



# 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

*El Sobrante Landfill is a Class 3 regional disposal facility permitted to accept up to 10,000 tons per day, seven days per week. It employs approximately 40 full-time employees. Landfill operations are overseen by the California Integrated Waste Management Board, and the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health.*

### **Letter from Damon De Frates District Manager, El Sobrante Landfill**

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Dear Friends,

October was a very busy month for El Sobrante Landfill. We finished paving our main road that leads to the landfill and setting up the guard rails-which should make for a smoother and safer ride. However, our work never ends as we continue to implement new measures to keep the landfill running efficiently.

This month, we are testing out our new state of the art odor neutralizing system. This new system, coupled with processes and procedures we already have in place, should eliminate odors outside the boundaries of the landfill.

We continue to form strong partnerships with local schools. Last month, we hosted all of the fourth grade students from Briggs Fundamental School. We enjoyed spending time with our future environmental leaders. Speaking of future leaders, I want you to meet one of our youngest fans - Conner West. Conner is a Temescal Valley resident who sits in front of his home every trash day, waiting for the Waste Management truck that goes through his neighborhood.

Finally, I want to introduce a new member to El Sobrante Team: Marco Quen. Marco brings an extensive background in landfill gas management. He is an admirable person both at work and in his personal life. We are lucky to have him!

As always, we invite you to tour our operations and come see for yourself the great stuff we're doing at the El Sobrante Landfill. Please call me or Community Relations Manager Lily Quiroa at 951-277-5112 if there's anything we can do for you.

Best,

Damon De Frates  
District Manager  
El Sobrante Landfill



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### **More Environmental Improvements**

We recently installed a new state of the art odor neutralizing system to improve our operations in the landfill. Odors in landfills like ours happen as a result of the natural degradation of garbage. While the odors coming from trash might be smelly, they are completely safe. However, our goal is to manage this natural occurrence so we minimize any impact to our neighbors.

The odor neutralizing system we are using at El Sobrante is one of the best-proven odor technologies available in the industry. It doesn't attempt to "mask" the odor, which can often create a worse situation, instead, neutralizes it. The odor neutralizer is a formulation of highly concentrated non-toxic and biodegradable "essential oils" which are combined with water and is sprayed into the air in a fine mist. Once the mist of the neutralizer and water mixture comes into contact with the odor-producing molecules, the essential oil molecules bond with and break down the odor molecules - resulting in an elimination of the odor.

The neutralizing system is a portable unit that can be moved, depending on the wind directions, weather conditions, waste placement, and other factors. This system is being used by El Sobrante to control odors created by solid waste being disposed of at the landfill and the processed green waste being brought into El Sobrante to be used as daily cover material.

We will continue to utilize new technologies as they become available.

As always, we are committed to continue improvement at the landfill in order to protect human health and the environment – for our Temescal Valley neighbors and all of Riverside County.



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### **Future Environmental Leaders**

Last month, the entire 4th grade class from Briggs Fundamental School in the city of Chino participated in an educational tour of El Sobrante Landfill to learn about waste management and the importance of recycling. The tour complemented the students' classroom lesson entitled "Sharing the Planet" which focuses on what they can do to protect the environment.



Schools are the perfect place to instill the value of natural resources and the importance of minimizing waste. The goal of our program is to increase the public's understanding of the critical services and infrastructure El Sobrante Landfill provides. We certainly enjoyed hosting the students and hope that they carry the lessons learned home to their parents and motivate the entire family to recycle and protect our environment.

Finally, we also want to share an email sent to us by Elizabeth West, mom to three-year-old Conner, who won a Waste Management trash truck during the 8th Annual Temescal Valley Faire. We hosted a booth where we conducted our own recycling version of "Are you smarter than a 5th grader?" and challenged the kids to recycling Olympics.

From Elizabeth West:



*Here is a picture of our son, Conner, happily accepting his prize from the Waste Management raffle. Conner could not have been happier after winning this trash truck, as he absolutely LOVES anything to do with trash trucks! Every week on our trash pick-up day, the first thing we do sit out on our porch and patiently wait for the trucks to arrive! We do not leave our porch until we have seen both of the trucks pick up our trash. No matter where we are, if Conner sees a trash truck he gets so excited and starts yelling for his trash trucks!*

*Thank you Waste Management for making my son's day by giving him this prize, as proof of his smile tells how happy he is.*

*- Elizabeth West*

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### **Marco Quen: Landfill Technician**

Marco Quen may be new to Waste Management, but he's not new to El Sobrante Landfill. For the past four years, he has worked as a consultant at El Sobrante Landfill, and we are pleased that he decided to become a member of our Waste Management family.

With over a decade's experience as a field technician specializing in landfill gas technology, he will be managing our extensive landfill gas collection system assuring that quality landfill gas is diverted to El Sobrante's gas to energy plant for the continued production of green energy.

Marco has been married for 14 years to wife, Elisa; they reside in Pomona with their six-year-old son, Joshua. The family enjoys spending quality time taking trips to coastal cities and they do a lot of charity work through their church. Marco is also a member of a Christian band, where he plays the bass guitar and keyboard.

Marco is registered with the National Bone Marrow Donor program, a commitment he made six years ago. In 2006, the organization called him informing him that he was identified as a potential bone marrow match. At that time, he was a new father, and the decision to go through the long and meticulous process, became a personal one for him. He decided to donate his bone marrow to an 11-year-old cancer patient. The patient Marco helped is now a 14-year-old boy full of life and cancer free. Marco and his family continue to be active with the organization.

