



FORWARD LANDFILL, A GOOD NEIGHBOR AND COMMUNITY PARTNER

July 30, 2021

MANTECA, CA (Jul. 30, 2021) – Forward Landfill continues to make significant operational improvements to address limited groundwater contamination north of the landfill property boundary. This document is designed to provide an overview of these efforts and improvements, which have been ongoing since 2001.

BACKGROUND

First, let's talk about how we got to where we are today.

In 2000, Forward Inc. purchased the landfill formerly known as the "Austin Road Landfill." This landfill was built in the 1950s and subsequently operated by the City of Stockton until its sale. Because of its age, the former Austin Road Landfill was constructed without a liner system, which allowed some garbage contact water ("leachate") to contaminate the groundwater under the landfill and for some of this groundwater to travel north of the landfill boundary.

Following Forward Inc.'s purchase of the landfill, the area was capped with a 4-foot thick layer of compacted soil. That area is now known as the "Forward Landfill." (See diagram below.) This cap prevents further moisture from infiltrating the former landfill's waste and creating leachate.

Below, we highlight some other major enhancements at the landfill.

LANDFILL UPGRADES

On-Site Water Treatment System

We use best-in-class technology to improve our ability to capture and treat groundwater that was affected by low levels of contaminants from the former Austin Road Landfill.

This technology includes:

- An artificial "recharge" basin that has been in place since May 2003. After contaminants are removed from the groundwater, the clean groundwater is discharged into this basin so that it will soak back into the ground and regenerate the local water table with clean water.
- In 2009, we installed three additional groundwater extraction wells to increase the amount of water captured and treated along the northern property boundary of the landfill.
- In 2019, we further enhanced this system by using the latest technologies to clean out clogged system lines and wells. In addition, we installed a 5th groundwater extraction well along the northern boundary of the landfills.

These upgrades mean that we can now divert any potentially contaminated groundwater into our treatment system and clean it before it leaves the Landfill.

We continue to provide extensive, routine monitoring of the landfill's water treatment system (see diagram below.) As part of this effort, samples are periodically collected and reported to local and state regulatory agencies. The samples cover both groundwater captured by the landfill's extraction wells and the clean water pumped into the water recharge basin.

Residential Water Treatment Systems

With the installation of the above water treatment technologies, Forward Inc. has demonstrated it has stopped the migration of contaminated groundwater from the landfill property.

However, out of an abundance of caution, Forward has also installed residential well water treatment systems and/or city water connections for any residents' who have requested it. These services were provided at no cost to residents and are part of Forward's commitment to being a good neighbor and community partner.

Recent routine sampling of these 14 residential water treatment systems show they successfully remove contaminants from groundwater. Further information can be found at the website link provided below.

Landfill Gas Collection System

Landfill gas collection and treatment been a big area of focus in terms of Forward Landfill's ongoing commitment to the environment. Between 2001 and 2013 we significantly expanded the landfill gas collection system. We constructed 182 new vertical gas extraction wells and 9 replacement wells. In addition, the system was upgraded to incorporate two enclosed flares for thermal destruction of the landfill gas. This system reduces the potential for greenhouse gas emissions by directing the captured landfill gas to an onsite plant where it is converted to electric energy, which produces renewable electricity for use by area homes and businesses.

OTHER NON-LANDFILL SOURCES OF VOCs?

As noted earlier, Forward has collected an abundance of groundwater data. These investigations show there are other potential non-landfill sources of VOC contamination near Forward Landfill's northern property boundary.

These scientifically-based findings were presented to state and local regulatory agencies, and we continue to work closely with our regulatory partners to understand the extent of these contamination sources. The website link to these reports is provided below.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Forward prides itself on being a good neighbor and landfill operator. As such, we would like to hear how we can continue to keep you informed about our landfill operations. For questions about groundwater protection or the landfill, please contact us at forwardlandfill@republicservices.com

Forward meets regularly with state and local regulatory agencies to discuss groundwater capture, treatment system effectiveness, the result of offsite well sampling and next steps. Reports documenting the water treatment plant effectiveness and the results of offsite well sampling are routinely submitted to these oversight agencies and are publicly available online.

You can find them here at geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov. Simply enter "FORWARD LANDFILL (L10008827999)" into the Geotracker search bar.