

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

## ASCON LANDFILL SITE: 21641 MAGNOLIA STREET

### SITE ACTIVITY UPDATE, NOTICE OF UPCOMING SITE ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

**Dear Community Members:** The Department of Toxic Substances Control is updating you on additional protective measures now in place and upcoming activities at the Ascon Landfill Site (Ascon) located at 21641 Magnolia Street (corner of Magnolia Street and Hamilton Avenue) in Huntington Beach. The additional protective measures and upcoming activities are being implemented in an abundance of caution.

**DTSC Ordered Temporary Suspension of Work Activities:** On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, DTSC temporarily suspended remedial work activities to enhance measures to reduce odors and continue to mitigate dust during the remainder of the final site cleanup. Below is the progress of the measures directed by DTSC:

- 1) **Cover for Contaminated Soil:** Multiple products were tested for their effectiveness to contain odor and dust. One of the products used is a blend of clay, reinforcing fibers, and polymers applied as a slurry, that dries as a durable stucco layer, which was proven effective.
- 2) **Air Monitoring:** As of June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, continuous air monitoring is being conducted on the Ascon Site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The air monitoring network will be expanded to include off-site monitoring locations at Edison High School, Eader Elementary School, Edison Park and neighborhood locations by the end of September 2019.
- 3) **Asbestos Testing of On-Site Concrete:** On-site concrete was tested for asbestos by the Ascon team and independently by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Asbestos was not detected.
- 4) **16-Foot High Barrier Fence Installation:** The City of Huntington Beach is working with the Ascon team on the permits required to install a taller barrier fence along Hamilton Avenue and Magnolia Street. Once the permits are obtained the following minimal earth disturbance and construction activities will occur:
  - a. **Fence Preparation Work** – minimal grading/earthwork will take place less than a foot deep in top-soil on-site, mostly at the west section of Hamilton and the south section of Magnolia, leveling out area for k-rail placement.
  - b. **Northeast Corner Fencing** – Will be installed at a later date with temporary shielding, because this work requires excavation of soil to provide adequate setback from the intersection signal. Fence installation will be 70 to 80 percent complete at this phase.
  - c. **Tree Removal in Southeast Corner** – includes raking out fallen leaves and branches using heavy equipment.
  - d. **Dust or Odor Issue Not Anticipated** – control measures will be in place. Air quality monitoring continues 24 hours a day.
  - e. **What You Might Notice** – large equipment such as a crane moving around. Temporary lane closures will occur during installation.

#### What's Happening at Ascon?

**Odor/Dust Containment** – A clay crust is in place over contaminated soil in excavated zones to better contain odor and dust.

**Air Monitoring** – Conducted 24/7 as of June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Fence Installation** – A 16-foot tall fence will be installed on Hamilton Avenue and Magnolia streets. You will see minimal earth disturbance in preparation for fence installation.

**Air quality monitoring results do not indicate a threat to public health.**

**Edison High School and Eader Elementary School continue to be safe for students, faculty and staff.**

#### \*Community Meeting Announcement\*

DTSC is planning and will publicly announce a community meeting in the near future to update the community on site enhancement activities before cleanup activities resume.

Public Hotline, **(714) 388-1825**, has been established for this work by the Responsible Parties to ensure questions or concerns from the public can be addressed promptly. This is not an emergency number. Calls received by the Ascon project team and their responses are documented and shared with DTSC. **Emergency calls should be directed to 911.**



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- 5) **Weed Abatement:** To prevent a fire hazard, weed abatement was conducted the week of July 1, 2019. The Huntington Beach Fire Department conducted an inspection and confirmed that the weed abatement was complete on July 2, 2019.
- 6) **Pit F:** There is no soil excavation or other cleanup work being conducted during this temporary suspension of work activities. However, there is preparation work being conducted for future Pit F work, including:
- Air treatment unit installation
  - Electrical service installation; and
  - Tent enclosure maintenance (louver installation and manlift for patch work).
  - Hydrant installation. Upon the city's approval of a permit, in the next few weeks there will be excavation for water line placement and hydrant installation. All excavation is off-site on Magnolia Street and you will see temporary lane closure. Soil within the fence will not be disturbed. Air monitoring will be conducted to ensure protectiveness.
- 7) **Third Party Technical Advisor:** A third party technical advisor for the community will be selected and managed by the City of Huntington Beach, to help the community understand the Ascon cleanup work and related data.

**Site Vandalism:** On June 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, stainless steel SUMMA canisters used for air quality sampling of volatile organic compounds were vandalized and damaged or broken in two locations inside the Ascon site, one near Magnolia Street and the other near the intersection with Hamilton Avenue. The vandalism resulted in a data gap in the air monitoring report for this period. A police report was filed and the Ascon project continues to maintain on-site security. Please call 911 if you see trespassing or destructive activity.

**Public Health Concerns:** Air quality monitoring results do not indicate a threat to public health. DTSC continues to work collectively with the Huntington Beach Union High School District, Huntington Beach City School District, South Coast Air Quality Management District, mayor's office, and the California Department of Public Health, to listen to public health concerns that are communicated to DTSC.

**Information Repository Locations:** Site documents are available for public review electronically at [www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov), and at the following Information Repositories:

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

Banning Branch Library  
9281 Banning Avenue  
Huntington Beach, CA 92646-8302  
(714) 375-5005  
Tues., Wed., Thurs.: 9 am – 6 pm  
Fri., Sat.: 9 am – 5 pm  
Sun., Mon.: Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
(714) 484-5300  
Mon. – Fri.: 8 am – 5 pm  
Please contact Jone Barrio at the number above to make an appointment.

**Who to Contact at DTSC for More Information:** For questions about the Ascon Landfill Site, please contact the following DTSC staff:

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**Additional Information Sources:** Site documents are also available for electronic review on DTSC's EnviroStor website at [www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov). Enter "Huntington Beach" as the City and select "Ascon Landfill" in the list of projects within the scroll-down menu. Then click on "Ascon Landfill" again on the map (pop-up window). Then, click on the "activities" and "Community Involvement" tabs for a list of documents available for review.

**To Receive DTSC E-mail Alerts:** If you would like DTSC to notify you via e-mail when new EnviroStor documents, such as workplans and reports, are available online for the Site, visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov), in the search bar, enter "Ascon Landfill", press enter, click on "Ascon Landfill Site", click on "Sign Up for Email Alerts for this Site", and complete the sign-up form.



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