



Perspectives

Welcome to *PERSPECTIVES*, an email-newsletter designed to give you a window into what is going on here at El Sobrante Landfill. Topics include waste management issues, community involvement, and environmental protection and legislation. We hope you enjoy it.

EL SOBRANTE LANDFILL

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Letter from Damon De Frates District Manager, El Sobrante Landfill

Dear Friends,

I want to inform you that there is a new addition to the El Sobrante leadership team. Mike Williams has joined El Sobrante Landfill as the new district manager. He will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the landfill, as well as providing leadership and guidance to the team. I will continue to oversee El Sobrante, however in a different capacity; I have been promoted to serve as WM's new director of landfill operations. In my new role, I am responsible for El Sobrante, as well as other landfills located in southern California and Hawaii.

I hope you have kept dry during these rainy days we've been having. While the rain has been great for our wildlife preserve and we expect to have a great poppy and wildflower season, it does make running our landfill a little more challenging. However, we are glad our site improvements, completed last fall, have really helped us manage the storm water run-off very efficiently. Managing landfill liquids- derived from either rain or the natural decomposition of trash is of utmost importance at El Sobrante. Here's a quick lesson on groundwater protection and monitoring we implement at the site.

We invite you to participate this year in the Temescal Valley Keep America Beautiful event. For the second year, we will be sponsoring a clean-up event to benefit an important waterway in our community- the Temescal Wash. We hope you get inspired to come out to help and enjoy a great barbeque afterwards, all while getting to meet your neighbors.

Finally, I will be handing over our monthly newsletter to our new district manager, Mike Williams, so expect a slight change in the email correspondence. As always, we invite you to tour our operations and look forward to answering any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact me or Community Relations Manager Lily Quiroa at 951-277-5112.

Best,

Damon De Frates
District Manager
El Sobrante Landfill



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Meet The New District Manager

Mike Williams is a long time Inland Empire resident who grew up in the city of Highland. He obtained his degree in civil engineering from California State Polytechnic University. After a six-year term in the Army reserves, he worked for a public agency as a civil engineer where he was introduced to the waste industry through his work on landfill projects.



Mike has worked for Waste Management for over 20 years in various leadership roles and brings vast experience as a landfill district manager. He has served as District Manager at various landfill facilities throughout the Waste Management system in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. His most recent position was as the engineer for special projects in Los Angeles County and the Inland Empire.

Currently he and his wife, Susan, reside in Cathedral City. Mike is an ardent football fanatic, his favorite NFL team is the Ravens and he roots for Arizona State University for sentimental reasons. His son played college football for Arizona State during their last trip to the Rose Bowl.

During the off-season, Mike tries to keep himself occupied by golfing, watching movies and attending car shows or races. One of his most adventurous experiences was traveling to Tanzania and Kenya for a 10 day African safari trip.

Mike is a very easygoing guy who brings a lot of talent and experience to his new position and is a perfect fit for El Sobrante. We can be assured, that he will continue to put community and environmental protection first at this important facility.



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Groundwater Monitoring and Surface Water Protection

El Sobrante Landfill's job is to protect the environment from the waste placed in the landfill. Managing the liquids produced from the natural breakdown of the waste, known as leachate, and by preventing rainwater from gathering on the surface is a way we assure that the landfill is being operated in a safe and sanitary manner.

Several environmental control systems are implemented during the construction of the landfill to prevent liquids and other constituents from infiltrating into the ground. El Sobrante utilizes a redundant multilayer liner system that exceeds federal and state standards to create a protective barrier between the trash and the groundwater below the site. The leachate is removed from the landfill using perforated pipes that run throughout the base of the landfill and is then pumped into storage tanks. The leachate is then re-circulated for dust control on top of the lined landfill where trash is being placed. Approximately 850,000 gallons of clean water are conserved every year by recycling the leachate. Clean water for dust control is used only on the roads that lead to the landfill.



To insure that the environmental control systems mentioned above are properly protecting the environment, groundwater-monitoring wells are positioned in key locations through out the landfill property. The locations of the wells are primarily selected to intercept groundwater that flows beneath the landfill. The depths of the monitoring wells have been selected to test the uppermost groundwater for any contaminants. Water samples and inspections are conducted in accordance with a site-specific sampling plan designed by WM professionals and the regulatory community to meet state and federal guidelines. The results are submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for regulatory oversight.

El Sobrante is also well designed to properly handle surface water, especially after a storm, to prevent erosion, minimize infiltration and provide proper drainage. Surface water control is necessary to divert the rainwater away from the landfill. The landfill is graded and well compacted to allow for the surface water to drain. Diversion berms/ditches are constructed around the perimeter of the landfill area to collect the water and divert it to permanent stormwater/sedimentation ponds located strategically around the landfill to remove sediment before the storm water is discharged from the site. All of the storm water discharge structures are designed and maintained to handle a 100 year storm event. They are inspected monthly during the rainy season, quarterly during the summer, and are upgraded when necessary.



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Keeping America Beautiful Cleanup Event

On Saturday, March 28th, Temescal Valley residents will have the opportunity to participate in the yearly national Keep America Beautiful tradition "Great American Cleanup" and help clean a vital area in our community.

The cleanup event is being sponsored by a grant awarded to El Sobrante Landfill through Waste Management's corporate partnership with Keep America Beautiful. The Great American Cleanup is the nation's largest community improvement program; it takes place annually from March 1 through May 31 and attracts more than 2 million volunteers to clean up and improve over 17,000 communities across America.



The Temescal Valley cleanup event will take place in the Temescal Wash area, a waterway that drains into the Santa Ana River, located adjacent to the Interstate 15. The Temescal Wash is a critical habitat for native plants, wildlife and bird species.

The event committee, made up of local community leaders, will be actively recruiting volunteers to help out at the event. Last year's event, we were able to recruit volunteers from the local residential communities, schools, scout troops, and church groups and managed to collect thousands of pounds of trash. Some of the kids even turned the clean up into a treasure hunt and walked off with a few trinkets.

With support from Supervisor Bob Buster's office, additional clean up help will come from County of Riverside Departments of Code Enforcement and Environmental Health, the Western Riverside Council of Governments, Waste Management Division, and State of California Department of Fish & Game.

If you are interested in volunteering and obtain more information regarding the event, please contact Lily Quiroa at 951-277-5112 or lquiroa@wm.com.

Keep America Beautiful Cleanup Event:

When: Saturday, March 28, 2009

Time: 8:00 am to 12:00 noon

Lunch will be provided after the clean up