

Memo to File

From: Debbie Anderson
Associate Engineer



Subject: Jurupa Avenue Extension – Agricultural Park Site

Date: July 16, 2003

On the morning of July 7, 2003, Chuck Cox notified me via telephone that he had a problem at the Ag Park. He indicated that his contractor had encountered a tank full of sludge during removal of the abandoned Arlanza Treatment Plant facilities. The tank was breached resulting in a substantial sludge spill. His engineer, Bob Beers, estimated the total sludge volume (tank and spill) at around 43,000 gallons. Bob Beers indicated that the spill probably occurred on July 1 or 2. Prior to notifying the City, Mr. Cox unsuccessfully attempted to have the sludge pumped and removed from the site. According to Mr. Cox, the sludge could not be removed as the pumper truck operator refused to take the material to the Water Quality Control Plant (truck gage indicated pH value exceeding 8.5). I notified Tom Boyd, Steve Schultz, and Eddie Diaz of the sewage spill. Tom Boyd instructed Eddie Diaz to notify Mr. Cox to stop work. Tom Boyd also directed City Water Quality Control and Street Services staff to clean up the sludge spill. City staff arranged for pumping and cleanup of the tank and sampled the sludge for EPA priority pollutants.

On the morning of July 9, 2003, I meet with Eddie Diaz and Charles Sperino at the Ag Park sludge spill site. Evidence of massive grading operations far exceeding 50 cubic yards was observed. Further inspection of the site revealed that the Contractor had filled in two earthen swales that drain existing Jurupa Avenue and portions of the subdivisions at Rutland. Extensive ponding with algae and grass was observed on the paved roadway. Further inspection revealed that the contractor was still working on site in an area westerly and northerly of Rutland. Recent evidence of fill was observed in the "blue-line" stream area as designated on the USGS quad sheet and recent biotechnical reports for the project. Dead willow trees, stumps, earthen fill, and standing water were observed in the watercourse. An apparent earthen fill crossing had also been created in the drainage course. Eddie Diaz spoke with the equipment operator onsite at the time of our visit. The operator indicated that he was currently removing a spillway in a northerly portion of the drainage course. Pictures were taken documenting the site conditions. I was unable to download the photographs taken during the first visit so I returned to the site in the afternoon. Further site inspection revealed additional grading in the drainage course area westerly of Rutland Avenue. The equipment operator was still working on site. Erosion control measures, water trucks, or other dust control measures were not observed on site.

The photographs taken in the afternoon on July 9 are attached to this memo.