



FRESNO SANITARY LANDFILL SUPERFUND SITE



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION IX • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 1998

EPA ENTERS AGREEMENT WITH FRESNO

This fact sheet discusses the agreement reached between the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the City of Fresno (City) to complete the final cleanup efforts at the Fresno Sanitary Landfill Superfund site and discuss the future land use at the site.

The EPA has signed an agreement with the City to conduct the final clean up of contamination found at the City-owned Fresno Sanitary Landfill and in the groundwater beneath the landfill. The City has signed a legal document called a Consent Decree which formalizes the agreement reached between itself and EPA for the cleanup of the site. This cleanup action is to protect public health and the environment. To date, the City has been very cooperative in this effort. The hazardous substances at the site are methane and vinyl chloride gasses in the subsurface soil of the landfill and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in the groundwater beneath the landfill. EPA and the City agreed that the site should be divided into two operable units (OUs): OU1, also known as a source control operable unit, addresses the remedial action directly associated with the landfill contami-

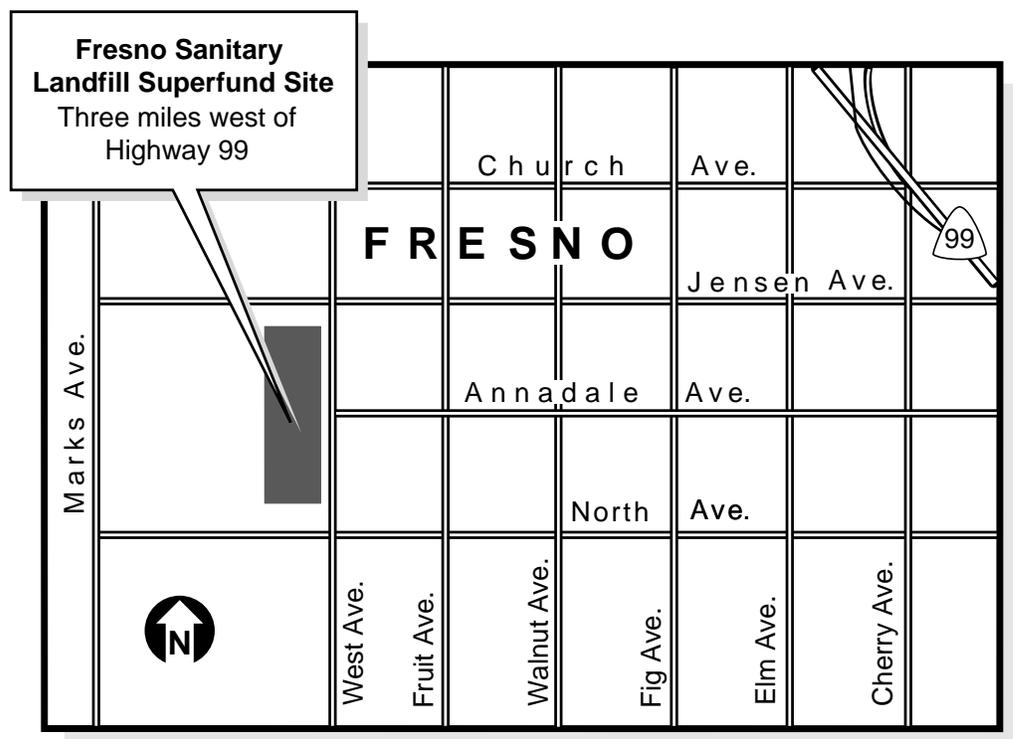


Figure 1: Area map

nation and OU2 addresses the cleanup of the groundwater impacted by landfill contaminants. An operable unit is an action taken as one part of an overall site cleanup. With oversight by EPA, the City completed both remedial investigations and feasibility studies for the source control remedy and groundwater contamination remedy concurrently.

EPA selected a remedy for the source control operable unit after considering public comments and a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed September 30, 1993. The ROD documented the selected remedy for OU1: landfill gas extraction, a landfill cover, a stormwater management system, and a leachate collection system, if necessary. The City has completed and

(Continued on page 2)

EPA has approved the construction designs for the landfill remedy. The City has agreed to construct the remedy.

After considering public comments, EPA selected a remedy for the groundwater cleanup or OU2 and a Record of Decision was signed on September 30, 1996. The ROD documented the selected remedy for the OU2 which has three phases:

- Phase I - to contain the contaminated groundwater underneath the landfill by installing pumping wells along the perimeter of the landfill;
- Phase II - to prevent the spread of the plume into clean por-

tions of the aquifer by installing wells at the outside edge of the plume for pumping and treating the water;

- Phase III - to reduce contaminant levels at the contained groundwater plume by pumping and treating the contaminated groundwater (removing contaminants) to maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). The MCL (as set by EPA) is the maximum level of a contaminant permitted in drinking water that is supplied by a public water system.

In the agreement with EPA, the City agrees to design, construct and conduct the cleanup effort for groundwater contamination.

SCHEDULE

Source Control Remedy

The design has been approved and work is scheduled begin in the Fall 1998.

Groundwater Remedy

The development of the remedy design of phase I for the groundwater remedy is planned to begin in the Fall of 1998. Phase I includes installing pumps along the western edge of the landfill. Upon EPA approval of the design, the City will begin construction of Phase I. Each phase will be evaluated before proceeding.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

The Fresno Sanitary Landfill is located four miles southwest of the City of Fresno in Fresno County, California. The landfill is approximately 145 acres in size and rises approximately 60 feet above the surrounding land. It is located along West Avenue between North Avenue and Jensen Avenue. The area surrounding the landfill is primarily agricultural (see Area Map, p.1).

The Fresno Sanitary Landfill is owned and was operated by the City of Fresno. The landfill began operating in 1937 and stopped accepting trash in 1989. Groundwater,

soils, and air are all impacted by the release of contaminants from the landfill. The most common forms of contamination at landfills are landfill gas and leachate; leachate being the most significant contributor to the contamination of the groundwater. The leachate is formed by rain infiltrating through the landfill and by decomposition of the trash.

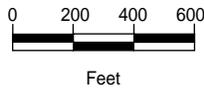
Chemical contaminants from the landfill which have entered the groundwater (70 feet beneath the landfill) include vinyl chloride, trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, chloroform and several other volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The plume of contaminated groundwater has migrated

beyond the perimeter of the landfill and now extends approximately 1,750 feet west of the landfill. The plume has also migrated vertically, impacting two water-bearing zones and possibly a third deeper zone. Groundwater in these water-bearing zones has in the past been used for residential drinking water. As a precaution, residents were provided with alternative drinking water supplies or filters for treating the water. Agricultural wells in the contaminated plume area will be closed by filling them with cement to eliminate a potential pathway for contaminant migration.

FUTURE LAND USE

The City of Fresno is presently designing a 250 to 300-acre regional park and sports complex at the site. Conceptual drawings submitted show nine soccer fields, six softball-baseball fields and an arboretum as possibilities (see Figure 2.) The sports complex would be on acreage just west of the landfill site. The City is developing designs for the complex that will allow the cleanup remedy to continue, and both the remedy and the park can be beneficial to the community.

PRELIMINARY MASTER PARK PLAN Fresno Landfill Regional Park



Drawing based on a plan by
Beals Landscape Architecture and
Boyle Engineering Corporation

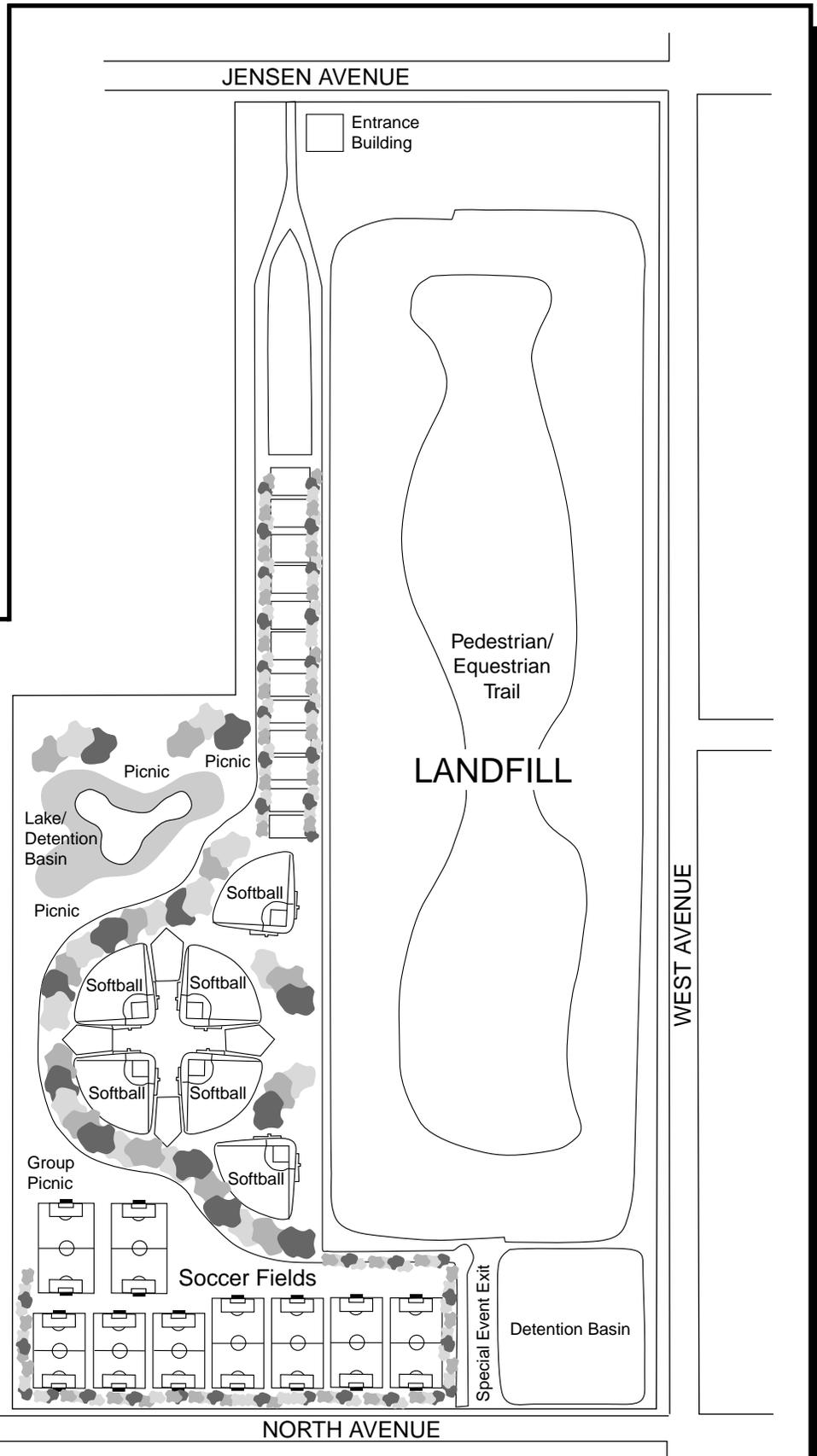


Figure 2: Preliminary Master Park Plan, Fresno Landfill Regional Park, Fresno, CA

For More Information

The Superfund program places a high value on community input in addressing hazardous waste cleanups. Your comments are invited and encouraged. If you have any questions or concerns about the cleanup activities at the Fresno Sanitary Landfill site, please contact the following people:

Jacqueline Lane (SFD-3)
Community Involvement Coordinator
Toll Free (800) 231-3075

Richard Procnier (SFD-7)
Remedial Project Manager
(415) 744-2219

Lois Grunwald (E-2)
Press Officer
(415) 744-1588

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105

Site Repositories

The Administrative Record is a file which contains all the documents and reports on which EPA based its decision for the proposed plan at the site. Copies of the Administrative Record are available for public review at:



Fresno County Central Library
2420 Mariposa Street
Fresno, CA 93721
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Open: Mon. thru Thurs.
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