

COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

Ascon Landfill Site – Announcement of Scoping Meetings and Public Comment Period for Notice of Preparation for Draft Environmental Impact Report

A **Notice of Preparation (NOP)** is currently available for public review and comment. The purpose of the **NOP** is to solicit guidance from agencies and stakeholders for the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the draft **Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the **lead regulatory agency** for the approval of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Ascon Landfill site. Pursuant to the **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**, DTSC determined an **EIR** should be prepared in order to solicit public input, evaluate environmental impacts and analyze alternatives. (*Words in bold and italics appear in the Glossary of Terms*). This fact sheet provides information on:

- Project Background & Site Overview
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Upcoming Public **Scoping** Meetings & How You Can Participate
- Additional Information Sources
- Information Repository Locations
- Who to Contact at DTSC for Information
- Next Steps
- Glossary of Terms



Aerial of Ascon Landfill Site, 2013.

Public Comment Period



April 4th – May 3rd, 2013

All public comments on the **NOP** must be post-marked or e-mailed by **May 3rd, 2013**, and sent to:

Safouh Sayed, Project Manager
 Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
 5796 Corporate Avenue
 Cypress, CA 90630-4732
 E-mail: Safouh.Sayed@dtsc.ca.gov

Two Upcoming Public Scoping Meetings & How You Can Participate

The first of two Public **Scoping** Meetings (for the local community) will be held **Tuesday, April 23rd, 2013, at 6:00 pm, at Edison High School Cafeteria, 21400 Magnolia Street, Huntington Beach, 92646**. This first Public **Scoping** Meeting is being held in the local neighborhood and is targeted for the local community.

The second of two Public **Scoping** Meetings (for public agencies) will be held **Wednesday, May 1st, 2013, at 1:00 pm, at City of Huntington Beach, City Council Chambers, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, 92648**, and is targeted for public agencies, including City officials.



Project Background

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 significant volumes of waste materials, site-wide storm-water controls, groundwater monitoring and improvements to site security.

The most recent action at the Ascon Landfill site was the Interim Removal Measure (IRM) that was completed in March 2011. The objective of the IRM was to enable the assessment of materials underneath waste in two lagoons. Once the waste material was removed, geotechnical borings were conducted. The borings revealed that the geotechnical conditions under the lagoons are similar to conditions in other areas of the site. No unusual findings or materials were found in the lagoons. About 100,000 tons of material was successfully removed during the IRM activity.

Current work now focuses on the public process and environmental evaluation for the final remedy to remediate the site. DTSC determined that chemicals located onsite, as a result of past operations at the site, are above DTSC's protective standards. Thus, DTSC requires development and implementation of an overall cleanup plan (RAP) for the entire site to ensure long-term public safety.

For the final cleanup and as required under the **CEQA**, DTSC anticipates issuing a Notice of Preparation (**NOP**) and Initial Study for a draft **EIR** April 4th, 2013. As part of the **NOP** process, DTSC is hosting public scoping meetings to allow 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 (NOD)** will be published regarding the final cleanup approach.

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.

The site contains various types of liquid and solid waste in buried pits, surface piles of concrete, rebar and other construction debris and open and buried lagoons (ponds).

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 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

CEQA is a state law that requires a project's lead agency to consider and disclose the environmental effects of its proposed actions before approving them. A 2003 Consent Order issued by the State of California designates DTSC as the lead agency for completing the CEQA process for the remediation of Ascon Landfill site. DTSC has determined that an **EIR** should be prepared to assess the potential environmental effects and solicit public input. The first step in the **EIR** process is to prepare an **NOP**. Subsequent steps include the following:

- Hold **Scoping** meetings to obtain input from other agencies with jurisdiction in the project area or over project activities and community members on the scope and content of the **EIR**.
- Prepare a draft **EIR** – describing existing conditions in the project area, analyzing the project's potential effects, and identifying measures to avoid, reduce, or mitigate adverse impacts of the remedial process.
- Distribute the draft **EIR** and Draft RAP for a 45-day public review period and obtain comments from agencies and the public.
- Prepare written responses to comments received during the public review period.
- Prepare and certify the final **EIR**.
- Make a decision on the proposed action.
- File the **Notice of Determination (NOD)**.

Two Upcoming Public Scoping Meetings and How You Can Participate

Two upcoming Public **Scoping** Meetings are planned and is an opportunity for the community and agencies to provide their input on the scope of the **EIR** for this project. The upcoming Public **Scoping** Meetings will be formally recorded to ensure we capture the meeting content, feedback and public comments.

Important Note: Each Public **Scoping** Meeting is intended to reach both the local community and public agencies, however both meetings are open to the general public and anyone is welcome to attend either meeting. Please see the front page of this fact sheet for each meeting date, time and location.

The 30-day public comment period on the *NOP* (scope of the *EIR*) begins April 4th, and ends May 3rd, 2013. Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than May 3rd, 2013, and sent to:

Safouh Sayed, DTSC Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Safouh.Sayed@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC will consider all public comments received during the public comment period.

Additional Information Sources

Site documents are also available for electronic review on DTSC's EnviroStor website at www.EnviroStor.ca.gov. Enter "Huntington Beach" as the City and select "ASCON LANDFILL SITE". Click on the link for "Report". **If you would like DTSC to notify you via e-mail when new EnviroStor documents, such as workplans and reports are available online for this site, please click on the "Sign Up for E-mail Alerts" link to the right of the site name, and complete the sign up form.**

All documents made available to the public by DTSC can be made available in an alternate format (i.e., Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, in accordance with State and Federal law. Please contact Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, for assistance with alternative formats.

Information Repository Locations

Project documents including the *NOP* are available for public review at the following Information Repositories:

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

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

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

Whom to Contact at DTSC for Information

If you have any questions about the Ascon Landfill site project, *NOP*, *EIR* or other related project activities, please contact the following DTSC staff:

Safouh Sayed, DTSC Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Safouh.Sayed@dtsc.ca.gov

Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
E-mail: Stacey.Lear@dtsc.ca.gov

Next Steps

DTSC will continue to keep the public informed during the *EIR* process. A notice will be sent to anyone who has requested notification of the availability of the Draft EIR for review and comment. DTSC anticipates the proposed final remedy document (draft Remedial Action Plan, RAP) and the companion *CEQA* document (draft *EIR*) will be available for public review and comment in later summer or early fall of this year.

Media Inquiries

Charlotte Fadipe, Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
(916) 323-3395
E-mail: Charlotte.Fadipe@dtsc.ca.gov

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 Individuals

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

Glossary of Terms:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

Enacted in 1970 to provide long-term environmental protection, this law requires that governmental decision-makers and public agencies study the environmental effects of proposed activities and that significant adverse effects be avoided or reduced where feasible.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR): A report designed to examine the potential environmental impacts of proposed activities.

Lead Regulatory Agency: The public agency responsible for decision making on a project.

Notice of Determination (NOD): Formal notice filed with the California State Clearinghouse after the final EIR is being prepared and to request input on the content of the *EIR*.

Notice of Preparation (NOP): A notice that is sent by the lead agency to notify agencies and the public that an *EIR* is being prepared and to request input on the content of the *EIR*.

Scoping: A process to gain input from agencies and the public regarding the content of the *EIR*.

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ASCON LANDFILL SITE, HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA**

You can use this form to send in your written public comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP). You may also ask to be added or deleted from the Ascon Landfill site mailing list. If you know of anyone or any organizations that would like to be on the project mailing list, please use this form to notify us. Please address all mailings to Safouh Sayed, DTSC Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732. You may also e-mail this same information to: Safouh.Sayed@dtsc.ca.gov.

Reminder: All public comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) must be postmarked or e-mailed by May 3rd, 2013.

NAME: _____

AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION (if applicable): _____

ADDRESS: _____

Telephone # _____

____ Please add me to the Ascon Landfill site mailing list.

____ Please delete from the Ascon Landfill site mailing list.

Comments: _____

DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.