

August 12, 2021

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

FROM: Sarah Solomon, Staff

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

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the Second Quarter 2021 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill, dated July 31, 2021. The Status Report is a requirement of Condition 18B of the Finding of Conformance granted to the Landfill by the Task Force on December 18, 2008. The Status Report provides the progress of revegetation projects undertaken during the second quarter of 2021. In October 2019, the landfill vegetation sustained significant impact due to the Saddle Ridge Fire (Wildfire) that impacted Sylmar, CA.

During the second quarter of 2021, a weeding strategy was implemented to remove invasive weeds that had flourished since the Wildfire. The following weed species have been targeted for removal; Russian Thistle, Wild Oat, Short pod Mustard, Brome Grass, False Barley, Tree Tobacco, and Yellow Star Thistle. Additionally, vegetation activities included vegetation of interim and permanent slopes and activities conducted for the on-site sage mitigation areas.

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

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

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- There is evidence of desiccation of native seedlings species that have recently spouted and are beginning to harden off and defoliate. The weed cover is low-to-moderate and most annual species are currently dormant or have desiccated.
- Much plant diversity is observed, many of the species in the seed mix have germinated, and the containerized plants are blooming which are the White Sage, Mexican Elderberry, Menzies's Golden bush, and Prickly Pear.
- Several bird and lizard species were spotted during inspection, including San Diegan Whiptail Lizard and Common Side-Blotched Lizard.
- Large amount of sage scrub that flowered this past Spring has resprouted.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- Total vegetation coverage is sparse due to compacted and poor soil conditions. Evidence of previous seeding is no longer discernible where plant establishment is visibly poor.
- Vegetation cover is high in the southern-center of the revegetation area, and includes native species such as California buckwheat, as well as non-native species such as foxtail barley, redstem filaree, and Australian saltbush.

County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area (Pilot Project Area)

- Native vegetation coverage is good in vegetated areas and dominant species include California buckwheat and California sunflower.
- Due to low pH, high salinity, rocky soils with poor soil structure, and boron toxicity the establishment of vegetation remains problematic and has suppressed the seed germination of native species.