

San Marcos Landfill Closure

A HOCHTIEF Company

Owner

County of San Diego

Location

San Marcos, CA

Value

\$14,300,000

Market

Environmental Remediation

Start - Completion Dates

8/2004 - 12/2005

- 100-acre site covered with over one million tons of material
- 200,000 cubic yards of on-site excavation
- 700,000 tons of imported material
- 4,000 linear feet of storm drain
- On-site mixing plant

Project Description

Flatiron placed the final vegetative cover on an existing landfill in San Marcos, Calif. To cover the landfill, Flatiron placed 3 to 6 feet of specially blended vegetative soil, installed permanent drainage, and implemented storm water pollution prevention measures.

Two major challenges—material shortages and weather delays—required creative problem solving to complete the project on time and budget. Of the one million tons of material placed, approximately 70 percent was imported. Each day, on average, the site received 225 loads of import which consisted of clay or decomposed granite. The mandated source could not keep up with the production levels that were required, therefore other sources had to be located and tested, and once approved, new mixtures had to be formulated. Flatiron worked with the county to procure materials from alternate sources while maintaining efficiency and schedule.

Flatiron produced a special mix on site consisting of one-third clay with two-thirds of imported fill material. Approximately one-fifth of a pound of specialized granulated sulfur was mixed with each cubic yard of soil to create a more acidic substance, making it ideal for cultivating the vegetation cover.

Additionally, from mid-October 2004 through mid-April 2005, unusually heavy rains saturated the clay-surfaced landfill, creating a work area too slippery to perform any meaningful work. This weather delay set the project back three months. The three-month setback was unacceptable because the landfill needed to be planted during the period from October to February in order to assure survival of the native species and to provide erosion protection for the coming wet season. The county and Flatiron jointly decided to accelerate the production by increasing work hours and adding Saturday as a workday. This, coupled with other innovative solutions, enabled the team to complete the project on time.

Company Role

Flatiron was the prime contractor for this project.

Awards

- Associated General Contractors of California - Excellence in Partnering Award, 2007

