

Fact Sheet #12, December 2011



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*

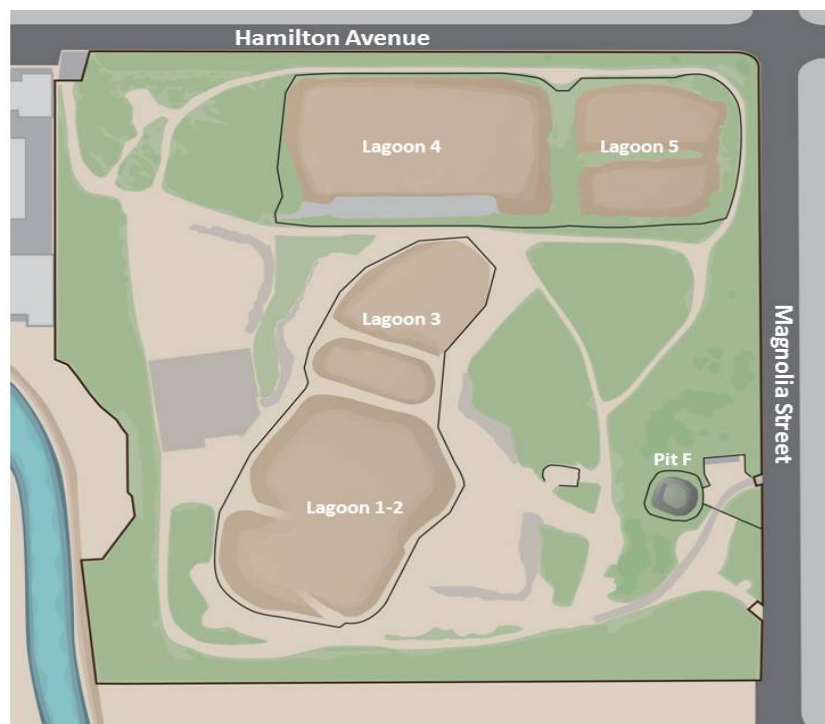
Ascon Landfill Site, Post Interim Removal Measure Update

Current Work Now Focuses on Planning for the Site's Final Cleanup

Since the State Consent Order in 2003, significant work has been conducted at the Ascon Landfill Site, both to improve current Site conditions and to further the planning for the final cleanup. Activities at the Site have included extensive field investigations, strengthening of perimeter earthen berms, removal of waste materials, interior roadway improvements, clearing of dry brush, site-wide storm-water controls, groundwater monitoring, and improvements to Site security.

The most recent fieldwork at the Ascon Landfill Site was the Interim Removal Measure (IRM) that was completed this past spring 2011. The now completed IRM was not the final cleanup plan for the Site. Current work now focuses on planning for the Site's final cleanup. Inside this fact sheet you will find additional site information that includes:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary & Site Overview
- Interim Removal Measure (IRM) Completion
- IRM Objectives Met
- Multi-Agency Monitoring & Next Steps
- Who to Contact for More Information
- Where To Find Project Documents



Ascon Landfill Site in 2011, after the Interim Removal Measure



State of California



Why Cleanup Is Necessary

The Ascon Landfill Site poses no immediate health risk to the public. However, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requires that an overall cleanup plan be developed and implemented for the Site to ensure long-term public health and safety.

DTSC has previously investigated and overseen several specific response actions at the Site, including the now completed IRM activities. DTSC will continue with oversight for the project, including the upcoming final remedy activities currently being planned for the Site.

Site Overview

The Site was owned by the Garrish Brothers from 1938 to 1950 and by the Steverson Brothers from 1950 to 1984, and was operating as a permitted landfill during that time. In its earliest years, Huntington Beach had not yet developed in the southeast district of the city, and this area was comprised primarily of agricultural and oil production uses. Industrial and oil field wastes were disposed at the landfill from 1938 to 1971. After 1971, construction debris was disposed at the landfill until it was closed in 1984. Ascon was an operating landfill between 1938 and 1984. The Site has undergone several changes of ownership and environmental investigations since 1984. In 2003, DTSC and some of the Ascon Landfill Site Responsible Parties (RPs) entered into a Consent Order for the Site's cleanup.

The Site contains waste in buried pits and lagoons (ponds), surface piles of concrete, rebar and other construction debris. There are five visible lagoons (referred to as Lagoons 1 through 5) covering about 30% of the Site, one covered pit (referred to as Pit F), and seven former pits that are no longer visible (three in the northwest corner and four in the southeast corner of the Site).

For safety and security, the perimeter of the Site is fenced. There is also fencing around Pit F and the lagoons, and Pit F is covered. There are regular field and security inspections as part of the Site's current maintenance.

Interim Removal Measure (IRM) Completion

Approximately 97,000 tons of waste materials were removed from the southwest interior of the Ascon Landfill Site and disposed at a central

California landfill during the most recent action, which concluded in spring 2011.

IRM Objectives Met

The objective of the IRM was to enable the assessment of materials underneath the tarry waste in two lagoons in the southwest area of the Site. The size and depth of the lagoons had prevented field investigations due to overlying waste material and worker safety concerns.

Geotechnical borings were conducted after the waste material was removed. There were no unusual findings or materials found in the lagoons. It was found that the geotechnical conditions under the lagoons are similar to conditions in other areas of the Site.

Multi-Agency Monitoring

During the IRM, agencies in addition to DTSC monitored the remedial activities and mitigation measures. These agencies provided regulatory requirements and permitting for work at the Ascon Landfill Site.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) issued an air quality permit for the IRM. Their oversight included frequent on-site observations and inspections of the work and the air quality monitoring data logs, recorded by on-site air quality technicians.

During the IRM, heavy rains were experienced in Huntington Beach. Despite the heavy rains, the Ascon Landfill Site operated in compliance with the General Industrial National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and a Site Industrial Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), as well as the General Construction NPDES permit and Site Construction SWPPP during the IRM. Storm water inspections were conducted by the City of Huntington Beach to observe the effectiveness of storm water management and compliance with the SWPPPs and general permits. Also, the City of Huntington Beach provided requirements and permitting relating to haul routes, on-site grading, and fire safety measures.

Although the IRM work occasionally produced odors, the work was conducted in compliance with regulatory requirements.

Next Steps

Information collected during the IRM is being incorporated into the planning for the final

cleanup of the Ascon Landfill Site. The final cleanup plan, called a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP), will be available for public review and comment in the future. You will be notified of this opportunity in another future mailing.

For the final cleanup and under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC is preparing an Initial Study (IS). The IS is a preliminary analysis to determine if a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared. DTSC anticipates issuing a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and IS for a draft EIR in 2012. As part of the NOP, DTSC plans to host one or more public scoping meetings to allow for input regarding what the public would like included in the draft EIR. DTSC will then direct preparation of the draft EIR for public review, after which a final EIR and Notice of Determination will be published regarding the final cleanup approach.

Who to Contact at DTSC for Information

For more information about the Ascon Landfill Site, please contact:

Safouh Sayed, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5478
E-mail: ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov

Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5354 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
E-mail: slear@dtsc.ca.gov

Where To Find Project Documents

Documents relating to work at the Ascon Landfill Site are available at the following Information Repositories:

Huntington Beach Central Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648-1232
(714) 842-4481
Mon – 1:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Tues/Wed/Thurs – 9:00 am – 9:00 pm
Fri/Sat – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sun – Closed

Banning Branch Library
9281 Banning Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92646-8302
(714) 375-5005
Mon/Tues – Closed
Wed/Thurs – 10:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Fri/Sat – 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Sun – Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5337
Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm
Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the number above to make an appointment.

For more information about the Ascon Landfill Site visit www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov or www.ascon-hb.com. For more information about our department, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to Hearing Impaired

TDD users can contact the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.

For Media Inquiries

Ms. Sandra Friedman
Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue



State of California
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Attn: Stacey Lear
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

Inside: Information on the Ascon Landfill Site

For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov