



Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D.
Acting Director
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, California 90630



Gavin Newsom
Governor

June 12, 2019

Ms. Tamara Zeier, P.E.
Project Navigator, Ltd.
One Pointe Drive, Suite 320
Brea, California 92821

SUSPENSION OF REMEDY IMPLEMENTATION AND REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MEASURES, ASCON LANDFILL SITE, 21641 MAGNOLIA STREET, HUNTINGTON BEACH (SITE CODE: 400007)

Dear Ms. Zeier:

At a June 6, 2019 public meeting, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced its decision to suspend the Ascon Landfill Site (Site) cleanup until enhanced safeguards are implemented. These safeguards include Project Navigator Ltd. implementing measures to address odors emanating from the Site into Edison High School, across the street from the Site, and into the nearby community. DTSC takes concerns voiced by people in the community seriously and responds as necessary to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. Consequently, additional public health and safety enhancements presented at the public meeting (Attached), must be implemented prior to resumption of onsite activities.

After the public meeting, DTSC communicated with Project Navigator, Ltd., to notify them of its decision and discussed necessary site control measures on June 7, 2019. DTSC based its decision to suspend the work until additional public health and safety enhancements are implemented on three factors. First, people in the community, including officials from the school district and the City of Huntington Beach, have lodged hundreds of complaints about the site. Community members also voiced their strenuous concerns also for hours in the June 6th public meeting that you attended. Community members also voiced similar concerns at a May 15th community meeting held in Huntington Beach's City Hall.

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Second, on May 2, 2019, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) issued Project Navigator Ltd. a Notice of Violation due to reported and confirmed nuisance odors. Third, for the same reasons, SCAQMD also issued Project Navigator Ltd. an order to stop work for the day on June 6, 2019.

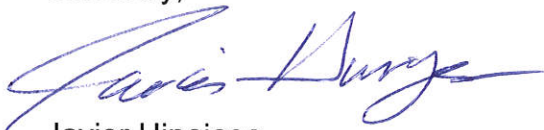
We note that monitoring has not found any chemicals in the air above a level that causes a public health concern. We also note that monitoring and dust and odor suppression activities has continued even after we suspended cleanup work. However, Project Navigator must address community complaints' over odors and dust.

As indicated in the attached fact sheet from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), symptoms to odors vary based on people's sensitivity and young children, the elderly and pregnant women may be more sensitive to odors. Additionally, ATSDR recognizes that odors can cause symptoms and illnesses similar to those expressed by community members during the public meeting and complaints to our office. Therefore, Project Navigator, Ltd. must implement more effective mitigation measures to control odors from the Site.

Upon receipt of this letter, please contact DTSC to arrange for a meeting the week of June 17, 2019 to discuss the scope, schedule and design of mitigation measures included in the attached list.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Xihong Scarlett Zhai, Project Manager, at (714) 484-5316 or by e-mail at Xihong.Zhai@dtsc.ca.gov, or contact me at (714) 484-5484 or by e-mail at Javier.Hinojosa@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Javier Hinojosa
Branch Chief
Brownfields Restoration and School Evaluation Branch
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program

mv/xsz/jh

Attachments

cc: See next page

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cc: (via e-mail)

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Brownfields Restoration and School Evaluation Team Reading File – Cypress

ASCON SITE HEALTH & SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS
June 12, 2019

On June 6, 2019, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) suspended cleanup work at the Ascon Landfill site in Huntington Beach, California.

DTSC is suspending all work until the following public health and safety enhancements occur:

1. DTSC approves the evaluation and use of a feasible tenting or enclosure system to control odors where excavation of contaminated soil occurs.
2. A 16-foot high fence is constructed at the site.
3. DTSC approves actions to ensure that contaminated soil is covered or solidified daily.
4. DTSC approves an air monitoring program that includes additional heavy metals known to occur at the site.
5. DTSC approves expanding the range of off-site air monitoring activities, including all nearby schools.
6. DTSC approves a system to rapidly respond to odor and dust complaints by investigating and then shutting down and correcting work practices that generate odor or dust. The system must also provide timely reports on follow-up work to the individuals who reported the odor or dust complaint.
7. A technical advisor is hired to advise the community, enhance their technical resources and to help improve DTSC's communications with the public.
8. DTSC approves a review of the project's air monitoring data validation methodologies used to ensure the quality of monitoring results.
9. DTSC approves the testing of on-site concrete material for asbestos and, if testing identifies any threats, DTSC will immediately require actions to address the threat.
10. DTSC holds a public meeting before cleanup work is re-started.