

COUNTY OF ORANGE
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Orange County Landfill Names
Origin and Meaning

Prima Deshecha Landfill

The Prima Deshecha Cañada Landfill, more commonly known as Prima Deshecha Landfill, was named for the canyon in which it is located, which is named the Prima Deshecha Cañada. What this translates into is First Rough Canyon.

Early Spanish explorers named the canyon. Gaspar de Portolá's land expedition in the late 1700s, which included Father Junipero Serra, established Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Gaspar de Portolá is accredited for having named most of the areas and prominent geographic features in South Orange County.

The canyon was given this named because it is the first rough canyon encountered when traveling south from Mission San Juan Capistrano, as the conquistador traveled.

Olinda Alpha Landfill

The Olinda Alpha Landfill has a two-part name. The original landfill opened in 1960 and was named Olinda Landfill, after the canyon in which it is located, the Olinda Canyon.

Olinda is a Portuguese word, which is a name of a city established in Brazil in 1535. The name itself has no true meaning and is said to have originated in the exclamation of the hereditary captain Duarte Coelho, on gazing at the magnificent vista that unfolded before him from the spot he had chosen for the foundation of the town Brazil. Olinda!!!

Alpha came to be part of the name because of two canyons located next to the Olinda Landfill. These were known as Canyon A and Canyon B, and were referred to by site staff as Alpha and Beta. When the landfill expanded into Canyon A in 1981 the landfill was renamed Olinda Alpha Landfill.

Frank R. Bowerman Landfill

The Frank R. Bowerman Landfill opened in 1990 and was originally named the Bee Canyon Landfill. This landfill was named for the canyon in which it is located, Bee Canyon. The canyon was so named because it had been a location used by beekeepers.

The name was changed to honor Frank R. Bowerman after his retirement from the County of Orange. Frank R. Bowerman was the first Director of IWMD and Chief Engineer of the Bee Canyon Landfill planning and development project.