drainage swales (Quadrats A and G)
- Soil imprinting (Quadrats B, F, and H)
- Broadcast seeding (Quadrat C)
- Broadcast seeding with soil imprinting (Quadrats D and I)
- Soil imprinting and hand broadcast (Quadrat E)

Absolute Cover

The following qualitative data was collected in each quadrat to determine the absolute cover of native and non-native herbaceous and woody species:

- **Percent basal cover (shrubs).** Visual estimate of the amount of basal cover within each quadrat for all shrub species.
- **Percent basal cover (herbs).** Visual estimate of the amount of basal cover within each quadrat for all herbaceous species.
- **Percent bare ground.** Visual estimate of the amount of available bare ground with no vegetation.

- **Percent rock or other.** Visual estimate of the amount of unavailable ground for supporting plant growth. Inhibitors generally included rocks and boulders, irrigation lines and valve boxes, and mulch.
- **Percent canopy.** Visual estimate of the percent canopy of each shrub and herbaceous species.
- **Photographs.** A photograph was taken from the southwest corner (facing northeast) of each quadrat.

Percent Cover

The following quantitative data was collected in each quadrat to determine the percent cover of native and non-native species.

- **Point intercept method.** Sampling began at the southwest corner of each quadrat and continued around the quadrat in a clockwise direction. The species located precisely at every meter point was tallied, including areas of bare ground, rock and other.

Field Results

Below are the average data collected for each planting method.

Absolute Cover (Qualitative)

Soil imprinting with hand broadcast overseeded drainage swales – Quadrats A and G (average)

- Percent basal cover (shrubs) – 3%
- Percent basal cover (herbs) – 10%
- Percent bare ground – 53%
- Percent rock or other – 0%
- Percent canopy (shrubs) – 26%
- Percent canopy (herbs) – 22%

Soil imprinting – Quadrats B, F, and H (average)

- Percent basal cover (shrubs) – 7%
- Percent basal cover (herbs) – 6%
- Percent bare ground – 45%
- Percent rock or other – 0%
- Percent canopy (shrubs) – 44%
- Percent canopy (herbs) – 11%

Broadcast seeding – Quadrat C

- Percent basal cover (shrubs) – 2%
- Percent basal cover (herbs) – 2%
- Percent bare ground – 81%

- Percent rock or other – 0%
- Percent canopy (shrubs) – 12%
- Percent canopy (herbs) – 7%

Broadcast seeding with soil imprinting – Quadrats D and I (average)

- Percent basal cover (shrubs) – 4%
- Percent basal cover (herbs) – 2%
- Percent bare ground – 57%
- Percent rock or other – 0%
- Percent canopy (shrubs) – 38%
- Percent canopy (herbs) – 6%

Soil Imprinting and hand broadcast – Quadrat E

- Percent basal cover (shrubs) – 6%
- Percent basal cover (herbs) – 1%
- Percent bare ground – 44%
- Percent rock or other – 0%
- Percent canopy (shrubs) – 42%
- Percent canopy (herbs) – 2%

Percent Cover (Quantitative)

The representation of each species within each quadrat was estimated by broad cover classes (<1%, 1-5%, 5-25%, 25-50%, 50-75%, and >75%). The percent cover of each species based upon the point intercept method is presented in Table 1 through Table 5 below.

Table 1 Soil Imprinting with Hand Broadcast Overseeded Drainage Swales – Quadrats A and G (Average)

	Quadrat A		Quadrat G	
Species	**Number of Hits**	**Percent Cover**	**Number of Hits**	**Percent Cover**
Native Shrubs				
Acmispon glaber				
Artemisia californica	2	4%		
Atriplex canescens			9	18%
Atriplex lentiformis			14	28%
Atriplex polycarpa			2	4%
Atriplex spinosa				
Baccharis pilularis				
Baccharis salicifolia				
Eriodictyon trichocalyx				
Salvia apiana				
Salvia mellifera				
Non-Native Shrubs				
Atriplex semibaccata				
Native Herbs				
Ambrosia acanthicarpa	1	2%		
Eschscholzia californica				
Elymus triticoides			2	4%
Nasella pulchra				
Stephanomeria pauciflora	1	2%		
Non-Native Herbs				
Centaurea melitensis	9	18%		
Erodium cicutarium				
Hirschfeldia incana	8	16%	6	12%
Hordeum murinum				
Salsola tragus				
Bare ground	**29**	**58%**	**17**	**34%**

	Quadrat A	Quadrat G	A and G (% Cover)
Percent Cover Native Shrub	**4%**	**50%**	**27%**
Percent Cover Native Herb	**4%**	**4%**	**4%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Shrub	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Herb	**34%**	**12%**	**23%**
Percent Bare Ground	**58%**	**34%**	**46%**

Table 2 Soil Imprinting – Quadrats B, F, and H (Average)

Species	Quadrat B		Quadrat F		Quadrat H	
	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover	Number of Hits	Percent Cover
Native Shrubs						
Acmispon glaber						
Artemisia californica	2	4%			2	4%
Atriplex canescens					3	6%
Atriplex lentiformis			5	10%	5	10%
Atriplex polycarpa						
Baccharis salicifolia						
Baccharis sarothroides	18	36%				
Baccharis pularis			1	2%		
Encelia californica						
Encelia farinosa						
Ericameria parishii						
Eriogonum fasciculatum	5	10%	10	20%	5	10%
Hesperoyucca whipplei						
Isocoma menziesii	7	14%			1	2%
Opuntia littoralis						
Salvia leucophylla						
Salvia mellifera	3	6%				
Sambucus mexicana					1	2%
Non-Native Shrubs						
Atriplex semibaccata						
Native Herbs						
Elymus triticoides						
Non-Native Herbs						
Bromus diandrus						
Bromus rubens			14	28%	1	2%
Centaurea melitensis			9	18%	1	2%
Festuca myuros						
Hirschfeldia incana					5	10%
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum			4	8%		
Bare ground	**13**	**26%**	**7**	**14%**	**26**	**52%**

	Quadrat B	Quadrat F	Quadrat H	B, F, H (% cover)
Percent Cover Native Shrub	**74%**	**32%**	**34%**	**47%**
Percent Cover Native Herb	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Shrub	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Herb	**0%**	**54%**	**14%**	**23%**
Percent Bare Ground	**26%**	**14%**	**52%**	**31%**

Table 3 Broadcast Seeding – Quadrat C

	Quadrat C	
Species	**Number of Hits**	**Percent Cover**
Native Shrubs		
Acmispon glaber		
Artemisia californica	1	2%
Atriplex lentiformis	8	16%
Atriplex polycarpa		
Atriplex spinosa		
Baccharis pilularis		
Encelia californica		
Encelia farinosa	1	2%
Eriogonum fasciculatum		
Lepidospartum squamatum		
Salvia apiana		
Native Herbs		
Achillea millefolium		
Eschscholzia californica		
Elymus triticoides		
Nasella pulchra		
Sisyrinchium bellum		
Vulpia microstachys		
Non-Native Herbs		
Bromus rubens		
Centaurea melitensis		
Centaurea solstitialis		
Festuca myuros		
Hirschfeldia incana		
Hordeum vulgare		
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum		
Bare ground	**40**	**80%**

	Quadrat C (% cover)
Percent Cover Native Shrub	**20%**
Percent Cover Native Herb	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Shrub	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Herb	**0%**
Percent Bare Ground	**80%**

Table 4 Broadcast Seeding with Soil Imprinting – Quadrats D and I (Average)

	Quadrat D		Quadrat I	
Species	**Number of Hits**	**Percent Cover**	**Number of Hits**	**Percent Cover**
Native Shrubs				
Acmispon glaber				
Artemisia californica	2	4%		
Atriplex canescens			9	18%
Atriplex lentiformis			2	4%
Atriplex polycarpa				
Encelia farinosa				
Eriogonum fasciculatum	15	30%	5	10%
Isocoma menziesii			2	4%
Non-Native Shrubs				
Atriplex semibaccata				
Native Herbs				
Achillea millefolium				
Descurainia pinnata				
Elymus triticoides				
Nasella pulchra				
Sisyrinchium bellum				
Vulpia microstachys				
Non-Native Herbs				
Avena barbata				
Bromus diandrus				
Bromus rubens			1	2%
Centaurea melitensis			6	12%
Centaurea solstitialis				
Festuca myuros				
Hirschfeldia incana	1	2%	4	8%
Hordeum murinum				
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum				
Polygonum aviculare				
Salsola tragus				
Bare ground	**32**	**64%**	**21**	**42%**

	Quadrat D	Quadrat I	D and I (% cover)
Percent Cover Native Shrub	**34%**	**18%**	**26%**
Percent Cover Native Herb	**0%**	**0%**	**0%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Shrub	**0%**	**18%**	**9%**
Percent Cover Non-Native Herb	**2%**	**22%**	**12%**
Percent Bare Ground	**64%**	**42%**	**53%**

Table 5 Soil Imprinting and Hand Broadcast – Quadrat E

Species	Quadrat E	
	Number of Hits	Percent Cover
Native Shrubs		
Acmispon glaber		
Artemisia californica	6	12%
Atriplex canescens	6	12%
Atriplex lentiformis	7	14%
Atriplex polycarpa		
Atriplex spinosa		
Encelia californica		
Encelia farinosa	1	2%
Eriodictyon trichocalyx	9	18%
Eriogonum fasciculatum	1	2%
Isocoma menziesii		
Opuntia littoralis		
Salvia apiana		
Salvia mellifera		
Native Herbs		
Achillia mellifoluim		
Eschscholzia californica		
Elymus triticoides		
Nasella pulchra		
Sisyrinchium bellum		
Vulpia microstachys		
Non-Native Herbs		
Centaurea melitensis		
Centaurea solstitialis		
Hirschfeldia incana	1	2%
Hordeum vulgare		
Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum		
Schismus arabicus		
Bare ground	**19**	**38%**
	Quadrat E (% cover)	
Percent Cover Native Shrub	**60%**	
Percent Cover Native Herb	**0%**	
Percent Cover Non-Native Shrub	**0%**	
Percent Cover Non-Native Herb	**2%**	
Percent Bare Ground	**38%**	

Discussion

Table 6 provides a summary of the percent cover of native and non-native shrubs and herbs, including areas of bare ground within the Coastal Sage Scrub City South B Trial Plot.

Table 6 Summary of Percent Cover for Each Planting Method Using the Point Intercept Method

	Soil Imprinting with Hand Broadcast Overseeded Drainage Swales (Quadrats A and G)	Soil Imprinting (Quadrats B, F, and H)	Broadcast Seeding (Quadrat C)	Broadcast Seeding with Soil Imprinting (Quadrats D and I)	Soil Imprinting and Hand Broadcast (Quadrat E)
Percent Cover Native Shrub	27%	47%	20%	26%	60%
Percent Cover Native Herb	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Percent Cover Non-Native Shrub	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%
Percent Cover Non-Native Herb	23%	23%	0%	12%	2%
Percent Bare Ground	46%	31%	80%	53%	38%

Dominant native shrub species include fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), big saltbush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), and hairy yerba santa (*Eriodictyon trichocalyx*). Dominant herbaceous species include non-native red brome (*Bromus rubens*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), and short podded mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*).

Non-native plant cover increased in the soil imprinting treatment type and decreased in all other treatment types between the second and third quarter of 2025. The decrease in non-native plant cover likely occurred as a result of decreased water availability as the dry season continues. Non-native plant species cover is expected to decrease throughout fall of 2025 as the dry season continues. Native shrub quantitative percent cover has not substantially changed across all treatment types between the second and third quarter of 2025. Soil imprinting and hand broadcast (Quadrat E; 60 percent) and soil imprinting quadrats (Quadrats B, F, and H; 47 percent) had the highest percent cover of native shrubs using the point intercept method, followed by the soil imprinting with hand broadcast overseeding (Quadrats A and G; 27 percent) and broadcast seeding with soil imprinting (Quadrats D and I; 26 percent). Boradcast seeding had the lowest percent cover of native shrubs (Quadrant C; 20 percent). The quantitative percent cover of native herbaceous plant species was highest in soil imprinting with hand broadcast overseeding (Quadrat A and G; 4%) and was zero in all other planting methods in the third quarter of 2025.

Recommendations

Successional Growth and Weed Control

Wildfires in Southern California have become more common in recent years and have impacted the native landscape. Non-native weed control is essential in establishing post-fire restoration sites and is recommended by organizations such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Society of Ecological Restoration. Successional regrowth of herbaceous non-native species is to be expected within the first two to three years following a wildfire, which is currently occurring at

the trial plot. Native shrubs are expected to recover over a longer period through germination of existing seed within the topsoil and basal growth from charred plants. Native shrubs have shown notable growth in the past three years, and now appear to be well established in the trial plot.

Successional growth of herbaceous species is also important, as native herbaceous species provide natural erosion of topsoil. To promote establishment and growth of native herbaceous species, controlling the spread of non-native herbaceous species such as tocalote, red brome, and short podded mustard is essential. Reducing non-native herbaceous species growth minimizes negative competitive effects on native herbaceous and woody species for water, nutrients, and sunlight. Weed maintenance should occur no less than every four months, and special attention should be afforded to minimizing impacts to native grasses that may appear to be non-native (i.e., beardless wild rye), native seedlings, and native shrub resprouts. Weed maintenance should be scheduled to maximize removal of non-native species prior to seed set, which typically occurs in spring between the months of February and April but may also occur throughout the growing season based upon water availability.

Supplemental Irrigation

While Southern California received above-average rainfall in the winter of 2023 and spring of 2024, it received below average rainfall in the winter of 2024 and spring of 2025. Supplemental irrigation is a valuable restoration technique to promote re-establishment of native vegetation, particularly during the dry months of the year (i.e., summer and fall). As described above, native herbaceous vegetation has continued to be notably low throughout all planting methods. If native herbaceous vegetation continues to be sparse throughout the trial plot, and/or if native shrubs prematurely senesce or show indicators of drought stress, the irrigation system within the trial plot should be re-installed to increase water availability and promote seed germination and re-establishment of native vegetation.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this important Project. Please contact Kyle Gern if you have questions concerning the contents of this report. He may be reached by telephone at 805-844-1492, or by email at kgern@rinconconsultants.com.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Kyle Gern
Biologist

Attachments

Attachment 1 Deck B Revegetation Area Quadrat Layout
Attachment 2 Representative Site Photographs

References

John Minch and Associates, Inc. (JMA). 2014. Methodology for Monitoring Percent Cover and Species Richness within Each Seeded Application Method on the Coastal Sage Scrub Pilot Project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

Attachment 1

Deck B Revegetation Area Quadrat Layout

Deck B Revegetation Area Quadrat Layout

Attachment 2

Photographs of Sample Plots

Photograph 1. Quadrat A facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 2. Quadrat B facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 3. Quadrat C facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 4. Quadrat D facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 5. Quadrat E facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 6. Quadrat F facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 7. Quadrat G facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 8. Quadrat H facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

Photograph 9. Quadrat I facing northeast from southwest corner (September 18, 2025).

ATTACHMENT 6

Rincon Consultants, Inc.
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March 22, 2021
Project No: 21-11086

Tuong-phu Ngo
Republic Services
14747 San Fernando Road
Sylmar, California 91342
Via email: email address

Subject: **Sunshine Canyon Landfill Ultimate Entry Improvement Project, Oak Tree Survey**
14747 San Fernando Road, Sylmar, California, 91342

Dear Mr. Ngo:

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) prepared this report for the Ultimate Entry Improvement Project (project) located at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill (landfill) in Sylmar, Los Angeles County, California. This report, prepared by ISA certified arborist Greg Ainsworth, documents the results of an oak tree survey and assessment of impacts to protected oak trees from the project and provides a current tally on the remaining oak trees in the landfills' s oak tree mitigation bank.

Introduction

This oak tree report was prepared to disclose information on native oak (*Quercus sp*.) trees that would be removed by the proposed project.

Pursuant to the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance, any tree of the oak genus that is 25 inches in circumference (8 inches in diameter) or has a combined trunk circumference of any two trunks of at least 38 inches (12 inches in diameter), as measured 4.5 feet above the mean natural grade (i.e., diameter at breast height [DBH]), is considered a "protected tree" (Ordinance 88-0157 1, 82-0168 2, Section 22.56.2050, 1988). An oak tree that has a trunk DBH equal to or greater than 36 inches is considered a heritage tree, as defined in the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance. In accordance with the Ordinance, no damage shall occur within the protective zone (the area within the dripline of an oak tree and extending to a point at least 5 feet outside the dripline, or 15 feet from the trunk[s] of the tree, whichever distance is greater) of a protected oak tree. Damage is defined as any act causing or tending to cause injury to the root system or other parts of an oak tree, including, but not limited to, burning, application of toxic substances, operation of equipment or machinery, paving, changing of natural grade, and trenching or excavating.

Sunshine Canyon Landfill Oak Tree Mitigation Bank

In accordance with landfill's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) and Oak Tree Permit (OTP) #86312-(5) (dated February 19, 1991) for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Extension Project, all native oak trees that will be removed for any project-related impact shall be mitigated at a ratio of 2:1, and heritage-size oak trees (36-inch DBH or greater) shall be mitigated at a ratio of 10:1. All mitigation oaks shall be monitored for 7 years after the tree reaches 0.5 inches in diameter.

A surplus of coast live oak trees was previously planted in the landfill's mitigation areas, which now serves as a mitigation bank for the landfill to draw from for future removals of coast live oak trees. There are currently 48 coast live oaks remaining in the mitigation bank (JMA, Sunshine Canyon Landfill Oak Tree and Bigcone Douglas Fir Monitoring Report No. 28, March 8, 2021).

Project Description

The proposed project involves the development of a landfill termination berm and cut/fill graded entrance roadway that will provide a down-slope buttress and access for a proposed landfill expansion. The nearly 190-foot-high proposed roadway and berm embankment across the mouth of the main canyon of Sunshine Canyon Landfill is designed to buttress the expanded landfill refuse prism that will be situated to the west. This new road embankment includes the associated cut and fill grading, three retaining walls, and a sedimentation basin with stormwater controls.

Methods

All oak trees located within and immediately adjacent to the project footprint that could be impacted by the proposed project were surveyed by certified arborist Greg Ainsworth (I.S.A. Cert# WE-7473A). The tree survey was conducted on March 4, 2021. Using a forester's diameter-equivalent tape, the diameter of all native oak trees having a trunk diameter of 8 inches or greater (or combined trunk diameter of 12 inches or greater) were measured at 4.5 feet above the mean natural grade to obtain the DBH. The location of each tree was recorded from the base of the tree using a Global Positioning System (GPS) with sub-meter accuracy. The following parameters were assessed from the base of each tree (or from the nearest vantage point):

Tree Characteristics

- Trunk diameter (DBH)
- Height
- Crown radius in all directions (north, south, east, and west).
- Balance or symmetry of the tree based on the crown radius measurements and whether the tree leans or is unstable.

Physical Condition

- Identification of damage caused by pathogens or insect pests, by natural causes such as lightning, or by human activity.
- Evaluation of vigor based on such parameters as amount of new growth, leaf color, abnormal bark, dead wood, evidence of wilt, excessive necrosis or leaf chlorosis, thinning of crown, etc.
- Assessment of the overall health of the tree based on the evaluation of vigor, presence of damage, and comparison to the typical archetype tree of the same species.

Health Grade

A subjective alphabetical ranking was assigned for overall health (vigor, aesthetic value, and balance) for each native oak and big cone fir tree based on the criteria described below:

- "A" = Excellent: A healthy and vigorous tree characteristic of its species and reasonably free of any visible signs of stress, disease, or pest infestation.
- "B" = Good: A healthy and vigorous tree with minor visible signs of stress, disease, and/or pest infestation. Some maintenance measures may need to be implemented, such as pruning of dead wood or broken branches.
- "C" = Fair: Although healthy in overall appearance, there is abnormal amount of stress or disease/insect infestation, and a substantial amount of maintenance may be needed.
- "D" = Poor: A tree that may be exhibiting a substantial amount of stress, disease, or insect damage than what the amount that is expected for the species. The tree may be in a state of rapid decline, and may show various signs of dieback, necrosis, or other symptoms caused by pathogens or insect pests.
- "F" = Dead: This tree has no foliage and exhibits no sign of life or vigor.

Results

There are 20 coast live oak trees located within the project footprint, one of which is dead, and all of which would be removed by the proposed project. No other oak trees would be encroached or otherwise impacted by the proposed project. Data on these 20 oak trees is presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Oak Tree Survey Data

Tree #	Species	DBH	Canopy Spread				Health	Physical Condition	Impact Status	Reason for Impact
			North	West	South	East				
1	Coast live oak	13	14	3	8	21	Fair		Removal	Grading
2	Coast live oak	--	--	--	--	--	Dead		Removal	Grading
3	Coast live oak	16	3	8	25	35	Poor	fire scar	Removal	Grading
4	Coast live oak	12	12	7	18	15	Good	fire scar	Removal	Grading
5	Coast live oak	18	11	15	30	7	Good	fire scar	Removal	Grading
6	Coast live oak	9	4	8	18	2	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading
7	Coast live oak	15	7	16	15	8	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading
8	Coast live oak	9	7	3	18	8	Good	fire scar	Removal	Grading
9	Coast live oak	18	30	15	22	10	Good	fire scar	Removal	Grading
10	Coast live oak	16	8	17	15	6	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading
11	Coast live oak	10	15	14	1	2	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading
12	Coast live oak	10	20	6	4	2	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading
13	Coast live oak	22	18	21	16	10	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading
14	Coast live oak	10	19	1	1	1	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading
15	Coast live oak	21	10	7	18	22	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading

Tree #	Species	DBH	Canopy Spread				Health	Physical Condition	Impact Status	Reason for Impact
			North	West	South	East				
16	Coast live oak	18	1	22	19	8	Fair	fire scar, split trunk	Removal	Grading
17	Coast live oak	19	15	11	15	10	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading
18	Coast live oak	12	15	7	15	7	Fair	fire scar	Removal	Grading
19	Coast live oak	12	17	10	4	8	Good		Removal	Grading
20	Coast live oak	8	4	12	6	1	Fair		Removal	Grading

Mitigation

There are currently 48 coast live oak trees in the landfill's mitigation bank. As noted in Table 1, 20 coast live oak trees would be removed by the proposed project. Therefore, at a mitigation ratio of 2:1, 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.

Please contact Greg Ainsworth at (818) 564-5544 or email at gainsworth@rinconconsultants.com if you have any question or comments regarding the information provided in this report.

Sincerely,
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Greg Ainsworth, I.S.A. Cert # WE-7473A
Director of Urban Forestry

Attachments

Oak Tree Map

DRAWING 1

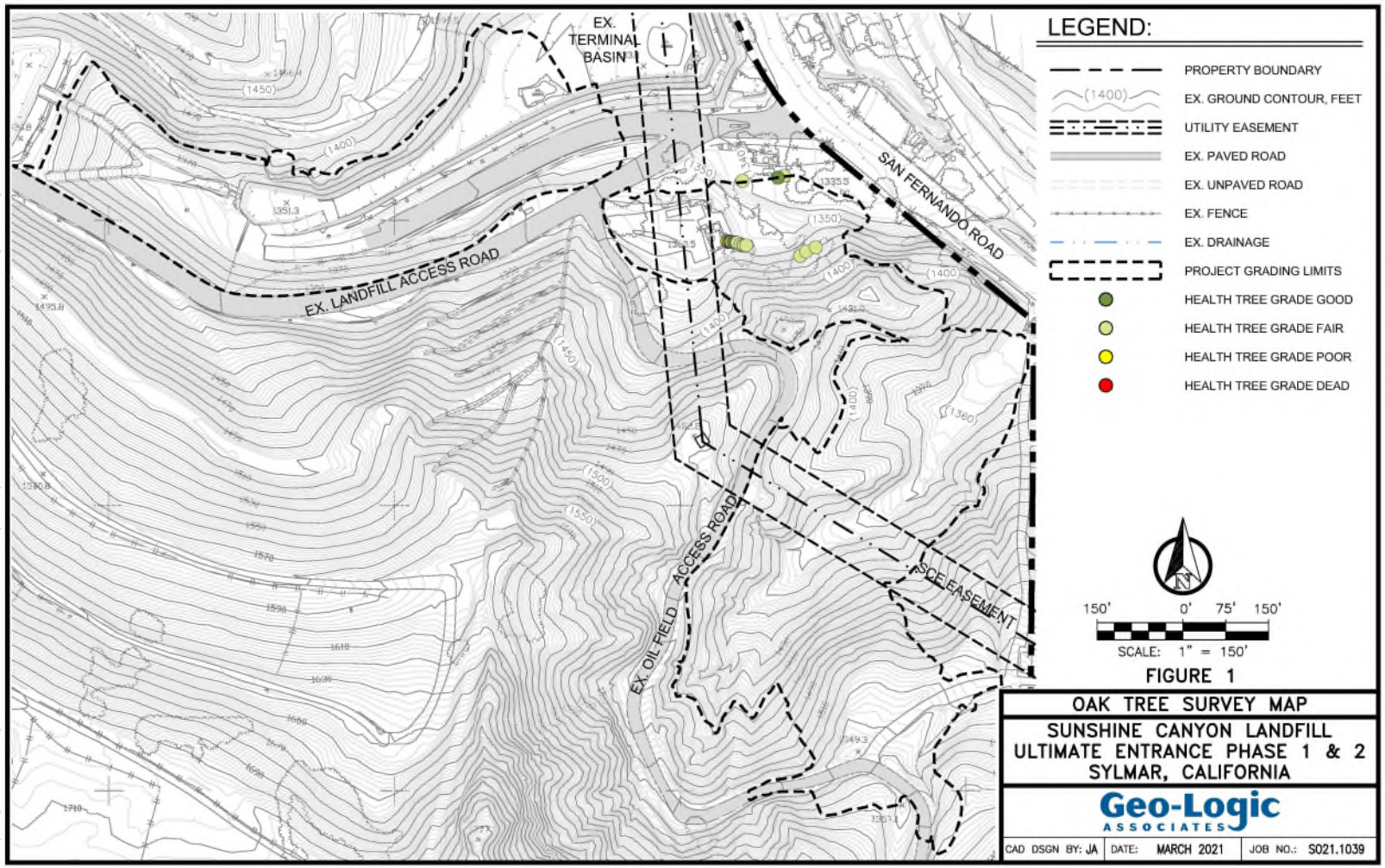


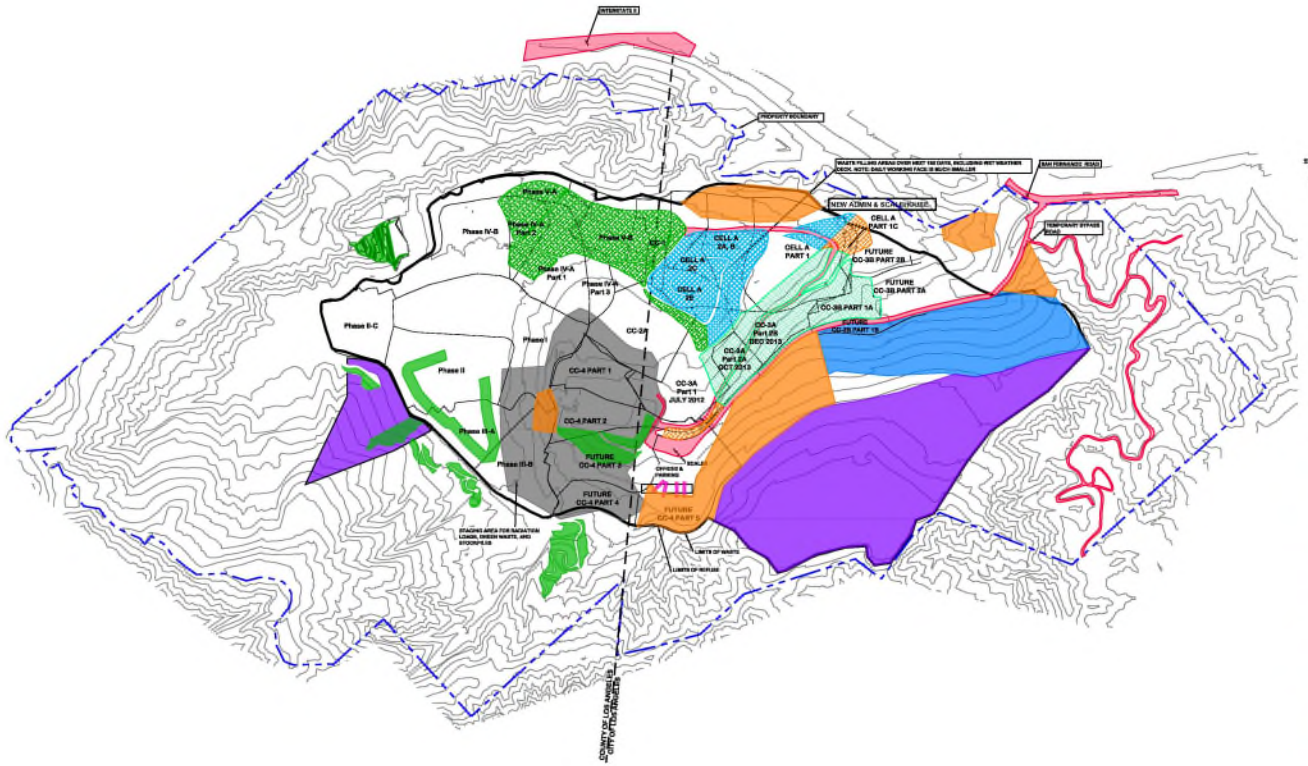
FIGURE 1

OAK TREE SURVEY MAP

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL
ULTIMATE ENTRANCE PHASE 1 & 2
SYLMAR, CALIFORNIA

Geo-Logic ASSOCIATES

CAD DSGN BY: JA	DATE: MARCH 2021	JOB NO.: S021.1039



GRAPHIC SCALE

0' 125' 500' 1000' 2000'

LEGEND

- 1500 — EXISTING SOFT CONTOUR
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- EXISTING APPROVED LINERS
- EXISTING ROADS
- LIMITS OF REFUSE

VEGETATION STATUS ACTIVITY THIRD QUARTER 2021	
	NON-PERMANENT CUT SLOPES WITH JUTE MATE OR STRAW WATTLES, SAGE SEED MIX (NOT MITIGATION AREA)
	SAGE MITIGATION AREA, FINAL SLOPES
	INTERIM COVER HYDROSEEDING (PRE-2008)
	CURRENT AND NEXT QUARTER ACTIVE AREAS. ALSO INCLUDES ROADS AND BUILDINGS
	HYDROSEED APPLICATION
	VEGETATION PILOT PROJECT USING INTERIM SEED MIX
	CLOSURE TURF
	POSI-SHELL INSTALLATION
	VEGETATIVE COVER USING INTERIM SEED MIX
	VEGETATIVE COVER OVER DISKED POSI-SHELL

FOR_REVIEW_ONLY

EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY PREPARED BY COOPER AERIAL SURVEYS DATED FEBRUARY 5, 2018

REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BY
REV1	DATE1	DESCRIPTION1	DRAWN1
REV2	DATE2	DESCRIPTION2	DRAWN2
REV3	DATE3	DESCRIPTION3	DRAWN3
REV4	DATE4	DESCRIPTION4	DRAWN4
REV5	DATE5	DESCRIPTION5	DRAWN5
REV6	DATE6	DESCRIPTION6	DRAWN6

DATE OF ISSUE: OCTOBER, 2021
DESIGNED BY: C. BARRETT
DRAWN BY: C. BARRETT
CHECKED BY: C. BARRETT
APPROVED BY: C. BARRETT

DIGALERT 811

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REPUBLIC SERVICES

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL
SYLMAR, CALIFORNIA
SITE VEGETATION STATUS AND ACTIVITY
Q3 2021

DWG NO. 1
PROJECT NO. SO18.0001