



**Jared Blumenfeld**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Meredith Williams, Ph.D.  
Acting Director  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, California 90630



**Gavin Newsom**  
Governor

July 26, 2019

Mr. Clint Harwick, Superintendent  
Huntington Beach Union High School District  
5382 Bolsa Avenue  
Huntington Beach, California 92649

Mr. Duane Dishno, President  
Board of Trustees  
Huntington Beach Union High School District  
5382 Bolsa Avenue  
Huntington Beach, California 92649

Health Concerns, Ascon Landfill Site, 21641 Magnolia Street, Huntington Beach  
(Site Code: 400007)

Dear Staff Members and Community Members:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received the letter from Huntington Beach Union High School District (District), dated July 3, 2019, expressing concerns for the health and safety of Edison High School students, employees, and community members from remediation activities at the Ascon Landfill Site (Site). In addition, the letter requested coordination and communication of Site activities as the cleanup moves forward. In subsequent communications between DTSC and District representatives, the District indicated that school community members expressed concern of the possibility of soil and groundwater contamination migrating from the Site to Edison High School. DTSC understands the community's concerns and appreciates that you reached out to us to address these concerns.

The Site was an active waste disposal facility from approximately 1938 through 1984 which received industrial and oil field wastes, and construction debris. DTSC is the lead regulatory agency responsible for the investigation and cleanup of the Site. The remedy selected for the Site in 2015 includes removal of the waste from areas along Hamilton and Magnolia, reconsolidation of such wastes to the Site's interior, and construction of an engineered cap over the entire Site. DTSC approved the Remedial Design in 2017 and implementation of the approved remedy started in January 2019. DTSC suspended implementation of the remedy on June 6, 2019 based on community

concerns and notified the responsible parties on June 12, 2019 that several additional public health and safety enhancements would be required prior to resumption of onsite activities. Efforts to complete these measures are ongoing.

DTSC notes that air monitoring results do not indicate a threat to public health. Monitoring and dust and odor suppression activities continue even after the suspension of cleanup work. In addition, DTSC staff visit the Site regularly and conduct air quality screenings in the Site vicinity and the community, including Edison High School. The monitoring results have not identified any threat to public health.

DTSC is working on the implementation of the additional safety enhancements. These measures include additional air monitoring activities within the community and at the nearby schools including Edison High School. Furthermore, DTSC is developing a more proactive protocol to respond to odor and dust complaints. DTSC will coordinate with you the air testing at the schools as well as include Huntington Beach Union High School District staff in future community updates and email distribution lists.

To address your concerns of potential soil and groundwater contamination from the Ascon Site on the Edison High School, the DTSC project team reviewed related documents and data. The conclusions from this review is that the Site contamination is contained within the Site boundary and no off-site soil or groundwater impacts have been detected or are anticipated. The findings are presented in the enclosed DTSC team memorandum that includes figures from recent groundwater investigation reports.

DTSC hopes this letter satisfactorily addresses your concerns. However, DTSC staff is available to meet with you to discuss any other concerns associated with implementation of the RAP at the Site. We would also be happy to come to your schools and provide an update to the school board, staff or parents.

If you have any questions regarding this project, or to arrange for a meeting with DTSC staff, please contact Scarlett Xihong Zhai, Project Manager, at (714) 484-5316 or by e-mail at [Xihong.Zhai@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Xihong.Zhai@dtsc.ca.gov), or contact me at (714) 484-5484 or by e-mail at [Javier.Hinojosa@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Javier.Hinojosa@dtsc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Javier Hinojosa, Chief  
Brownfields Restoration and School Evaluation Branch  
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

Enclosure

cc: See next page

cc: (via e-mail)

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Brownfields Restoration and School Evaluation Team Reading File – Cypress



# Department of Toxic Substances Control

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5796 Corporate Avenue  
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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Javier Hinojosa  
Branch Chief  
Brownfields Restoration and School Evaluation  
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

**FROM:** Scarlett Xihong Zhai, Ph.D., P.E.  
Hazardous Substances Engineer  
Brownfields Restoration and School Evaluation Branch

**REVIEWER:** Ted Peng, Ph.D., P.G.  
Engineering Geologist  
Geological Services Unit

**DATE:** July 25, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Soil and Groundwater Impact at Ascon Landfill, Huntington Beach, California Prepared by Geosyntec Consultants, dated April 27, 2017



PCA: 11018

SITE: 400007-00

REQUEST: 20043722

As requested, the Cypress Brownfields Restoration and School Evaluation Branch and Geological Services Unit (GSU) staff performed a review of available characterization and monitoring data related to soil and groundwater impact for the Ascon Landfill Site (Site).

The reports and data reviewed include the following:

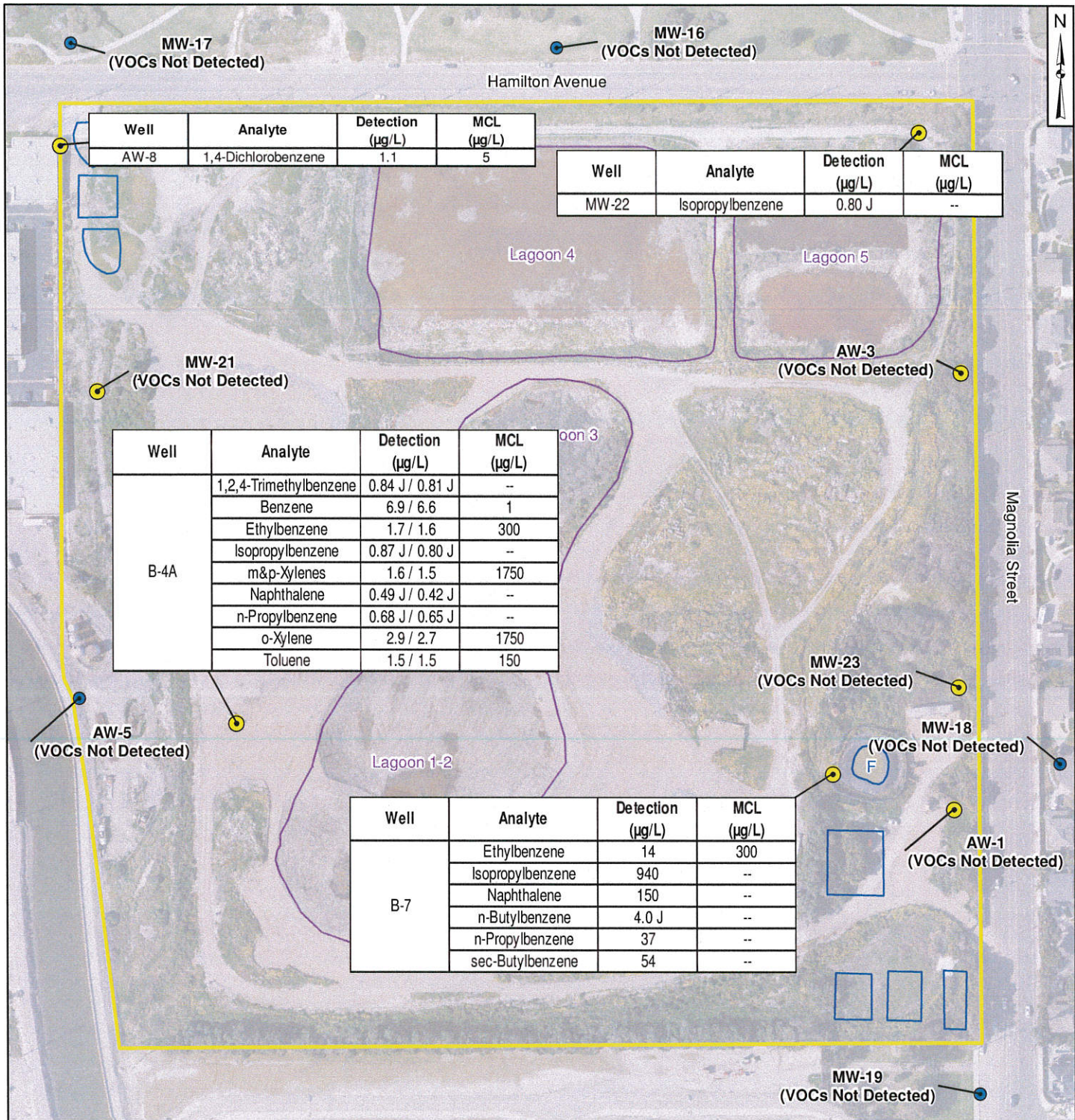
- Feasibility Study Report, November 2000, prepared by Environ International Corporation;
- Groundwater Remedial Investigation Report, June 2007, prepared by Geosyntec Consultants;
- Air monitoring data from previous interim removal action in 2010, Lagoon 5 solidification and oil well abandonment in 2017 and 2018, and full-scale remedy implementation in 2019.

Groundwater samples have been collected from on-site and off-site wells, and analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-VOCs (SVOCs), and metals since 1983. Available monitoring data indicate minor impacts to shallow perched and semi-perched groundwater, which is well contained on-site and not migrating off-site toward the nearby community, including Edison High School. Groundwater primarily flows toward north-northwest, away from the shore due to sea water intrusion. The most recent on-site monitoring data from seven wells in September 2018 indicate all analytes were below applicable threshold values except for benzene in an on-site, interior well location at 6.9 micrograms/liter (ug/L) compared to the regulatory screening level, the maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 1 ug/L (refer to attached Figure 1 and Figure 2). Semi-annual monitoring data since 2007 in these on-site wells indicate similar minor impacts to groundwater.

There are also five off-site at Edison Park, on Magnolia Street, and in the residential area east of Magnolia Street. All analytes in the five off-site wells have been non-detect or below the applicable threshold values based on semi-annual monitoring data from September 2007 to March 2019 (refer to attached Figure 1 and Figure 2). Therefore, there is no evidence of contaminant off-site migration or vapor intrusion risk from groundwater impacts to the community.

Groundwater in this region is not used as a drinking water source due to high salinity from sea water intrusion. The closest drinking water supply well is more than three miles north of Ascon (refer to attached Figure 3). Tap water in the community, supplied through the public water system through the Orange County Water District and supplemented by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, is not connected to Ascon groundwater.

Regarding the potential soil contamination from the Ascon Site on the School, the only potential mechanism for soil contamination to migrate off-site is via dust deposition. Historical Site soil and groundwater investigations defined the nature and extent of Site contaminants and determined the Site contamination was contained to the property boundary. In addition, the dust monitoring results at the Site perimeter from all previous remedial activities indicate that the dust leaving the Site is below the health protective screening values.



Well	Analyte	Detection (µg/L)	MCL (µg/L)
AW-8	1,4-Dichlorobenzene	1.1	5

Well	Analyte	Detection (µg/L)	MCL (µg/L)
MW-22	Isopropylbenzene	0.80 J	--

Well	Analyte	Detection (µg/L)	MCL (µg/L)
B-4A	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	0.84 J / 0.81 J	--
	Benzene	6.9 / 6.6	1
	Ethylbenzene	1.7 / 1.6	300
	Isopropylbenzene	0.87 J / 0.80 J	--
	m&p-Xylenes	1.6 / 1.5	1750
	Naphthalene	0.49 J / 0.42 J	--
	n-Propylbenzene	0.68 J / 0.65 J	--
	o-Xylene	2.9 / 2.7	1750
	Toluene	1.5 / 1.5	150

Well	Analyte	Detection (µg/L)	MCL (µg/L)
B-7	Ethylbenzene	14	300
	Isopropylbenzene	940	--
	Naphthalene	150	--
	n-Butylbenzene	4.0 J	--
	n-Propylbenzene	37	--
	sec-Butylbenzene	54	--

200 100 0 200 Feet



**VOCs in Groundwater Indicate Minor Impacts  
On-Site and Non-Detect Off-Site  
Ascon Landfill Site,  
Huntington Beach, California**

**Geosyntec**  
consultants

Figure

1

Santa Barbara

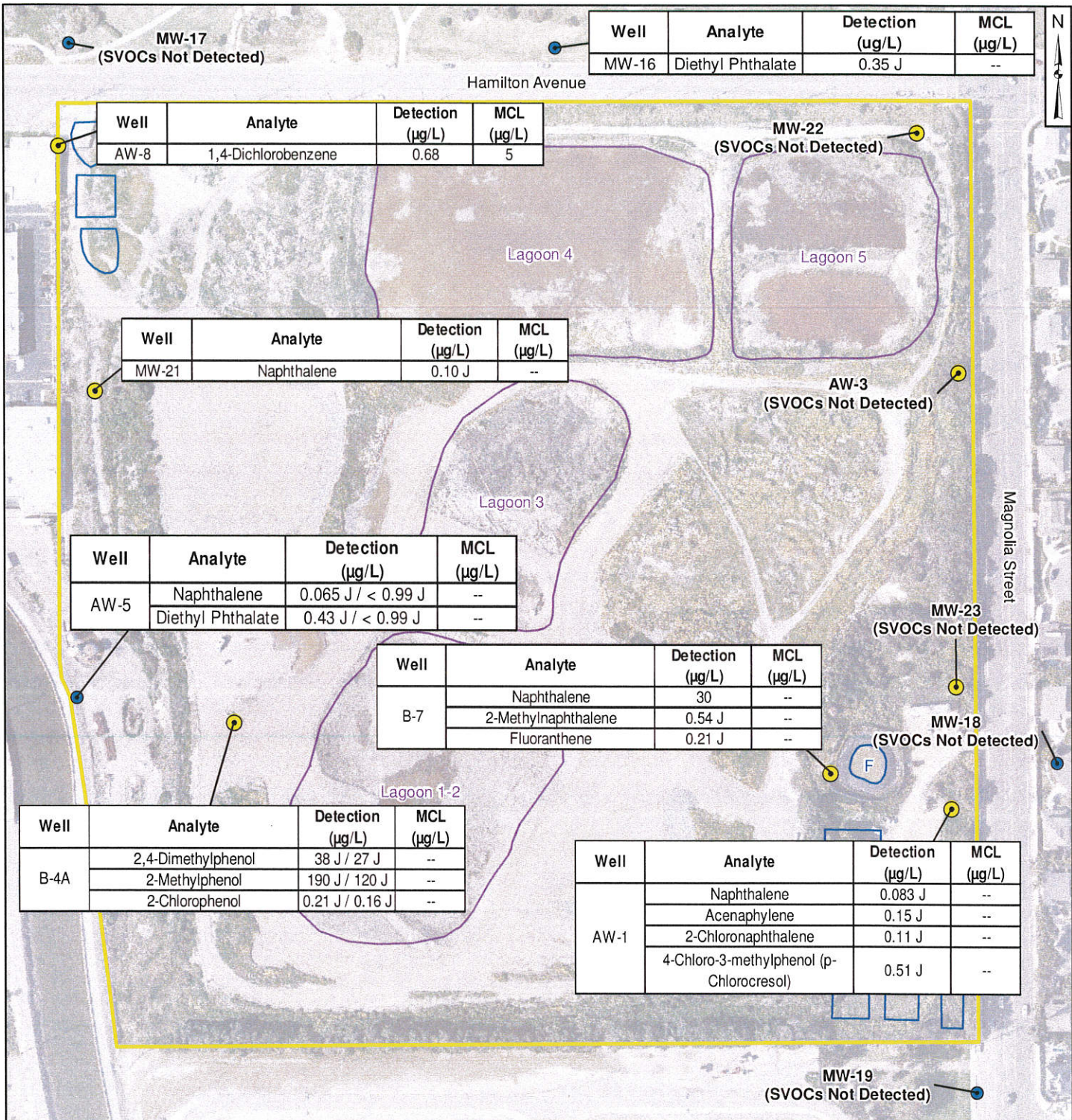
July 2019

**Legend**

- VOC Data From September 25, 2018
- VOC Data From March 22, 2019
- Historical Pit
- Lagoon
- Site Boundary

**Notes:**

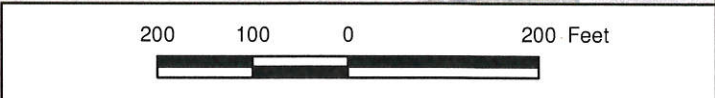
J: Estimate.  
MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level  
--: MCL not listed for specific analyte



**Legend**

- SVOC Data From September 25, 2018
- SVOC Data From March 22, 2019
- Historical Pit
- Lagoon
- Site Boundary

**Notes:**  
 J: Estimate.  
 < 0.99 : Analyte not detected at or above the indicated laboratory reporting limit  
 MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level  
 --: MCL not listed for specific analyte



**SVOCs in Groundwater Indicate No Impact On-Site or Off-Site**

Ascon Landfill Site,  
Huntington Beach, California

		<b>Figure</b>  <b>2</b>
Santa Barbara	July 2019	



**Legend**

- Injection Well
- Production Well
- Domestic Well
- Agricultural Well
- OCWD Nested Monitoring Well
- OCWD Monitoring Well

Drinking Water Wells Located More Than Three Miles Away from Ascon, and Water is Injected through an Array of Injection Wells (Talbert Barrier) to Protect Drinking Water Wells from Sea Water Intrusion

Source: Orange County Water District – Personal Communication  
 Ascon Landfill Site, Huntington Beach, California

March 2005

Figure 3