



COLORADO LAGOON OPEN CHANNEL PROJECT – ASBESTOS FAQs

1. Why has asbestos been found at the project site?

Asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) were documented in a pre-construction survey prepared for restroom building demolition and abatement and were identified as the material of an underground utility requiring demolition and abatement. Additional ACMs were encountered in abandoned and unmapped underground utility lines and in areas of the Los Cerritos Wetlands that were filled in the 1960's. These materials were part of older utility lines, construction materials, and fill practices that are consistent with environmental and engineering practices at the time they were used.

2. Is asbestos at the site dangerous to the community?

No. Asbestos discovered at the site has been managed in compliance with all regulatory requirements to prevent release into the environment and ensure public safety. Asbestos does not pose a health risk when it remains undisturbed or is handled in accordance with regulatory requirements. Air monitoring and observation of abatement work confirm that abatement procedures were adhered to, asbestos was not released into the environment and does not present an exposure risk.

3. Were workers exposed to asbestos, and what actions have been taken?

The City cannot comment on specific worker allegations made to other agencies or the contractor. However, all asbestos abatement work at the site has been performed by a licensed abatement contractor and monitored by a certified asbestos consultant (CAC). Protective equipment, such as respirators and suits, for abatement activities, and the City has observed proper use of such equipment. Protective equipment, such as respirators and suits may be required during abatement activities within the area of abatement, workers that are not performing abatement work and are not working within the area of abatement do not require the same protective equipment. The City has observed proper use of such equipment.

4. What steps are being taken to manage asbestos discovered during construction?

Whenever suspect materials are discovered:

- The Contractor is required to stop work in the area and notify the City representative.
- Certified asbestos consultants survey, sample, and test the materials.
- Abatement procedures are developed, submitted to regulators (e.g., SCAQMD), and notification is provided before work resumes.
- Abatement is conducted by a licensed abatement contractor and monitored by a Certified Asbestos Consultant. Materials are stabilized and safely removed to prevent release into the environment.
- Upon completion a close-out report is submitted.

5. Has any asbestos-contaminated material been buried on-site?

Materials containing asbestos have been properly abated and removed from the site or stabilized according to regulatory standards. Inert materials, like concrete and brick, may remain buried several feet below ground in designated areas, as they do not pose a health risk. Materials that contain less than 1% asbestos by weight or volume are not considered contaminated and may remain onsite.

6. Was the neighborhood at risk from dust before remediation started?

Air monitoring has been performed during abatement to ensure that engineering controls are effective. Results consistently show no airborne asbestos fibers, verifying that dust from the site has not posed a risk to nearby residents, schools, or businesses.

7. How much has the City spent on asbestos management?

To date, the City has spent approximately \$600,000 on asbestos abatement and \$166,000 on consultant services for monitoring, sampling, and reporting.

8. Why hasn't the public been formally notified about asbestos on-site?

Public notification was not required because:

- The materials did not pose an exposure or health risk.
- The City and contractor handled the materials in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

However, the City has provided updates through:

- Community meetings and presentations
- Updates on the project website
- Project FAQs available on the project website

9. How is the City ensuring safe handling of asbestos moving forward?

The City continues to retain a certified asbestos consultant to monitor abatement work. These activities include surveying and sampling suspect materials, developing abatement procedures, observing abatement work and air monitoring in accordance with regulations.

10. When will the project be completed?

The Colorado Lagoon Open Channel Project is expected to be completed in 2025. The City is committed to ensuring that all work, including asbestos abatement, is conducted safely and efficiently.