Ascon Huntington Beach
Stormwater Management

February 2020

A safer, cleaner future for the community

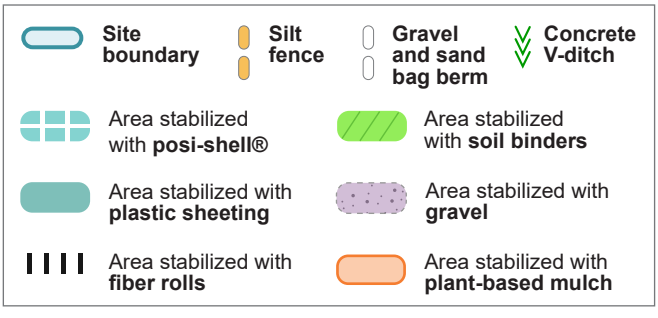
The Ascon team is conducting remediation efforts directed by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on the Ascon Site that operated as a permitted landfill from 1930 to 1984. As part of the Site cleanup actions, stormwater management plans and measures have been implemented since 2006 in compliance with State of California permits for stormwater management. Prior Ascon stormwater monitoring results show that stormwater contained little to no constituents of concern from the Site. To guide current work, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been prepared, and implementation is overseen by a Qualified Stormwater Practitioner on the Ascon team. The SWPPP is enforced by the City of Huntington Beach and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board. This plan directs the management and monitoring of stormwater, the surface water generated from rain events.

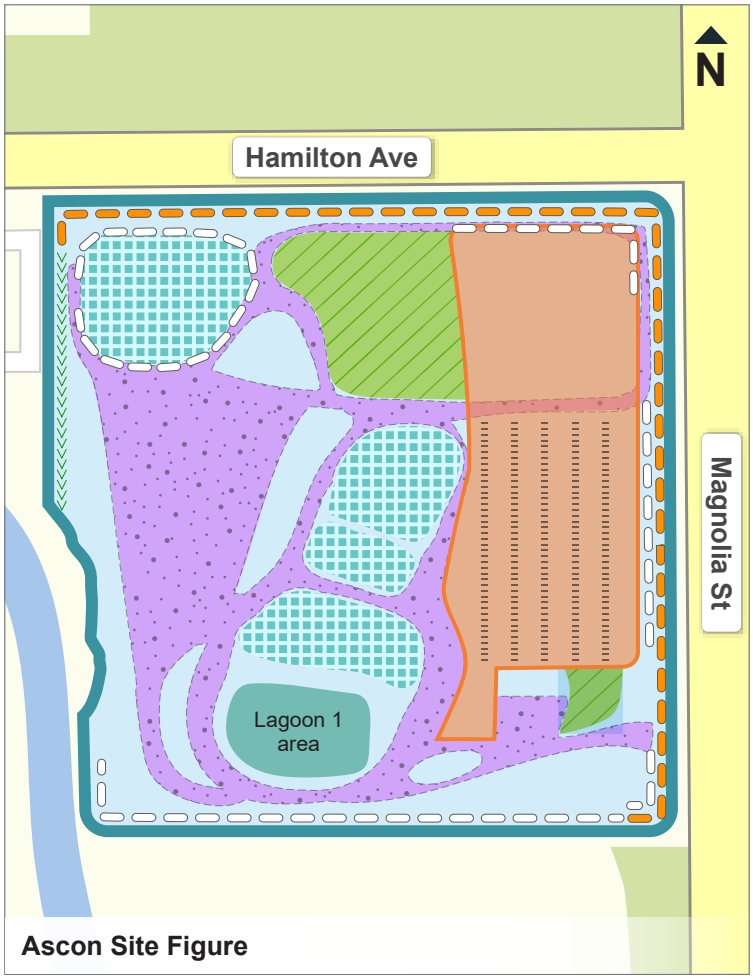
In response to community concerns, we have added additional onsite stormwater management practices and have expanded the monitoring efforts for the 2019/2020 storm season.

We are prepared for winter rains

In advance of this 2019/2020 storm season, the Ascon team has taken the following actions in accordance with the SWPPP:

- Installed a **silt fence**, a filter fabric stretched between posts driven into the ground, inside the barrier fence along the northern and eastern perimeters.
- Maintained and installed additional **sand-filled bags** and **gravel-filled bags** within the Site interior, as well as in perimeter areas.
- Stabilized soils with an environmentally safe **posi-shell®**, an odor suppressant material that binds to loose soils and forms a thick crust.
- Hydraulically applied **plant-based mulch** with a binder to form a protective cover over loose soils.
- Stabilized a portion of Lagoon 1 with **plastic sheeting**. Stormwater runoff from this area is not released into a City storm drain.





Ascon Site Figure

** Map is for illustrative purposes only. Boundaries and locations shown are approximate.*

Monitoring and sampling runoff

The primary goal of a SWPPP is to limit the amount of sediment (soil/mud) in stormwater runoff, measured as turbidity in runoff samples. Regular maintenance and cleanout of plants and silt in stormwater detention areas on Ascon are part of stormwater management, during both shutdown and active field work. Turbidity measured at Ascon has been below permit action levels, which demonstrates that sediment in stormwater is being effectively controlled. When stormwater leaves the Site, it is channeled into a French drain and directed to the City storm drain system. In accordance with the SWPPP, if stormwater leaves the Site it is sampled for multiple constituents as it enters City storm drains.

Validating stormwater monitoring results protects the community

During active stormwater runoff from Ascon, three samples per day are collected for pH and turbidity and analyzed in the field using portable, calibrated instruments. Additional samples for non-visible pollutants (see FAQ below for complete list) are collected once per runoff event and sent to a state-certified lab.

The labs' analyses are validated with strict quality control and quality assurance methods, and then are compared against screening levels.

Stormwater monitoring results are provided to the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and posted publicly on smarts.waterboards.ca.gov.

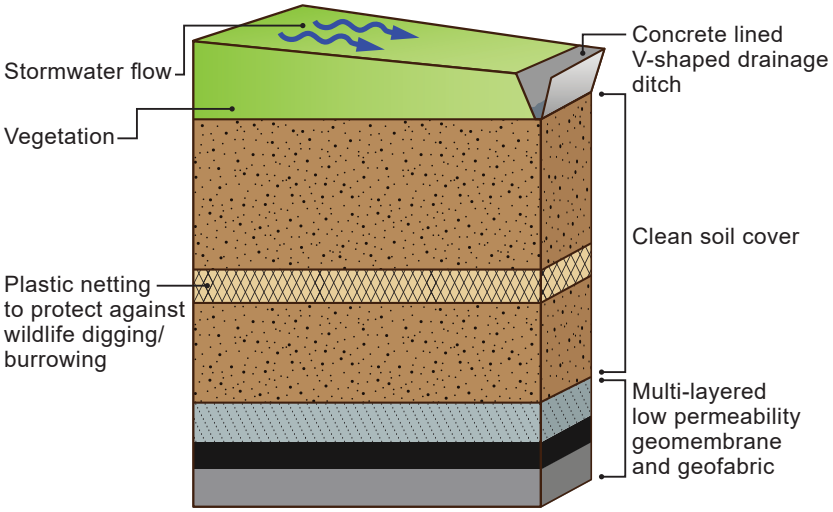
**Find results at smarts.waterboards.ca.gov by searching "Facility/Site Name" Ascon.*

Remediation will include stormwater management and protect the environment

As part of the cleanup work, the Site will be graded, an environmental cap and liner system will be installed, new storm drains and detention basins will be constructed, and the Site will be seeded with native vegetation.

The engineered environmental cap will act as a barrier between stormwater and waste materials sealed beneath the cap to prevent their contact and protect the environment. Surface runoff will efficiently drain directly into the City of Huntington Beach storm drain system through expanded stormwater drainage structures, which will include engineered detention basins that will minimize sediment and allow slow discharge as to not overwhelm the City system.

Post-remediation environmental cap



**Schematic depiction is for illustrative purposes only.*

Frequently asked questions

What are you monitoring for in stormwater? Stormwater runoff is presently monitored for pH, turbidity, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, metals, hydrocarbons, ammonia and biological oxygen demand (organic pollutants).

Is Ascon stormwater runoff causing flooding on Magnolia Street? No, Magnolia Street ponding is primarily caused by runoff from Magnolia Street and surrounding areas, not by Ascon.

Who reviews the Ascon Site stormwater monitoring and management work? A City of Huntington Beach stormwater inspector physically inspects the Site and reviews the stormwater mitigation plans each month during the rainy season, from October to April. At their discretion, the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board may also inspect the Site and review SWPPP documentation for compliance with the permit.

pH is the measure of acidity or alkalinity. Stormwater runoff is monitored for levels higher than 8.5 pH, or lower than 6.5 pH.*

Turbidity is the measure of soil/mud in stormwater. The action level is 250 nephelometric turbidity units.*

**Action levels determined by California State Water Resources Control Board.*

Want more information? Questions? Concerns?

To learn more about the Ascon cleanup and to sign up for our weekly project update email newsletter, visit our website at **Asconhb.com** or call the Ascon Community Information Line at **(714) 388-1825**.