

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

**Department of Toxic Substances Control** - DTSC's Mission is to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.

## Ascon Landfill Site Update & Community Survey Results

21641 Magnolia Street, Huntington Beach, California

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is updating you on the Ascon Landfill Site (Ascon) project, located at 21641 Magnolia Street (southwest corner of Magnolia Street and Hamilton Avenue) in Huntington Beach.

DTSC is the lead regulatory agency overseeing the cleanup of the Ascon property and provides oversight on environmental investigations, monitoring, remedial planning, and cleanups. DTSC is working with other regulatory agencies and is in close communication with the City of Huntington Beach and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Excavation work at the Site is currently paused, pending decisions on the approach for the remainder of the cleanup.

DTSC continues conducting weekly onsite inspections with Ascon's technical team, with independent air monitoring checks in the neighborhoods near Ascon. Regular inspections also are conducted by the City of Huntington Beach stormwater inspector and by Orange County Vector Control.

### \*Sign up for DTSC e-mail list\*

We invite you to subscribe to our e-mail list to stay updated on this project and to help our outreach activities.

To subscribe\*:

1. **Visit:** <https://tinyurl.com/2p95pypx>
2. **Email:** If you need assistance to subscribe, please contact Jessica Anderson, Public Participation Specialist at [Jessica.Anderson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Jessica.Anderson@dtsc.ca.gov)

*\*Unsubscribe at any time*



Future rendering of Ascon Site after installation of the multi-layer engineered cap.



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



Additional information on DTSC sites can be found through our [EnviroStor](#). (rev. 5-2020)

## Community Survey Highlights, Community Questions and Concerns

Thank you to all who completed and returned the 2021 DTSC community survey questionnaire last December. More than 250 surveys were completed, and 12 community stakeholder interviews were held. DTSC has updated the Public Participation Plan, including the survey and interview responses, and has placed it in the Information Repositories section listed below. Your feedback helps us understand community needs and improve future outreach activities.

We listened to your feedback and heard concerns about restarting and completing the project, and public health and safety-related questions. DTSC takes these concerns very seriously. Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are attached to the end of this update.

## Next Steps at Ascon

DTSC has provided direction to the Ascon technical team on the draft Enclosure Feasibility Evaluation Report and onsite Pilot Testing phase for the restart of work. This direction and subsequent work will guide the approach for the remainder of the cleanup. These technical discussions involve other regulatory agencies and environmental professionals, with a focus on how to minimize potential odor impacts on the community. Before the start of Pilot Testing and the Restart phases of the final cleanup at the Ascon Site, DTSC will announce and hold community meetings.

## Information Repositories

Site-related information, such as reports, community updates (fact sheets), workplans, and other project documents can be reviewed at the following three locations:

- **Huntington Beach Central Public Library- Cultural and Information Center**  
7111 Talbert Avenue Huntington Beach, CA 92648; (714) 842-4481
- **Huntington Beach Public Library- Banning Branch**  
9281 Banning Avenue, Huntington Beach, CA 92648; (714) 375-5005
- **Department of Toxic Substances Control**  
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630; (714) 484-5337

## For more information, please visit:

[https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report?global\\_id=30490018](https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=30490018)

(To subscribe to document updates on Envirostor, click “Sign up for email alerts” in the top right corner)

## 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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## WANT MORE INFORMATION?

Visit [www.AsconHB.com](http://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](mailto:info@AsconHB.com).

## Questions on Air Quality and Dust Monitoring:

Contact South Coast Air Quality Management District at 1-800-CUT-SMOG (288-766)



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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

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Below are the responses to your top questions from the feedback you provided during the recent community survey.

**1. Are there public health risks due to airborne contaminants from Ascon to those who live and work in the surrounding area?**

Results from years of air monitoring data during interim remedial measures and investigations prior to the final cleanup phase, as well as results since the final cleanup began in January 2019, indicate that there has not been a threat to public health. During active excavation, air monitoring data are comprised of tests for volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) and dusts that may carry bound chemicals, such as metals and semi-volatile organic compounds. Data are compared with screening levels from the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to identify any exceedances. Results are available to the public on both the DTSC Envirostor database (link listed on page 2 under “For more information”) and on AsconHB.com (link also on page 2).

Nuisance odors were reported by members of the surrounding community during initial cleanup activities at the Site in 2019. Even though air monitoring has shown that there is no threat to public health from the chemicals causing odors, nuisance odors can still impact your quality of life. Sources of nuisance odors are often difficult to identify, and symptoms vary with age, genetics, gender, medical condition, and lifestyle. Some of the more common symptoms of nuisance odors are headaches, nausea, nasal congestion, dizziness, and watery eyes. Other frequently reported symptoms of nuisance odors are sore throat, shortness of breath, heart palpitations, drowsiness, and mental depression. ATSDR provides this and additional information on their website (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/odors/index.html>). DTSC is taking every effort to minimize all exposures, whether these arise from Site chemicals or nuisance odors.

**2. How about when work is occurring at the Site?**

Since June 2019, Ascon has been regularly monitoring air quality on and offsite. The air quality data have been below health-protective screening levels, as it has been during prior field actions. Air quality monitoring during the Northwest Berm repairs in 2020 and Pit F work in 2021 indicates air quality is safe for the public. Near real-time air quality telemetry monitoring as used during Pit F work will be included during future active excavation work and available for public viewing on asconhb.com.

**3. Are there offsite impacts to soils from Ascon?**

No. Sampling and investigations conducted since 2002 found that impacts are contained within/beneath the Site boundaries. Soil sampling conducted outside the historical Ascon boundaries also show no Ascon-related impacts.



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**4. Are there impacts to groundwater from Ascon that can be a health risk to the community?**

No. Ascon-related impacts to groundwater outside of the historical landfill boundaries are minimal, and do not have a pathway to expose the surrounding community. During the final cleanup activity and temporary shutdown, monitoring continues with collection of groundwater samples from five monitoring wells located offsite near the Site perimeter. Monitoring will also continue after the final cleanup has concluded and the environmental cap is constructed, with those results available to the public. Also, drinking water wells in Huntington Beach are at least three miles from Ascon and are independently monitored by drinking water providers.

**5. Will the proposed cleanup remove all materials or contaminants from the property?**

No. The areas of Ascon where higher levels of contamination required removal and disposal have been completed. Soils with lower concentrations of contaminants, as well as disposed construction materials (such as concrete debris) will be reused onsite. The final remediation of the Ascon Site includes installation of an engineered multi-layer environmental cap that will safely cover remaining waste-impacted material onsite. Following completion of the cleanup work and installation of a multi-layer environmental cap, the property will be covered with imported clean soil, planted with drought-tolerant native plants and grasses, and enclosed with a residential quality fence as protected open space.

**6. What protections will be in place to ensure safety and health for the community near the Ascon Site in the future?**

Protections provided by long-term monitoring and property inspections will continue following the completion of the cleanup work. Soil vapor along the perimeter of the Site will be monitored for methane and other volatiles after the environmental cap is completed. The Ascon team will complete the remaining remedial work utilizing odor mitigation technology and practices that have been enhanced based on additional information gained since the June 2019 shutdown, at the direction of DTSC, in coordination with the City of Huntington Beach and permitting with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Long-term groundwater monitoring will continue after the cleanup is complete, using offsite monitoring wells and new replacement onsite wells. If monitoring data exceeds post-construction cleanup levels, DTSC will compel Ascon to conduct further investigation and/or remedial action. Additionally, property use will be limited to activities that will not compromise the remedy (i.e., the cap) and the property will be inspected at least annually to ensure these restrictions are not violated in the future.



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