

ASCON LANDFILL SITE



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet summarizes the results of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) regarding soil/waste materials for the Ascon Landfill site (Site). The Site is a vacant 38-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Magnolia Street in the City of Huntington Beach, California (see Figure). As part of the ongoing study to determine the best cleanup option for the Site, the RI/FS for soil/waste materials has been completed and ap-

proved by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). This fact sheet includes information on the project update, RI/FS for soil/waste materials, future activities, and how the public may participate in the Site cleanup.

PROJECT UPDATE

DTSC approved the RI/FS for soil/waste materials in June 2001. Some groundwater RI data has been collected. The RI/FS for groundwater is on-going.

In January 2003, a group of responsible parties (RPs) entered into a consent order with DTSC to investigate and cleanup the Site. This group of RPs consists of Atlantic Richfield Company, Chevron Environmental Management Company, ConocoPhillips, The Dow Chemical Company, Shell Oil Company, Southern California Edison, and Northrop Grumman Space & Mission Systems Corporation. Also, in March 2003, DTSC issued a unilateral order to the property owner and Exxon Mobil Corporation to compel them to work with the group of RPs to cleanup the Site.

PUBLIC MEETING

Please join us at a public meeting where we will present the results of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. We will also discuss future work at the Site and answer any questions you may have regarding the Site.

Date: March 26, 2003

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Eader Elementary
School

9291 Banning Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92646

RI/FS FOR SOIL/WASTE MATERIALS

DTSC approved the RI/FS for soil/waste materials in June 2001. The RI/FS pertaining to the soil/waste materials includes documents addressing Site characterization, a health risk assessment and ecological screening, and the evaluation of cleanup options. A complete RI/FS for groundwater is planned for the future.

Remedial Investigation (RI)

The RI documents present the results of the Site investigation for soil/waste materials at the Site. The Site currently includes five visible surface lagoons (i.e., Lagoons 1 - 5), one covered pit (i.e., Pit F), and seven buried pits. Samples were collected from the lagoons, perimeter berm and groundwater, and chemically analyzed for contaminants. In addition, the RI report addresses types and volumes of other solid waste materials (e.g., construction debris).

The contaminated soil and waste material are composed of compounds that are generally consistent with the historical disposal records. Many of the organic compounds detected are typically found in crude oil and in waste from petroleum production. In addition, halogenated hydrocarbons and several metals (e.g., arsenic, lead) were detected.

Health Risk Assessment (HRA)

The Site investigation data was used in the HRA to estimate human health effects associated with potential exposure to contaminants at the Site. The data from Site soils and waste materials were used to calculate the potential risks associated with the Site. The HRA did not use actual measurements of airborne concentrations of these chemicals.

The HRA estimated potential cancer and non-cancer health effects to off-site workers and residents within the immediate vicinity of the Site. Off-site exposures from volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) which evaporate from the

lagoons were estimated using a very conservative mathematical model.

The primary chemicals of concern identified in the HRA include 1,2-dichloroethane, benzene, benzidine, thallium, and arsenic. The HRA concluded that cancer and non-cancer health effects, both on-site and off-site, exceed acceptable regulatory health benchmarks. DTSC usually requires remediation or additional investigation when cancer risks are greater than one in a million persons for residential use. The HRA estimated a maximum potential cancer risk for off-site residents is as high as 9 in 10,000 persons depending on the levels of contamination to which one is exposed, assuming a continuous exposure for 30 years. For this reason, DTSC has required the Site to be cleaned up.

In addition to the HRA, a screening level ecological risk assessment was conducted. This assessment concluded that airborne chemical concentrations do not appear to be high enough to cause damage or an apparent population decline to wildlife.

Feasibility Study (FS)

The FS report presents the results of the screening and evaluation of cleanup options for soil/waste materials at the Site. The cleanup objectives are to reduce or eliminate human health risks, reduce risks to the environment, and mitigate on-site sources that may cause deterioration of groundwater quality.

The screening and evaluation of various cleanup technologies were performed based on the cleanup objectives, types and volumes of waste, and effectiveness and implementability. The final cleanup options were evaluated and included:

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- Option 1: No Action;
- Option 2: Containment with a soil-bentonite slurry wall and a vegetative, geomembrane cap; and
- Option 3: On-site treatment and removal of wastes.

A detailed analysis was performed on these cleanup options pursuant to the federal regulations. Based upon this analysis, Option 3 was considered the most suitable cleanup option for the Site and the most protective of public health.

Option 3 consists of the following:

- removal and off-site disposal of old drums, tires, pipe, vegetation, and onsite wood piles ;
- removal of construction debris and segregation into concrete and other debris;
- removal and treatment of surface (rain) water from Lagoons 1 through 5;
- removal and treatment of liquid hydrocarbon wastes from Lagoons 1 and 2;
- removal and off-site disposal of tarry styrene waste from Pit F;
- removal and treatment of affected soils and drilling muds from the current lagoons, former lagoons, pits, and the perimeter berm; and
- use of clean soil for the final grade.

Option 3 implementation is anticipated to take approximately three years, with two of those years for the main cleanup activities. It is estimated that 668,000 cubic yards of material would be removed from the Site. During implementation, a dust and odor control plan would be employed along with air monitoring. Upon final implementation, this option will eliminate or reduce the identified risks from the soil and physical conditions of the Site to acceptable levels, and it will be suitable for development as it is currently zoned.

Groundwater

Limited groundwater data was collected between 1983 and 1997. In Summer 2002, the most recent groundwater sampling event occurred and on-site and off-site groundwater monitoring wells were installed. Samples were collected and analyzed for VOCs, semi-volatile organic compounds, and metals. Liquid waste material was detected in some on-site areas. The results of this groundwater sampling event showed fewer chemicals and lower concentrations in groundwater off-site compared to on-site.

The chemicals detected in groundwater and the potential impact to humans and the environment will be evaluated during the groundwater RI which will be continued during the soil/waste material cleanup. Until groundwater at the Site is adequately investigated, there remains the potential for groundwater cleanup. Groundwater in the Site area is not a source of drinking water.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

DTSC plans to hold a public meeting on March 26, 2003 to provide a summary of the RI/FS for soil/waste materials and an update regarding the status of the project.

DTSC is overseeing the following activities to be conducted by the RPs:

1. Preparation of a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for soil/waste materials; (The RAP is the DTSC decision-making public document that presents the proposed cleanup option. The draft RAP will be available for public review and comment before a final RAP is approved by DTSC.)
2. Preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR); (The EIR identifies potential environmental impacts of the proposed cleanup option. The draft EIR will be available for public review and comment before a final EIR is approved by DTSC.)

3. A groundwater RI/FS;
4. A long-term air sampling program; and
5. Preparation of an updated Public Participation Plan (PPP). (The PPP is a document which explains the protocol for interested parties to be kept informed regarding Site activities and to provide input to the Site cleanup.)

OVERVIEW OF SITE HISTORY

The Site operated as an active landfill from 1938 to 1984. In the early years of the operation, much of the waste came from oil drilling operations. The waste included drilling muds, wastewater brines, and other drilling wastes. Records indicate that from 1957 to 1971, chromic acid, sulfuric acid, aluminum slag, fuel oils, styrene (a form of plastic), and other wastes were also received and deposited on-site. From 1971 to 1984, material deposited on-site included inert solid wastes such as asphalt, concrete, metal, soil, and wood.

In May 1993, the property was transferred to Signal Mortgage Company (SMC) of Long Beach by way of foreclosure. In November 1995, SMC entered into an agreement with California/Nevada Developments, LLC (CND) to work with DTSC to complete the RI/FS and prepare the RAP for the Site. CND signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement (VCA) in May 1996 for DTSC oversight, review, and approval of the RI/FS, RAP, and associated documents for the Site. In July 2001, the VCA was terminated at the request of CND.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The approved soil/waste materials RI/FS is an important public document that reports the results on the investigation and lists the cleanup technologies studied. DTSC staff will discuss the findings of the RI/FS and answer your questions at the meeting scheduled on March 26, 2003. You are also invited to review the RI/FS documents at the two established repositories

for this Site and at DTSC's Cypress office.

REPOSITORIES

Huntington Beach Central Library and Cultural Center
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA
(714) 842-4481

Banning Annex Library
9281 Banning Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA
(714) 375-5005

DTSC
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: Ms. Julie Johnson
(714) 484-5337

DTSC PROJECT CONTACTS

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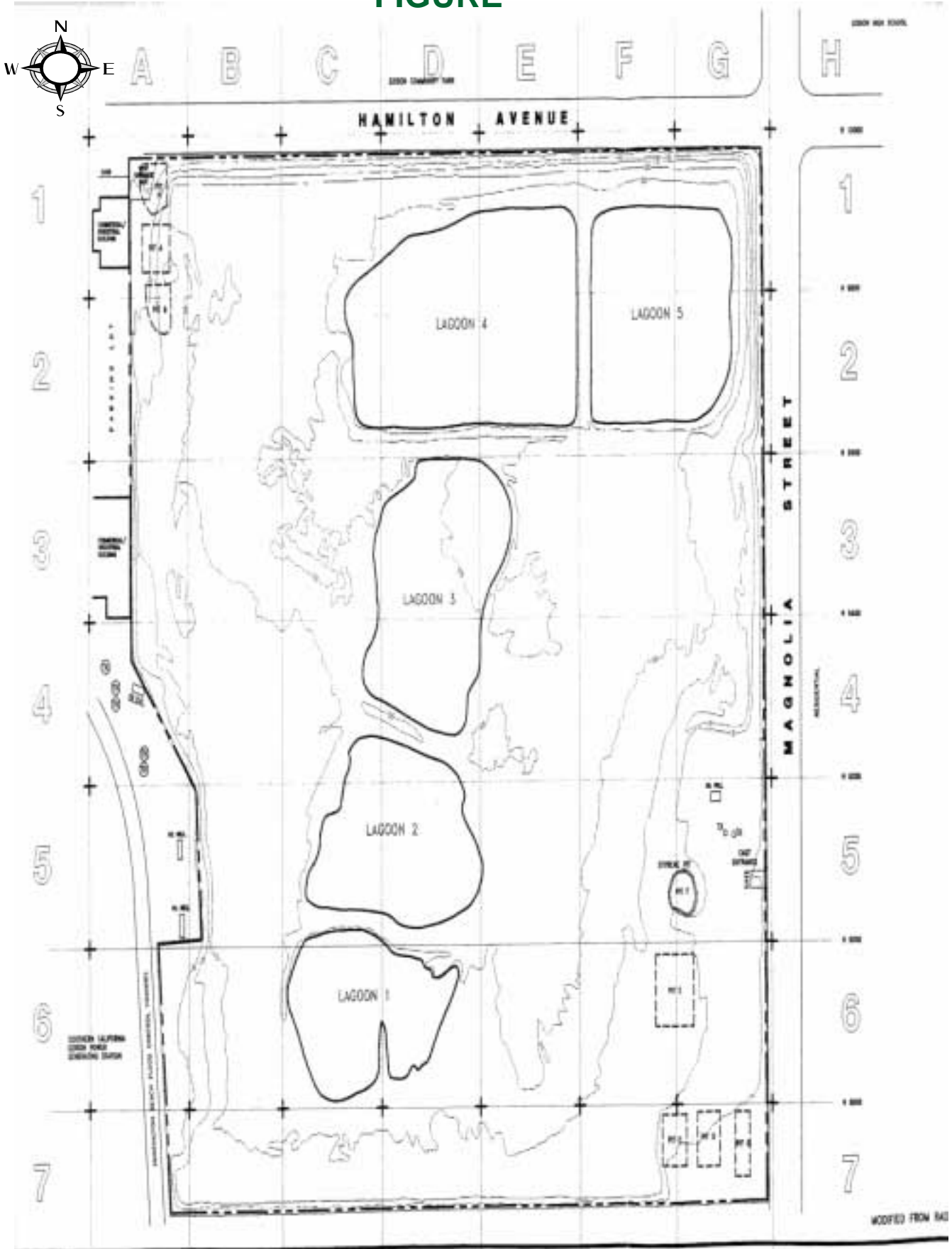
MEDIA CONTACT:

Ms. Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can use the California Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Project Manager, Ms. Christine Chiu at (714) 484-5470.

FIGURE



MAILING COUPON

ASCON LANDFILL SITE

NAME: _____

AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (if applicable): _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please add me to the site mailing list.

Please delete me from the site mailing list.



State of California

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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INSIDE: INFORMATION ON ASCON LANDFILL SITE, HUNTINGTON BEACH