

Ascon Huntington Beach Our Approach to Air Monitoring

January 2020

A safer, cleaner future for the community

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of the Huntington Beach community as we work together to finish the cleanup of the Ascon Landfill Site. This includes working to protect the health and safety of the community by monitoring air quality at the Site and in the local neighborhood.

Air monitoring involves independent third-party analysis and regulatory review



Immediate readings from handheld monitors drive real-time action throughout fieldwork.



Samples for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are collected from stations onsite and in the surrounding neighborhood and sent to a state-certified lab for analysis.



The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) regularly conduct onsite field inspections, observe activity and monitoring, and review the onsite air monitoring logs.



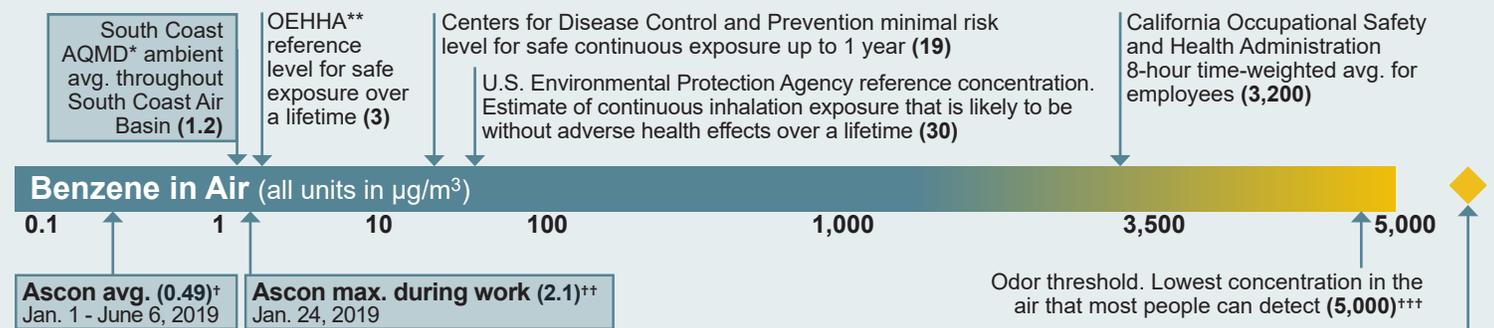
All data are submitted to and reviewed by DTSC.

Health-protective screening levels

Air monitoring screening levels were approved by DTSC, the regulatory agency overseeing the cleanup, and reviewed by South Coast AQMD, the regulatory agency who issues the air permits. Screening levels take several factors into account, including the type of substances that may be present, the concentration in the air and how long the exposure lasts. The levels are set to protect potentially sensitive members of the community (e.g., children, pregnant women, those with health concerns) and are for both short-term and long-term exposures, such as daily exposure over a lifetime.

Since the latest cleanup work began in January 2019, air monitoring onsite has shown that air quality has been safely below health-protective screening levels, as it has been during prior field actions. Air monitoring will continue until the excavation is complete.

Health-protective screening levels: benzene monitoring example



*South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)

**California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

*Below regional ambient air background levels and below public health risk levels

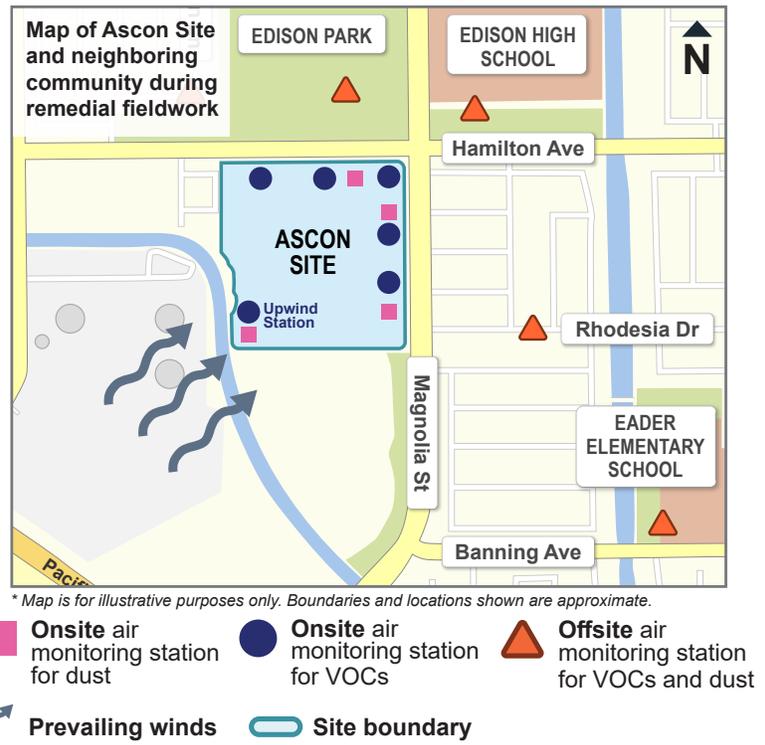
**Below public health risk levels; detections above these levels have not been found during temporary shutdown

***US Dept. of Health & Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)

How wind affects our work

We are continually monitoring onsite wind and weather conditions to protect the community and our team.

- Once fieldwork resumes, if the wind speed onsite exceeds 15 mph (averaged over 15 minutes) or gusts exceed 25 mph, all soils work stops to minimize dust and odors.
- To detect dust and chemicals blowing onto the Ascon Site from other sources, there is an upwind monitoring station for dust and an upwind monitoring station for VOCs.
- Downwind monitoring stations help us confirm that onsite mitigation to prevent dust and other impacts to the community are working.
- Real-time wind speed and weather information from our onsite weather station is online at Asconhb.com.



? Frequently asked questions

Have air monitoring results ever identified a potential health concern related to cleanup activities? No. According to a July 12, 2019, statement by DTSC: “Ongoing air monitoring at the Site has not found any chemicals above levels that present a public health concern. The health protective monitoring levels are set to protect members of the community, including children and other vulnerable people.”

What progress has been made on new protections against odors? We are implementing several enhancements at the Ascon Site to help control odors. They include:

- Evaluating feasibility of tenting and enclosure design to utilize for soils work.
- Applying reinforced polyethylene cover, fibrous clay seal and non-toxic foam.
- Increasing measures to stabilize soil, including a non-toxic odor suppressant material that binds to loose soils and forms a shell resistant to wind and erosion.
- Installing a 16-foot barrier fence along northern and eastern portions of the Site.

What is being monitored? We are monitoring for VOCs and dust while work is paused. Additionally, we will monitor for polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), metals and odor during active fieldwork.

What is the impact of odors on my health? While some substances generate odors in outdoor air, they are not at levels that can cause long-term health effects. Air data collected to date on the Site and in the surrounding neighborhood confirmed that, when odors have been identified, there have not been any chemicals detected by our monitoring at levels that present a risk to the community. Completing the final environmental cleanup of Ascon is important for the community, and we are working to reduce impacts to our neighbors.

See air monitoring results and wind speed reports

To view air monitoring results and live wind and weather information, please visit our website at Asconhb.com. For more information, call the Ascon Community Information Line at (714) 388-1825.