

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Department of Toxic Substances Control – Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

Ascon Landfill Site Site Update & Pit F Removal Actions 21641 Magnolia Street, Huntington Beach, California

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is providing an update on the upcoming removal actions at the Ascon Landfill Site (Site) located at 21641 Magnolia Street in Huntington Beach.

The Site is a vacant 38-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Hamilton Avenue and Magnolia Street in Huntington Beach, California. The Site operated as an active disposal facility from approximately 1938 to 1984. In the early years of operation, much of the waste materials came from oil drilling operations and included drilling muds, wastewater brines, and other drilling wastes. Records indicate that from 1957 to 1971, other wastes were also deposited onsite. From 1971 to 1984, material deposited onsite included asphalt, concrete, metal, soil, and wood. Nearby land uses include a community park, high school, residential areas, light industrial operations, oil storage, a flood control channel, and a power generating plant.

Pit F removal action is discussed in the DTSC-approved Remedial Action Plan (RAP), Environmental Impact Report, Remedial Design Report, and Remedy Implementation Plan. The removal action is to excavate the Pit F waste materials within an area 45 feet wide by 45 feet long by 30 feet deep. Waste materials outside of Pit F will be covered by an engineered cap. All investigations conducted to date have confirmed that Pit F contamination is contained to the immediate vicinity of Pit F. The excavation and removal of waste materials in Pit F for proper disposal is a key step in completing the future remediation at the Site.

Online Community Meeting Announcement

Please join DTSC for a Virtual (Remote) webinar about the upcoming Pit F excavation work at the Ascon Landfill Site.

Date: May 6, 2021

Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Where: <https://bit.ly/3d95AwU>

Phone Line: (669) 900-6833
Webinar ID: 882 4636 7707

Presentation (slides) are available: DTSC EnviroStor Database, Ascon.

This event will be recorded. If you do not have the opportunity to view this live event, you will be able to view it on our [YouTube channel \(DTSCGreen\)](#).



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Under the direction of DTSC, the Ascon team is preparing for the excavation, transportation, and disposal of Pit F waste materials to a permitted landfill.

Excavation work is tentatively scheduled to begin during the first week of June and continue for approximately 2 to 3 months. This work will be performed under the permit approval and oversight of several agencies, including DTSC and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

What is Pit F?

Ascon operated as an active landfill from 1938 to 1984 and received oil field wastes prior to 1972. In the 1950s, manufacturing wastes generated from the production of styrene were deposited in an area now referred to as Pit F. Pit F is near the southeast corner of the Site and is presently covered by a large tent.



Please see the attached Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Ascon Pit F Explainer on the DTSC Envirostor database to learn more about Pit F, including the makeup of waste materials and answers to frequently asked questions.

How will this work be conducted?

The Ascon team is preparing for the excavation and removal of Pit F waste materials for disposal at a permitted landfill. This work will be conducted by hazardous waste specialized professionals using equipment specifically designed for the safe removal, transportation, and disposal of waste materials.

All Pit F excavation work will take place within the Pit F tent, where odors and volatile organic compounds will be contained within the tent. Emissions from excavation inside the tent will be collected and controlled with vapor-phase granular activated carbon, through chemical adsorption. Activated charcoal pores in the carbon trap and adsorb the contaminants. Pit F will be enclosed by the tent with air treatment during the entirety of the Pit F excavation work, including during off-hours. The blowers maintain a slight vacuum in the tent to prevent contaminant emissions as equipment and trucks exit and enter the tent. These blowers are designed to operate without excessive sound.

The waste materials will be excavated from trenches, held open with a mixture of bentonite (an absorbent clay) and cement, and then loaded into lined bins that will be sealed while inside the tent. The sealed bins will be inspected and loaded onto haul trucks, and then transported the same day to



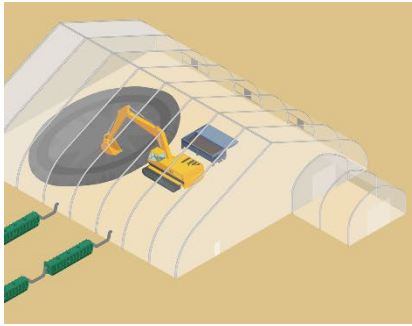
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a permitted landfill. Outgoing haul trucks will exit the Site at the southernmost Magnolia Gate; turn right onto Magnolia Street; turn right onto Pacific Coast Highway; turn right onto Beach Boulevard; take Beach Boulevard north to I-405; and then take I-405 northbound or southbound (via Edinger Avenue), depending on the disposal destination.

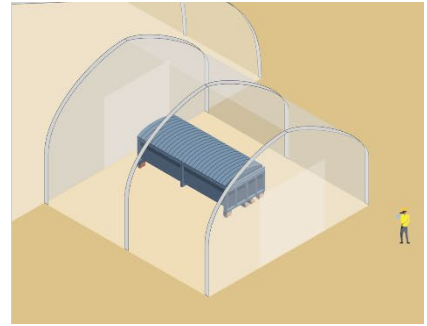
Pit F Material Excavation Work



Pit F waste will be excavated inside the tent



Excavated Pit F waste will be loaded into bins which will be sealed for transportation while inside the tent



Fully sealed bins with Pit F waste will be pulled from the entry chamber and loaded onto haul trucks and transported to a permitted landfill the same day

When will this work take place?

The work crews and equipment necessary to complete the excavation of the waste materials in Pit F began arriving onsite in March. The removal action work is scheduled to start in early June 2021. The work is expected to occur over a roughly four-month period, including onsite preparation and demobilization after removal.

Safety Measures

The DTSC-approved RAP contains a health and safety plan designed to keep on-site workers and the community safe during the proposed cleanup activities; it also requires Ascon to obtain and comply with applicable permits, and to comply with the City of Huntington Beach noise ordinance to monitor noise levels. In addition, the following measures have been taken in support of the Pit F work:

- Health and Safety Program to include Pit F-specific protocols was updated.
- Plan detailing the Pit F Procedures and Contingency Actions was prepared.
- Pit F Emergency Response Plan was prepared.
- Protocol for workers to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), including wearing masks, practicing social distancing, washing/sanitizing hands, and cleaning surfaces has been established.
- AsconAlert, a community opt-in emergency notification system, will be distributed prior to the start of Pit F removal actions.



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Milestones and Current Status at the Site

Key milestones accomplished since June 2019:

- Completion of a barrier fence along Magnolia and Hamilton streets.
- Ongoing community air monitoring to establish offsite baseline air data.
- Enhanced community outreach, including an informational project website, weekly Site activities updates, and ongoing air quality monitoring results with live-streaming weather data.
- Completed emergency repair of North Berm slope to ensure community safety. Analyzed odor-producing compounds in the northwest zone of Ascon to provide additional technical data for future work.
- Sitewide odor assessment (initiated in February 2021) is being conducted to identify additional methods of odor management.
- Ascon provides ongoing funding for a third-party technical advisor, managed by the City of Huntington Beach and independent of the project and DTSC, to respond to community questions.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/> (enter “Ascon” and select from drop-down menu)

If you have any questions about this project, please contact the following DTSC staff:

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For media inquiries only:

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Gamaliel.Ortiz@dtsc.ca.gov

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit www.AsconHB.com and sign up for e-mail notifications

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Please call the Ascon project hotline, (714) 388-1825, or email info@AsconHB.com.

Questions on Air Quality and Dust Monitoring:

Contact South Coast Air Quality Management District at 1-800-CUT-SMOG (288-7664)



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