



LAKE VIEW TERRACE GREEN RECYCLING FACILITY INFORMATION PACKET

The City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Sanitation is proposing to construct the Lake View Terrace Green Recycling Facility on the site of the closed Lopez Canyon Landfill. This facility WILL NOT involve or lead to a re-opening of the landfill. The Bureau will be writing a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project.

Why a Green Recycling Facility?

California law (AB 939) required all cities and counties to reduce the amount of waste they sent to landfills by 50% by the year 2000. The City of Los Angeles met and surpassed that goal (report can be viewed and downloaded from the City's website at www.lacity.org/san), and has adopted the further goal of reducing landfilled waste by 70% by the year 2020.

One of the largest single components of the City's waste stream, and one of the easiest to divert from landfill disposal, is green waste - grass and tree trimmings, leaves, garden waste and other vegetable material. The Bureau of Sanitation already operates three mulching/composting facilities: the Anchorage Mulch Facility in the San Pedro/Harbor area, which uses the contents of the Bureau-collected residential green bins in the San Pedro/Harbor area; the Griffith Park Composting Facility, which uses green waste from Griffith Park, biosolids from the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant and animal waste from the Los Angeles Zoo; and the Van Norman Dam facility which uses green waste generated and collected by the City's Bureau of Street Services and Street Tree Division. The mulch and compost produced by these three facilities is a high-quality product, and is given away free, to large organizations like the Los Angeles Unified School District and to community gardens, City residents, businesses and farmers. A pick-up site for free mulch from the Anchorage facility is currently located at the front gate of the Lopez Canyon landfill, where anyone wanting mulch can bring a bag and a shovel, and take as much as they want.

Green waste collected by the Bureau of Sanitation from residential green bins outside of the San Pedro/Harbor area is taken to private composting facilities under contract to the City. These facilities charge the City to take the green materials, and then sell the finished mulch and compost on the open market.

Based on our experience with the three facilities the Bureau currently operates, opening the Lake View Terrace Green Recycling Facility at the Lopez Canyon Landfill will:

- * expedite the landfill closure process,
- * provide a much-needed green recycling facility for East Valley residents,
- * provide the finished product, free, to the local community,
- * increase employment opportunities for nearby residents, and
- * save the City money by operating our own mulch and compost facility.

What are Mulch and Compost?

Mulch is an organic material that is used as a ground cover to reduce evaporation and ground cooling, and protect seedlings. It can also be used as a soil amendment to improve the texture, the air permeability and the water retention properties of soil.

Compost is a natural, organic soil amendment made by decomposing organic matter. Compost returns the nutrients in vegetation to the soil, without using inorganics or harsh chemicals. Using compost improves the texture, the air permeability and the water and nutrient retention properties of soil.

Why at Lopez?

Ideally, a recycling facility that composts green trimmings collected from East Valley residents, should be located in the East Valley area. Since this recycling facility would be City owned and operated, it should be on City-owned property that is not already reserved for another use. In addition, a green recycling facility requires a large amount of open space, located at a reasonable distance from residential or commercial uses. The upper decks of the former Lopez Canyon Landfill meet these requirements.

The north side of the upper decks (Decks A and B) contains the necessary space that would be required for the twenty-acre green recycling facility the Bureau is proposing to build (potentially taking in a maximum of 300 tons per day of green materials collected from the East Valley). Since a landfill gas collection system is not located on these decks, the recycling facility will not interfere with current landfill gas system maintenance and repair. Also, the A and B decks are about 2,000 feet away from, and almost 300 feet higher than the closest residence. This distance will allow us to mitigate noise from the composting operations to a level that should not be generally noticeable, even in the quiet of Kagel Canyon.

How Will The Facility Work?

The Bureau's collection trucks currently take the contents of green bins from the East Valley Sanitation District to a private compost facility in Sun Valley. Those same trucks would take those same green materials from the East Valley Sanitation District to the Lake View Terrace Green Recycling Facility. Only green materials will be composted at the Lake View Terrace Green Recycling Facility, no biosolids or animal waste will be used.

The Green Recycling Facility would operate weekdays, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Although the City's collection trucks operate on five Saturdays a year, after major holidays, the Green Recycling Facility would not be open on those days.

The Bureau will start small, bringing in approximately 50 - 70 tons of green materials per day. This will allow us to fine-tune our process, and make certain there are no impacts to the community. After the first 6 months, if all goes as planned, we will gradually increase the amount of green material processed through the facility. We hope to eventually take in the contents of all the green bins the Bureau collects in the East Valley, about 300 tons per day.

The green materials will be brought to the recycling area and hand picked for any large amounts of trash. The cleaned green materials will then be loaded into a Trommel Screen to screen out all material that is 2 inches or less in size. This 2 inch sized material will be stockpiled and added to the composting process later. Green trimmings that are larger than 2 inches will be transported by a conveyor belt to a "Picking Station". This 49 foot long 'Picking Station' will be staffed by up to 16 maintenance laborers. Here they will remove any non-organic materials. The cleaned material will then be fed into a grinder to reduce it in size to

mostly 2 inches or less. Next, these green trimmings will be mixed together with the less than 2 inch trimmings that came out of the Trommel Screen and laid out on the asphalt pad. Water will be added and the pile will be mixed using a compost turner. The mixed green trimmings will then be placed in rows to start the composting process. These rows, called windrows, are each approximately 20 feet wide, 8 feet high, and 300 feet long, and covered with wood chips.

The composting site will be covered with an asphalt pad containing perforated pipes that will be connected to an exhaust fan and specialized filter. The windrows will be built over the perforated pipes. The exhaust fan will pull air through the windrows and pump this air through a filter designed to remove volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and hydrocarbons (HCs). This process, called 'static aeration' reduces odors. Static aeration composting is being successfully used at the Bureau's Griffith Park Composting Facility. Pulling air through the windrow also makes sure that there is enough oxygen to maintain aerobic decomposition, which further reduces odors and speeds up the composting process.

In addition to pulling air through the windrows and filtering it, the windrows will also be turned by machine once or twice a week. The combination of static aeration and turning will keep odors and air emissions to an insignificant level.

Once placed into windrows, material will compost and cure for 30 to 60 days. At the end of this time, a high-quality finished compost will be available for use.

What Are The Negative Impacts?

The Bureau has been working with a Task Force which includes representatives from the Lake View Terrace Improvement Association, Lake View Terrace Homeowners Association, Northeast Homeowners Association, Shadow Hills Property Owners, Sky Terrace Mobile Home Park, Lake View Terrace Garden Club, Kagel Canyon Civic Association, Judd St. Neighborhood Watch, Valley Horse Owners Association, Pacoima Beautiful, and Blue Star Mobile Home Park, to identify potential negative impacts from the Green Recycling Facility, and find acceptable ways to mitigate these potential impacts.

The Bureau and the Task Force have been meeting monthly since April, 2002, and have toured the proposed site and the Griffith Park Composting Facility. The Task Force has identified 7 potential impacts, and has proposed specific mitigation measures to deal with each one.

The identified impacts and their mitigation measures are:

Odors: The combination of static aeration and windrow turning will reduce odors to an insignificant level.

Noise: The Bureau retained Don Behrens, of Behrens and Associates, Inc., Acoustic, Noise and Vibration Consultants, to study the project and suggest ways to reduce noise levels. Mr. Behrens visited the surrounding community and the nearest residence in Kagel Canyon, and calculated the maximum noise levels that project operations could be expected to produce. He determined that only the nearest residents in Kagel Canyon, an unusually quiet residential area, would be able to hear noise from the facility at any time.

Mr. Behrens designed noise mitigation measures, which the City will implement, to reduce operations noise to insignificant levels at the nearest residences. The main noise reduction measure will be a 12-foot earthen berm around the northeast side of the facility. If nearby residents find that the berm provides insufficient noise reduction, the Bureau could either place

an 'acoustic wall' around the noise-emitting equipment, or design and install 'noise blankets' on individual pieces of equipment; or possibly do both. In addition, the facility will operate on weekdays only, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Back-up beepers are a particular problem. For safety reasons, CAL-OSHA requires the use of these beepers, at a minimum volume above ambient noise levels, on certain types of equipment. Mr. Behrens is working with the Bureau to determine if the back-up beepers may be turned down to a lower level. To further minimize the impact of equipment back-up beepers, facility layout and driving patterns through the composting site have been redesigned to require the absolute minimum of backing up.

Aesthetics: The Bureau has engaged Gene Greene, the landscape architect who helped design and maintains the award-winning Japanese Gardens at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in the Sepulveda Basin. Mr. Greene also helped design and currently maintains the landscaping on the flood control berm around the Tillman Plant. Mr. Greene will design grading and vegetation on the outside of the 12-foot noise berm to resemble the natural hills surrounding the facility. He will also work with Lopez staff to design and oversee an ongoing maintenance schedule, which will, over the first several years of facility operations, encourage the establishment of a self-sustaining ecology.

Dust: Lopez Canyon Landfill closure activities require water to be sprayed on dry areas to reduce dust. This practice will continue at the Lake View Terrace Green Recycling Facility. In addition, some of the heavy equipment can be equipped with misters that will be used to add water to the compost product as well as to contain any dust within the facility boundary during dry season.

Stormwater Runoff: Lopez Canyon landfill is currently maintained under a comprehensive General Industrial Stormwater Permit, which is overseen by the State's Regional Water Quality Control Board. The infrastructure for stormwater runoff control has been in place for some years. The Lake View Terrace Green Recycling Facility will share this stormwater infrastructure, and will be added to the Lopez Canyon Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.

Traffic and Associated Air Emissions: Lopez Canyon Landfill operations required about 400 truck trips per day in and out of the landfill. Closure operations have recently been using about 230 truck trips per day in and out of the landfill. Green recycling operations will begin with 8 - 10 truck trips per day (5 - 7 trucks bringing in green materials and 3 - 4 trucks taking out finished compost). At maximum capacity, 300 tons per day of green materials, the facility will require about 45 - 50 truck trips per day (30 trucks bringing in green materials and 15 - 18 trucks taking out finished compost).

This level of truck traffic is far below previous landfill operations, and less than one-quarter of current closure operations. Nevertheless, some small traffic impacts may still be felt on Paxton.

The Bureau is in the process of replacing all of its diesel waste trucks with trucks that use an alternative fuel, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). LNG-fuel trucks emit significantly less pollutants than diesel-fuel trucks. The Bureau's entire collection fleet should be LNG-fueled by the beginning of 2005. The Bureau will replace the trucks in its East Valley Service Area first, so that trucks serving the Lake View Terrace Green Recycling Facility will use the low-emission fuel as soon as possible.

Vectors: A vector is something that does not itself cause disease, but carries and spreads a disease-causing organism. The most common vectors are insects and rodents. The only vectors that may potentially exist at the Lake View Terrace Green Recycling Facility are mosquitoes and flies.

Mosquitoes are a problem only where there is standing water for them to breed in. No standing water will be allowed in the Lake View Terrace Green Recycling Facility. Flies will be controlled with good housekeeping practices. Rodent abatement measures will also continue to be in effect.

The City has committed to implementing these mitigation measures for each of these impacts. The Recycling Facility WILL NOT be built unless the mitigation measures described above are incorporated and maintained.

What Happens Now?

The Bureau will be writing a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Lake View Terrace Green Recycling facility, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. We expect to release this document in early November, 2002, for a 30-day comment period. If you wish to be on the mailing list to be notified when the MND is released, please see below: **How Do I Get On The Mailing List.** We are legally obligated to respond to all comments received.

The City has scheduled a public meeting to discuss the project. Here you may raise other potential impacts which the MND should address, or suggest additional mitigation measures.

After the 30-day comment period, the MND will be considered by the Board of Public Works. Everyone on the mailing list will be notified when the Board is to consider the MND, and may come to the hearing and speak to the Board about it.

If the Board approves the MND, it will then be sent to the City Council for adoption. Everyone on the mailing list will be notified when the Council is to consider the MND, and may come to the hearing and speak to the Council about it.

How Do I Get On The Mailing List?

You can get on the mailing list by:

Signing up at the public meeting, calling or mailing one of the coordinators listed below.

PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS THE LAKE VIEW TERRACE GREEN RECYCLING FACILITY

DATE: Tuesday, October 15, 2002

TIME: 7:00 pm

LOCATION: Lake View Terrace Recreation Center
11075 Foothill Blvd, Lake View Terrace

Coordinators:

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