



EPA

Casmalia Resources Superfund Site

united states environmental protection agency • region 9 • september 2002

LANDFILL COVER PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION

The U.S. EPA invites members of the public to a community update meeting at the Casmalia Elementary School on Wednesday, September 18, 2002, to discuss progress at the Casmalia Resources Superfund site.

The agenda includes construction activities at the Caustic/Cyanide and Acids Landfills, a presentation on the future site-wide investigation, and the status of several actions to settle liability with responsible parties. Please note that the starting time has been moved up one half hour to 6:30 p.m.

Cap Construction Update

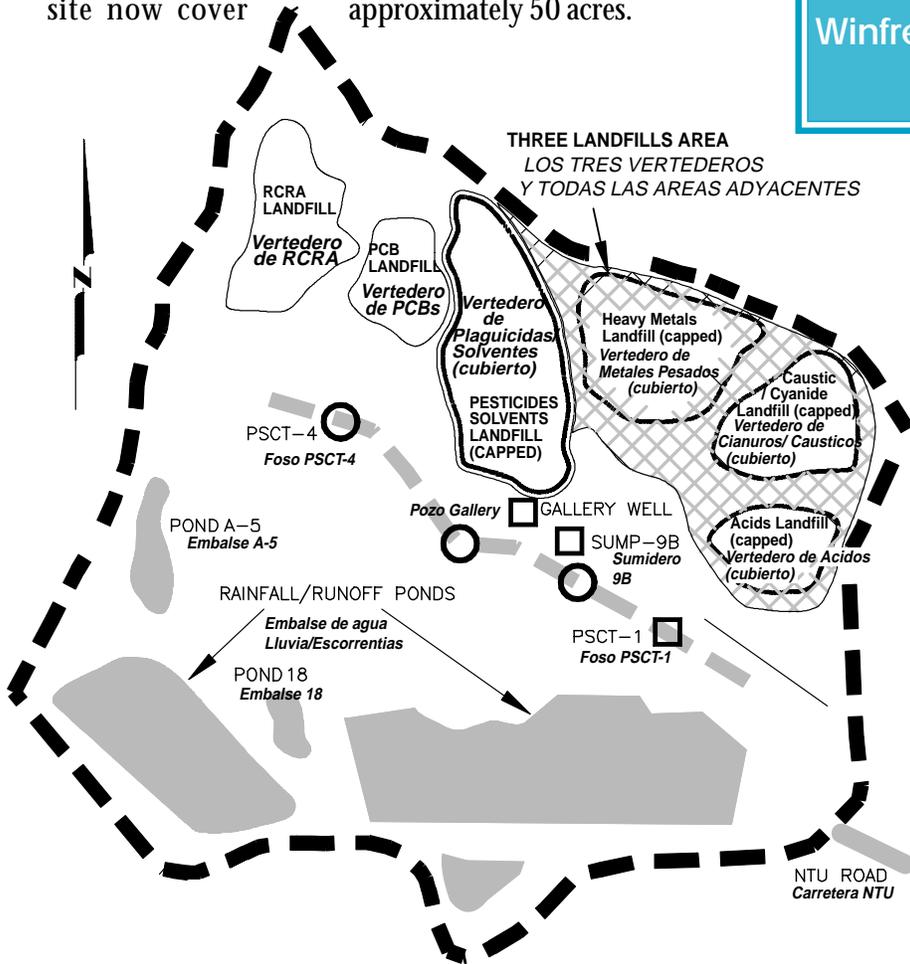
Construction of the Caustic/Cyanide Landfill and Acids Landfill Caps will be completed by November of this year. Together with the Heavy Metals Landfill Cap completed in January 2002 and the Pesticides/Solvents Landfill constructed in 2000, the total capped areas at the site now cover approximately 50 acres.

Community Meeting

Wednesday,
September 18, 2002

6:30 - 9:00 pm

Winfred Wollam Elementary School
Casmalia



Initially, three caps were to be completed in 2001, but shallow buried drums were detected during the grading of the Heavy Metals and Caustic/Cyanide Landfills. Geophysical surveys were conducted and trenches were dug to identify the location and depths of the shallow drums. Subsequently, the construction season was extended by a year to allow for the redesign of the Caustic/Cyanide Landfill Cap to avoid encountering additional drums.

The redesign of the Caustic/Cyanide Landfill Cap involved removing less soil from the top of the landfill and building a soil toe buttress to support the landfill. The Casmalia Steering Committee (CSC) performed laboratory tests to determine the physical strength of potential soil sources for the buttress, and a decision was made to use soils from elsewhere

Figure 1: Casmalia Resources Superfund Site

on-site. A total of 440,000 cubic yards of soil was used as fill for the toe buttress.

Cap construction is on schedule. Due to the design changes and lessons learned from previous construction, the actual costs of the Caustic/Cyanide Landfill and Acids Landfill Cap construction will be lower than anticipated.

Other Site Activities

A number of non-construction activities have occurred since the last public meeting on April 8, 2002.

Cattle Trespass

In June, cattle from a neighboring property began visiting the site (approximately 20 cattle at the peak). In order to keep the cattle off the site, EPA directed the CSC to rebuild about 1,000 feet of fence along the north ridge of the site that was in poor condition. The fence was rebuilt, and the cattle were driven off-site and have not returned.

Disposal of Spilled Material

The CSC responded to two leaks of the Perimeter Source Control Trench (PSCT) pipeline, and an overflow of a storage tank on the concrete pad of the Ameripure Treatment System Plant. The CSC repaired the leaks, cleaned up and disposed of the spilled material, and used a photoionization detector (PID) to determine the exposure levels of onsite workers. In addition, a floating material containing volatile organics began appearing in the groundwater treatment system. In some circumstances, these materials can be released into the air. The CSC installed carbon canisters on equipment handling the material to control air releases.

In June, EPA's onsite contractor and the CSC identified a potential problem with the CSC's PID instrument. The CSC repaired the instrument. More generally, EPA expressed concern with the quality of the CSC's measurement program, and the CSC has responded that they intend to hire an onsite engineer to be responsible for future onsite measurements. The CSC is in the process of recruiting for that position.

Funding Transition for Groundwater Extraction and Treatment

As required by the Casmalia Consent Decree, funding for the groundwater extraction and treatment facilities will

change. For the past six years, the CSC performed this task using their funds; beginning in September, the funding will come from monies recovered from other responsible parties. Although the funding source is changing, most of the operations will continue as before, with the CSC's contractor performing the work.

CSC Buys Hunter Property

The CSC purchased the mortgage to 1,000 acres owned by Casmalia Resources which includes the Superfund site. The purchase includes the property immediately adjacent to the site except for 300 feet along the southwest corner (which had been purchased through an auction last year) and a small portion of the eastern boundary. The purchase ensures continued access to water and soils for site activities.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)

Work will soon begin on the part of the Superfund process called the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The Remedial Investigation (RI) is a detailed technical study of the nature and extent of contamination, including the kinds of chemicals present, the areas affected, and the human health and ecological risks associated with the contamination.

Based on the extent of contamination and the associated risks characterized in the RI, the Feasibility Study (FS) will define which risks should be reduced, and will evaluate different methods to reduce the risks. Based on the RI/FS and comments received from the public, EPA will select the final remedy or remedies for Casmalia, and document the selection in a Record of Decision (ROD).

The CSC has submitted a Draft RI/FS Workplan to EPA and other federal and state agencies for review. The scope of work contained in the Draft RI/FS Workplan was developed by joint CSC/regulatory agency committees which addressed specific topics, including human health risks, ecological risks, and groundwater modeling and investigation.

Under the RI/FS Workplan, the CSC will:

- Complete the field investigation to characterize the nature and extent of site-related soil, sediment, surface water and groundwater contamination.
- Conduct a human health risk assessment to identify



Figure 2: *Acids Landfill*



Figure 3: *Caustics/Cyanide Landfill*

remedial strategy for the site.

These overall tasks will be achieved in part by using a significant amount of existing data from over ten years of EPA, CSC, and Hunter Parties site work. However, further field sampling and laboratory analyses will be conducted to gather additional soil, sediment, groundwater, and air chemical data necessary to address data needs identified in the RI/FS Workplan.

The federal and state oversight agencies have reviewed the Draft RI/FS Workplan for Casmalia, and given their comments and concerns to the CSC. The CSC is now in the process of addressing these comments and is continuing data gathering and sampling that will be used for the RI/FS. The CSC will finalize the RI/FS Workplan this Winter. The entire RI/FS process is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2004.

Enforcement Update

EPA has continued its enforcement efforts and will soon provide written responses to public comments on the proposed settlements with the Hunter entities and the State of California. EPA anticipates that additional steps will occur in early Fall of this year. EPA has also continued negotiations with other major parties and with *de minimis* parties. Depending on the outcome of those negotiations, proposed settlements with some of these parties may occur this Fall. EPA is also continuing negotiations with the Casmalia Steering Committee on a wide range of issues.

areas requiring remediation.

- Conduct ecological risk assessments to identify potential ecological risks that warrant remediation.
- Create a three-dimensional site-wide groundwater flow model that will be used to better characterize the groundwater flow at the site, and to evaluate the effectiveness of current and future groundwater extraction systems.
- Evaluate the technical practicability of groundwater restoration to applicable standards.
- Conduct a feasibility study to identify candidate technologies, formulate remedial alternatives, and identify the most promising

UNA VERSIÓN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

For further information,
please contact:

David Cooper (SFD-3)
Community Involvement Coordinator
(415) 972-3237

Kent Kitchingman (SFD-7-1)
Remedial Project Manager
(415) 972-3142

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75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

OR LEAVE A MESSAGE ON OUR TOLL-FREE LINE:
800-231-3075

Information Repositories

You may review extensive background information related to the Casmalia Resources Superfund Site, at either of the following:

Santa Maria Library
420 South Broadway
Santa Maria, California
(805-925-0994)

EPA Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California
(415-536-2000)



or visit the Casmalia Web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/sfund/npl/siteinfo.htm>

- 1) Click on "Site Overview and Information"
- 2) Click on "Casmalia Disposal Site"



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75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)
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