



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

Dear Friends,

This month we partnered with the community and participated in Keep America Beautiful “Great American Cleanup” – the nation’s largest community improvement program; we worked with more than 72 volunteers to clean up Temescal Canyon on Saturday, May 17th and had a great time – including getting coverage in the Riverside Press Enterprise! Being good stewards of the environment is one of Waste Management’s core values and this event exemplified our company’s commitment to being good neighbors to our communities and the environment

California just marked its 20th year observing May as Water Awareness Month. With summer just around the corner, it is important for all of us to remember to use water wisely. At El Sobrante Landfill, we operate the landfill in a manner that minimizes the impact to the environment and water protection and conservation is closely monitored in our operations.

Finally, this month our landfill lead operator, John Castorena, celebrated his 19th year with Waste Management. We want to congratulate him for his strong commitment to El Sobrante Landfill.

As always, we invite you to tour our operations and to answer 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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Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup

This spring the Temescal Valley community was able to participate in the yearly national Keep America Beautiful tradition "Great American Cleanup." The cleanup event was sponsored by a \$5,000 grant awarded to Waste Management El Sobrante Landfill through its corporate partnership with Keep America Beautiful.



Over 70 volunteers representing the local residential communities, schools, and scout groups arrived bright and early on Saturday, May 17th to help pickup trash, weeds and other debris in the Temescal Wash area. The Temescal Wash, located adjacent to the Interstate 15, is a waterway that drains into the Santa Ana River and serves as an important home to native plants and wildlife.

Even though the temperature hit the triple digits, it did not deter the volunteers from accomplishing an amazing feat, by the end of the event thousands of pounds of trash were collected. A few high school students walked off with a couple of souvenirs, such as saving bonds, love letters and flower vases, which were found during the cleanup. The volunteers gathered after the cleanup and enjoyed a great lunch as they mingled with their neighbors.

The event was truly a team effort. With the support of Supervisor Buster, additional clean up help came from County of Riverside Departments of Code Enforcement, Regional Park and Open-Space District, and Environmental Health, the Western Riverside Council of Governments, Waste Management Division, and State of California Department of Fish & Game.

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May: Water Awareness Month

May is Water Awareness month but with California's dry conditions this observance will continue throughout the summer. At El Sobrante Landfill all environmental precautions are taken to protect and conserve water. In fact, with all the water conservation practices that are implemented at El Sobrante, millions of gallons of precious water are preserved each year.

There are approximately 40 groundwater monitoring wells surrounding the active areas of the landfill. They are positioned in key locations and sampled on a quarterly basis to insure that the landfill liner and gas collection systems are properly protecting the environment. All groundwater-monitoring reports are submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for regulatory oversight.

El Sobrante Landfill conserves over 850,000 gallons of water a year by recycling the liquid that has filtered through the landfill. The liquid, also known as leachate, consists primarily of liquid coming from the natural decomposition of the waste and precipitation that falls directly on the active area of the landfill during operational activities. The leachate is collected and is removed by pumps from the landfill and collected in storage tanks. This liquid is then applied over the lined landfill to reduce the amount of clean water needed to control dust.

In addition to recirculating leachate, El Sobrante also applies a dust suppressant approved by the Regional Water Quality Control Board on its main perimeter road to reduce water usage during the summer months. This dust suppressant, commonly referred to magnesium chloride, is so effective that it saves more than 40,000 gallons of clean water per day in the summer.

El Sobrante also conserves water by utilizing plants native to the Temescal Valley and Riverside County on the final closure areas of the landfill and the landscaping. By utilizing these native species, El Sobrante does not need to constantly water these plants to keep them healthy.

We all are responsible to do our part to help protect our precious water supply. Here are a few tips on saving water at home and at your office:

- Avoid washing down paved areas; utilize a broom or an electric leaf blower
- Repair leaky faucets and toilets and avoid running the faucet longer than necessary
- Don't run half loads when running your dishwasher or laundry
- Water plants and lawns only when necessary and do it during the morning hours
- Consider replacing plants and trees with drought tolerant species





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Lead Operator Celebrates 19 Years with Waste Management

This month, John Castorena celebrated 19 years with Waste Management. He started working at El Sobrante in his early twenties as a laborer and traffic director but soon started learning how to operate the heavy equipment. For the last 10 years, John has been a lead operator and a go to guy for training new employees.

"My favorite part of the job is that I get to be outside all day," said John. "And I get to work with a great group of folks – the people at Waste Management and at El Sobrante are the best in the business."

John is a second-generation Inland Empire resident who was born and raised in the city of Colton. Recently he purchased a home for his family in Rialto; the city just next door. He is married to his wife of 26 years, Bertha; they have two children, Lisa, 25 and younger son, Johnny Ray, 9. When not in his garage upgrading his prized possession, a 1976 Chevy pick up truck, the whole family enjoys taking it for long rides. .

We want to thank John for the commitment he brings to his job everyday and the delicious chocolate cakes baked by his wife he shares with us all the time!

