



Lopez Canyon Truck Driver Training Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

What's the purpose of the project?

To allocate a 1.5 acre portion of the former Lopez Canyon Landfill for a Truck Driver Training Program. Graduates will complete the Class "A" and Class "B" California Drivers License training program.

What organization will operate the program?

Transportation Opportunity Program (TOP) will operate the training program under a 5-year lease with the City of Los Angeles. TOP is a tax-exempt non-profit public benefit corporation established exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 501(c) (3).



What is TOP?

TOP is a job training program which is dedicated to training students to be Class "A" or Class "B" truck drivers. Southern California Workforce Partnership (SCWP), Teamsters and Major Los Angeles Area Employers joined together to establish TOP to train drivers to meet the significant employment demands. TOP Board consists of a (1) trucking industry representative, (2) community member, or (3) Teamster Union member. No single group may constitute a majority and control the Board.

What is the role of the Los Angeles Trucking Industry Employers?

Employers participated in the curriculum design and donated all training equipment: tractors and trailers. TOP graduates are eligible for employment with a participating Employer.

What will be the number of students and vehicles in the program?

There are 12-students per class with 2-classes (24-students) conducted during each 4-week period. Typically, one class will be on-site for training while the other class is conducting road-training off-site. There will be a maximum of 8-trucks in use at any given time.

How will the school operate at the landfill?

The hours of operations shall be limited from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Classroom and basic driving skills training will take place at the 1.5 acre dedicated site. Truck driving is not permitted before 7:30 a.m. The City lease prohibits driver training on landfill roads; roads can only be used for access and egress.

Will this increase truck traffic in our residential neighborhoods?

There will be no training-vehicle operation through residential neighborhoods. The Lopez site exits directly to the freeway; there is no need to transition residential areas. Driver-training will take place on freeways and in commercial areas.



What is the environmental impact as a result of TOP truck operations?

A Mitigated Negative Declaration document prepared for TOP truck operation indicates that any environmental impacts posed by the operation can be adequately addressed through the application of routine mitigation measures. The City lease requires TOP to convert their fleet to lower emission vehicles within 12-months of the start of the training program.



How do students sign up and is Union membership a requirement?

Students can apply for enrollment at El Proyecto WorkSource in Sun Valley or a participating Community College or WorkSource Center. Federal and Local employment training grants can cover the cost of the eligible student's tuition. Union membership and Union employment are not prerequisites for enrollment.

What is the tuition cost to the student?

Applicants are eligible for Federal and Local employment training grants can cover the cost of the eligible student's tuition. The student may be responsible for training supplies and fees related to the DMV license.

Why is TOP opening at a time when there are few, if any, jobs?

There are significant amounts of Federal Funds available to the Los Angeles-area for job training in the transportation industry. This is because truck drivers are one of three statewide high-need and high-growth occupations. A California Employment Development Department study indicated a need for 50,000 new drivers prior to 2014. There was an extreme shortage of qualified drivers prior to the 2008 economic downturn. This demand will return with the economic recovery.

How will it help my community?

Truck Driver is one of the few occupations where a high school graduate can to move from unemployment to employment within six weeks, making good a good middle-class income. For the unemployed, TOP can be life-changing opportunity for training in a new occupation and lift the worker out of poverty. "The Transportation Opportunity Program will create middle-class jobs and help narrow the economic gap in our City," said Mayor Villaraigosa. "By training Angelinos for good paying jobs as truck drivers, we can help keep our economy strong and vibrant."

What is the City's Plan for the Public Use of Lopez?

The City's long term plan for the landfill following the cessation of the TOP training operation is to return the landfill to open space at an opportune time in the future for the development of passive and recreational uses.

When will classes begin?

The goal is to begin classes around April 2010. The first class enrollment and start dates will be announced the first quarter of 2010.

Where can I get more information?

El Proyecto Work Source
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