

Fact Sheet #8
March 2004

Ascon Landfill Site HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA



New studies at the Ascon Landfill site

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



Known as Lagoon 1, this is one of 5 lagoons on the site. They will be sampled to evaluate the nature of the waste material in the lagoons.

This fact sheet announces a series of new activities occurring at the Ascon Landfill site. These activities are part of the ongoing investigation and cleanup of this former landfill.

The site is a vacant, 38-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Magnolia Street in Huntington Beach. It contains various types of liquid and solid hazardous waste in buried pits, surface piles of concrete and other rubble, and lagoons (ponds). The site has gone through several environmental investigations and cleanup plans through its many changes of ownership.

Our agency is the Department of Toxic Substances Control. Our role is to protect human health and the environment by overseeing the site investigation and cleanup. A group of private companies (Responsible Parties) that formerly used the site are paying for the investigation and any required cleanup.

Additional studies to obtain more information regarding soil cleanup

Substances of concern at the site generally include those related to industrial and oil field wastes. Some of the hazardous chemicals found include benzene, arsenic, styrene, and volatile organic compounds.

Previous investigations of the soil, lagoons, and surface debris at the site resulted in a finding that the waste should be excavated and removed. Before a formal proposal can be prepared and offered for public review, additional tests (pilot studies) will be performed to get more detailed data on the potential effects of such an action.

For example, workers will dig a trench through buried waste to measure the types and amounts of chemical emissions and odors. They will also take samples from buried waste areas to get more information on what hazardous

substances they contain. Listed below are the planned activities. Full details are in the "Pilot Study No. 3 Workplan," dated January 30, 2004, available at the Banning Branch Library (see "Where to get more information").

Air monitoring for odors and emissions at the on-site work areas and site perimeter will occur during the activities.

The work is anticipated to begin this month (March 2004).

- Drilling approximately 25 boreholes to collect samples of soil and waste
- Digging temporary trenches to determine the quantity and distribution of buried wastes
- Sampling and evaluating the nature of lagoon materials
- Measuring odors and emissions from excavation activities
- Determining measures to minimize odors and chemical emissions.

Future phases of additional activities may include the following:

- Sampling, waste characterization, and waste handling studies at buried pits and Pit F (a covered pit with styrene waste)
- Collecting samples for possible treatability studies to evaluate waste treatment options.

Groundwater study initiated

A full investigation of the groundwater at the site has begun. The purpose is to determine whether the groundwater at the site has been contaminated with

chemicals from the former landfill and requires cleanup.

In February 2004 five new groundwater monitoring wells were placed inside the site boundaries and one was placed just outside the fence line at the southeast corner. Quarterly groundwater sampling and testing will be performed beginning March 2004.

Some tests had already been conducted on groundwater at the site using existing monitoring wells. The samples from the new wells will supplement the earlier tests to provide more complete data, to help determine if the groundwater requires cleanup. This groundwater is not a current source of drinking water.

Air sampling conducted to test for chemical emissions

Air samples at the perimeter of the site were collected in May, August, and December 2003 and analyzed for chemicals. Results indicate that the site, in its undisturbed state, appears to not cause adverse air quality impacts.

New Public Participation Plan

Public participation is an important element of the site investigation and cleanup. Our agency approved a Public Participation Plan, dated February 2004, which documents community concerns about the site and identifies how the community will be kept informed and involved throughout the cleanup process. The Plan is available to the public at the locations listed under "Where to get more information."

What happens next

Results from the soil and waste pilot studies will be used to update the

Feasibility Study for soil/waste done in 2000. The Feasibility Study is the evaluation of various cleanup alternatives. An updated Feasibility Study for soil/waste is anticipated to be submitted to us by July 30, 2004.

Based on that report, a revised draft cleanup plan for soil/waste will be submitted for our agency's review, and we will resume activities related to an environmental impact analysis. This environmental impact analysis will evaluate whether the proposed cleanup actions would have potential adverse effects on the environment.

We will send out a fact sheet to notify the community of the results of the pilot studies and the environmental impact analysis, and to present the soil/waste cleanup proposal. The public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed cleanup and on the environmental impact analysis before we make a final decision. As part of the review and comment process, we will hold a public meeting to discuss the proposal and take oral comments.

Information from the groundwater investigation will be used to determine if groundwater cleanup is required. As with the soil/waste, we will notify the community of the results and present a proposal for public review and comment.

Where to get more information

Documents about the Ascon Landfill site are at the following locations:

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

Huntington Beach Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA
(714) 842-4481

We also have the documents at our agency's office:

Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California

Please call Julie Johnson, File Room Coordinator, at (714) 484-5337 for an appointment.

Who to contact at our agency

Kim Foreman
Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5324
kforeman@dtsc.ca.gov

Christine Chiu
Project Manager
(714) 484-5470
cchiu@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about DTSC, visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to the Hearing Impaired: For more information, you may use the California State Relay Service at 1(888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Kim Foreman at (714) 484-5324.



State of California
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Attn: Kim Foreman
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

INSIDE: NEW ACTIVITIES AT THE ASCON LANDFILL SITE