

November 18, 2021

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

FROM: Omid Mazdiyasn, Staff

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

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

During the fourth quarter of 2020, a weeding strategy was implemented to remove invasive weeds that had thrived since the Wildfire. During the third quarter of 2021, the site completed hydroseeding approximately 155 acres for the purposes of normal winterization efforts and slope revegetation efforts as a result of the Wildfire. Winterization activities were completed during for 2021 during the month of October.

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

- Substantial vegetation regrowth has continued to occur, including natives such as California Sunflower, Saltbush, 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 and Smooth-Leaf Yerba Santa and other Venturan Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS). New species from the original seed mix that have not been previously observed are beginning to sprout.
- 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.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area - Deck B / Middle Deck

- There is reported that a large portion of Deck B that had burned during the Wildfire has rebounded back over the last 18 months and has an abundance of new native seedling filling in what was barren dirt. A large amount of sage scrub has resprouted, the weed cover is low-to-moderate, and most annual species are currently dormant or have desiccated.
- Much plant diversity is observed, many of the species in the seed mix have germinated, and the containerized plants are blooming which are the White Sage, Mexican Elderberry, Menzies's Golden bush, and Prickly Pear.
- Large amount of sage scrub that flowered this past Spring has resprouted and some of which has flowered this past Spring following the damage from the fire.

City Side Sage Mitigation Area – Deck A / Upper Deck

- As observed during previous monitoring events, there is a stand of native California goldfields located in the southern center of the Upper Deck that is notable.
- Vegetation is dominant in this portion of the Upper Deck indicating that the soils in this portion of the deck are suitable for supporting native vegetation.

(Over)

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

- Native vegetation coverage is good in vegetated areas and dominant species include California buckwheat and California sunflower.
- No vegetation activities were conducted in this area during the third quarter of 2021. A trial test plot plan is being evaluated at this time.
- Due to low pH, high salinity, rocky soils with poor soil structure, and boron toxicity the establishment of vegetation remains problematic and has suppressed the seed germination of native species.