



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**Department of Toxic Substances Control**

## News Release

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**Barbara A. Lee, Director**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **DTSC Orders Cleanup of Former Electroplating Shop in Oakland**

#### **Hazardous waste left behind after facility closed**

**SACRAMENTO** –The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced it has issued an Imminent and/or Substantial Endangerment Order to the owners and operators of a former electroplating facility in Oakland. The Order requires the owners and operators of E-D Coat, Inc. to remove hazardous liquids in deteriorating equipment and sumps, and take other steps to prevent the release of hazardous chemicals off site and into groundwater.

The Order stemmed from a recent multiagency investigation that uncovered deteriorating conditions at the facility operated as E-D Coat, Inc. from 1966 until 2012. The East Bay Municipal Utility District terminated E-D Coat's wastewater discharge permit in 2012 for discharging heavy metals into the sewer system, and for failing to take appropriate remedial action as ordered by the district.

DTSC, the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, and other agencies searched the facility on April 19, 2017. The investigation found hazardous chemicals in tanks, drums and other deteriorating containers, a water-logged tarp covering a hole in the roof above a tank containing acidic liquid, and the potential for release of chemicals on-and off-site. The multiagency investigation is continuing.

A U-Haul business currently operates on part of the property. DTSC's decision to issue the Order was due to concerns about potential health risks to employees and customers, as well as to neighboring residences and to groundwater. The groundwater in the area is within 10 feet of the surface, and surface water runs to a storm drain system that leads to the Oakland Inner Harbor Channel about 2,000 feet away.

"When we saw the condition of the tanks, we knew we had to take action," said Hansen Pang, chief investigator for DTSC's Office of Criminal Investigations. "It is crucial the property be cleaned up to prevent any threat to the public and environment."

Officials from United States Environmental Protection Agency, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, Alameda County Department of Environmental Health, Alameda County Fire Department, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and East Bay Municipal Utility District also participated in the search warrant investigation.

Containers will be drained and hazardous substances removed. DTSC's Order outlines timelines for completing the required work.

The electroplating facility is currently regulated by the Alameda County Department of

Environmental Health, which, since 2015, is the Certified Unified Program Agency, or CUPA, for the city of Oakland. Prior to 2015, the electroplating facility was regulated by the Oakland Fire Department. Under the CUPA program, local agencies are authorized to carry out the state's hazardous waste and hazardous material regulatory programs.

Here's a link to the [Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order](#).



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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

***The Mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated properties, identifying and promoting safer ingredients in consumer products, and ensuring stewardship through enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.***