

September 13, 2015

Councilmember Felipe Fuentes  
Energy and the Environment Committee Chair  
City of Los Angeles  
200 N Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
**Via E-Mail**

RE: CM# 15-0314 Special Meeting Agenda Item # 1 Sanitation Report on Lopez Bufferlands

Dear Councilman Fuentes:

Looking at the information requested from Sanitation in Council Motion 15-0314, I have the following areas of concern related to Sanitation's report provided for review at your committee meeting on September 16th:

1. Solar proposal is a separate commercial project and should not be tied to recreational trails proposed on bufferlands since 2007. Adding cost of creating trails & staging area to a future "solar request for proposal" is ludicrous.
2. Solar proposal outreach by Sanitation has been inadequate to date. There's been no information shared with public and first public meeting is scheduled for October 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. Environmental documents should not be combined as suggested in report. While the trails project might need an MND to prove lack of negative impacts, putting solar on trash filled C Canyon requires full EIR of its own with much testing before construction.
4. Sanitation's report of Phase I completion falls short of the Phases announced to community over the years. Sanitation shares changes to community use plans with public after the fact, if at all, at community meetings-e.g.: In 2015 Environmental Learning Center opened ahead of plan presented to public. But - what happened to park amenities, entrance area trails and trail linking Paxton park and second park in White Horse area at Van Nuys listed as Phase 1 in 2008 and 2010 documents given to community? Now this report lists permanent buildings for Sanitation use on landfill in Phase III. Community Use Plan changes should be announced in advance for community. Where is the due process in these "projects"?
5. Sanitation report mentions outreach on equestrian staging area via email. Unfortunately many landfill neighbors do not use email. The community liaison, Reva Fabrikant, who I understand is leaving soon, still mails out meeting summaries. Reva's email lists are not representative of the population surrounding the Lopez site affected by potential Lopez projects.
6. Equestrian and hiking trails over bufferlands linking to Rim of the Valley and National Forest have been supplanted by Sanitation's narrow focus on a staging area rather than the overall project.
7. We still have no implementation timeline for trails, parks etc.

Living below the Lopez Landfill's Canyon C since 1988, I've directly experienced its smells, flying trash, noise and other negative effects. I was grateful when it closed in 1996 and looked forward to the

implementation of the 2007 Community Use Plan presented to us by the Bureau of Sanitation at meetings and in their mailed newsletters. Unfortunately, here it is 2015 and besides replacing some Paxton park playground equipment, and the ahead of schedule opening of a small version of the Environmental Education Center, nothing has been done on the Lopez bufferlands. However I'd estimate that many Sanitation man-hours and millions of dollars have been used toward commercial development projects, potential commercial development of the landfill and related lawsuits.

The September 2015 Lopez bufferlands report states that the Phase 1 improvements are complete. This contradicts plans revealed to the community from 2008 through now are follows:

In 2008 on Bureau of Sanitation's Spring 2008 newsletter (still posted on their website), two parks linked via trails, with bathroom facilities, additional amenities and bufferland hiking trails were proposed in Phase 1. In that same newsletter a Truck Driving "Academy" program was announced for Lopez, creating community protest. After this announcement discussion of community use and amenities stopped at the Restoration meetings.

Replacing the Sanitation facilities and equipment at Lopez destroyed by the 2009 Marek fire and the community's ongoing legal challenge of the truck driving program were CD7 & BoS's focus. Bufferland parks and trails planning updates no longer appeared on Lopez Restoration Meeting agendas.

Finally in the December 2009 Lopez Restoration meeting minutes (currently on Sanitation's website) an Environmental Education Center update was given prompting meeting participants to remind Sanitation that the trails and parks, which were not on recent agendas would be less expensive and available quicker to the community. Sanitation was open to re-examining priorities and building the trailheads if that is what the community preferred. The cost to build the amphitheater, kiosks, etc. would be \$800,000- \$1M. Sanitation was to prepare a concept for both possibilities and bring it to the next community meeting for review.

In 2010 Sanitation showed the community the following Lopez recreational plan:

#### PHASE 1 Park Improvement, Horse & Hiking Trail Access

- to be completed within 2 - 4 years
- Provide trail access at the DuBois Barn Area
- Parking lot with equestrian staging area
- Provide access to already existing horse and hiking trails
- Improve the current park at the Lopez Landfill entrance
- New playground equipment
- Add trees
- Improve picnic area
- Add bathroom facilities

#### PHASE 2 Environmental Education Center, New Park

- To be completed within 7 - 10 years
- Build new Environmental Education Center
- Create new 4-acre park in the 'White Horse' area near Fenton & Van Nuys
- Play structures
- Picnic area
- Bathroom facilities

- Trees
- Trail with native plants and labels

#### PHASE 3 Passive Recreation

- To be completed within 20+ years
- Develop top of the landfill for recreational use
- Playing fields
- Vista points
- Picnic

Later in 2010 Sanitation narrowed their focus and community meeting agendas to trailhead design accessing Bartholomew Canyon from Terra Vista. Rim of Valley connection was again discussed and information concerning the Rim of the Valley connections to county trails and contact information for Sanitation was offered by County Deputy Jones. Further Restoration meetings continued to focus on only trailhead designs and stressed a lack of funds to construct it. To date Sanitation indicated no progress relating trail design to Rim of Valley connection despite offers of County contacts, the existence of the internet and “Google”.

In the May 2015 Restoration meeting 2 residents claimed ignorance of the Lopez Bartholomew Canyon trailhead plans on Terra Vista, claiming they were never notified of it, despite living close to it and were skeptical of its impact on their lifestyle. Sanitation replied that there’d be an environmental document produced that would include their comments. An MND could handle this project as the Equestrian Committee chair had an easily implementable answer to their concerns.

All of the Lopez property is zoned as open space and passive recreational has been possible on the bufferlands for many years.

Although the Lopez Community section of Sanitation’s website does not hold all of the Restoration meeting minutes it should, a reasonable person reading through the subset of Lopez Restoration meeting minutes currently posted on that website can see Sanitation’s hesitancy to provide community amenities since 2007.

The report tendered this month in response to your CM-15-0314 remains vague and attempts to further delay, rather than provide a timeline, for the use of Lopez bufferlands.

Sincerely,

Linda Joyce Hornick  
Lake View Terrace CA

Cc: Sharon Gin – LC City, FTDNC – Kevin Davis, Nancy Woodruff