

Ascon Huntington Beach Managing Odors at Ascon

October 2020

A safer, cleaner future for the community

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of the Huntington Beach community as we work together to finish the cleanup of the Ascon Landfill Site. Some of the materials deposited at Ascon during its half-century as an operating landfill include substances with odors easily detected by the human nose. Odor management is challenging because odors can be caused by a wide array of chemical combinations and because the perceived intensity and effect of an odor is not the same for everyone. The human nose can be quite sensitive to some chemicals and can detect odors at extremely low levels, well below established health-based toxicity thresholds. This means that an individual can detect an odor, but it is not an indicator the person's health is at risk.

A variety of products and field practices are used during the environmental cleanup of Ascon to control odors for the community. Although fragrances were added to some earlier products tested at Ascon in early 2019, this was found to not be effective and was discontinued. We understand that even natural or organic scents from odor suppressant products may be concerning for some of our neighbors, and we are committed to using products that are effective and as scent-free as possible. Products used at Ascon during the North Berm emergency repair were very effective, however not 100-percent odorless and can have some natural scent, such as clay or plant extract.

Odor blocking, encapsulating and suppressing vs odor masking

The Ascon project uses products that block, encapsulate or suppress odor versus masking odor.

Products that block or encapsulate materials are used to contain odorous substances.



Suppressants work to neutralize or eliminate odors.



The goal of current and future odor management during the environmental cleanup of Ascon

Due to the long history of Ascon and some of the materials brought to the landfill, controlling odor during final Site remediation is one of our biggest challenges. We're committed to controlling and managing odors as much as possible and are continually looking for products and best practices that may improve odor management.

Once the excavation work is completed, and the initial layers of the environmental cap, like the geomembrane and geofabric sheeting are installed, odor from the landfill will be eliminated for the community.

What is used to control odors at Ascon?

The odor management products currently used at Ascon are non-toxic and approved as non-hazardous for workers and the environment. A list of all odor suppressants currently used onsite at Ascon along with their Safety Data Sheet (SDS) can be found under “Site Documents” at asconhb.com/cleanup-activities.

Odor-Shell®

A sprayed material that covers over odorous areas to prevent the odors from becoming airborne.



Posi-Shell®

A sprayed material that is blended with cement to harden to a durable layer to provide longer-term cover to block odors.



CupriDyne® Clean

A water-based liquid that is applied from both on-ground and elevated misters to reduce odors near active excavation zones and treatment zones.



Rusmar RusFoam®

A foam that forms a barrier to control odors and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).



Reinforced Polyethylene Geomembrane

A plastic sheeting that can be installed to block odor until an area is fully excavated and capped.



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.