



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, April 2007

Draft Remedial Action Plan for Chico Groundwater Central Plume

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites the public to review and comment on the Chico Groundwater Central Plume (Site) draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP), proposed Negative Declaration, and to attend a Public Meeting. The Plume is located within the downtown area of central Chico and extends northwest from the intersection of Mangrove and Vallombrosa Avenues to the intersection of West 8th Avenue and Meadow Road. The Plume, or area of contamination, measures approximately 1.5 miles wide from East to West, and approximately 1 mile long from North to South. DTSC has determined that contamination at the Site resulted from the nearby dry cleaning operations of Flair Custom Cleaners, and Esplanade Cleaners.

The draft RAP describes in detail the investigation and contamination found, plus the proposed recommendations to cleanup the contamination. DTSC encourages you to review and provide comment on the draft RAP and proposed Negative Declaration, which are available at the information repositories listed within this fact sheet.

This Fact Sheet Provides You Information About

- History and Background
- Location and Site Investigations
- System Monitoring and Maintenance
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Public Involvement Opportunities
- Future Activities

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC MEETING

DTSC invites the public to comment on the draft RAP and proposed Negative Declaration. The 30-day public comment period begins on **April 17, 2007** and ends on **May 17, 2007**. All written and email comments must be postmarked or received no later than 5:00 PM on **May 17, 2007**.

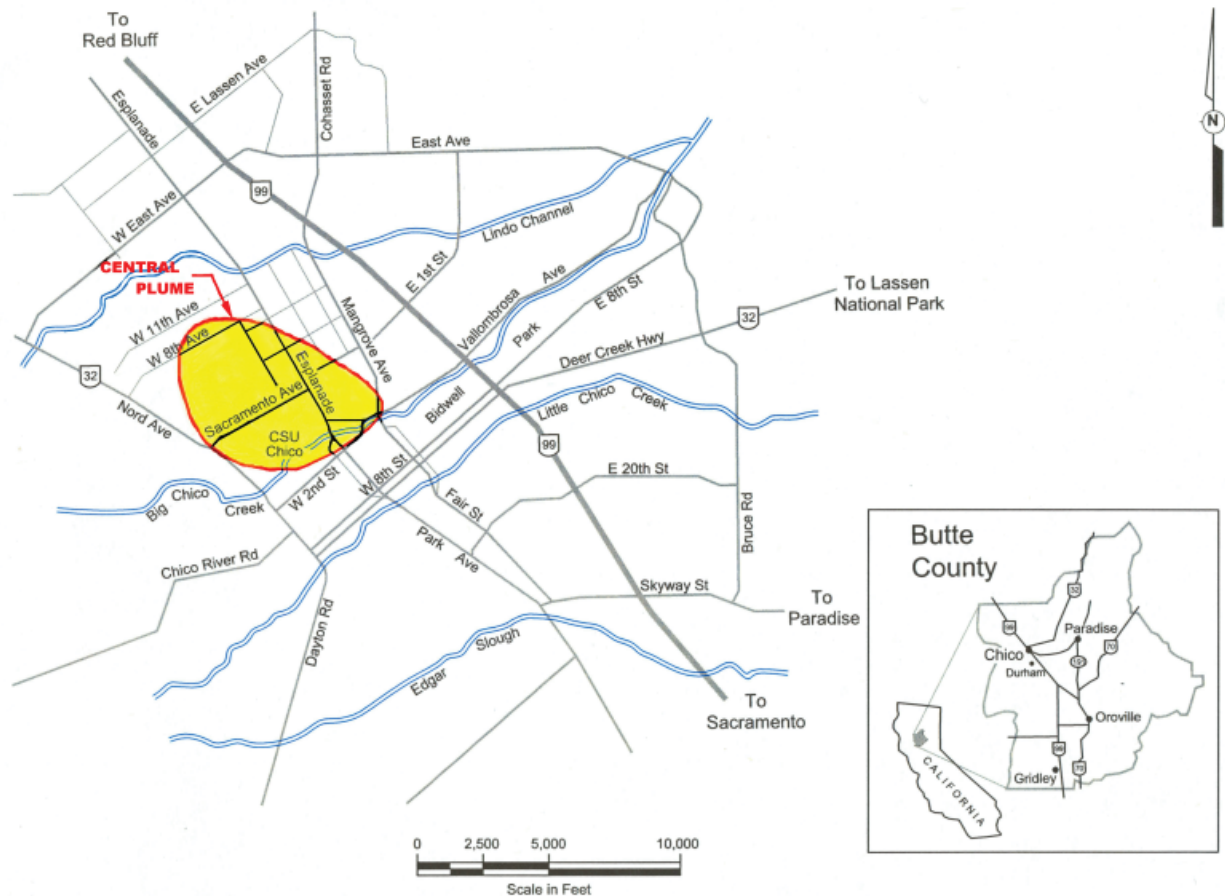
Send comments to:

Don Mandel, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Dmandel@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC will hold a public meeting **Wednesday, May 2, 2007** starting at **6:00 p.m.** to provide the community with information and answer questions on the draft RAP. The Public Meeting will be held at the following location:

Chico City Council Chamber
421 Main Street
Chico, California 95928





History and Background

In 1988, groundwater monitoring wells were installed and after sampling showed that both of the major drinking water aquifers were contaminated with Perchloroethylene (PCE), a common dry cleaning agent. The Intermediate Zone Aquifer (IZA) is approximately 100 to 140 feet below ground, and the Deep Zone Aquifer (DZA) is approximately 250 to 300 feet below ground. In July of 1995, DTSC completed an Interim Remedial Measure (IRM), which included two groundwater extraction wells with a carbon filtration system to stabilize and reduce the PCE contamination. Since September 1997, the IRM has been in almost continuous operation and has removed more than 1300 pounds of PCE from the aquifers. In 1999, the groundwater sampling was reinstated using 22 monitoring wells in the IZA and 23 monitoring wells in the DZA. At this point, DTSC was able to complete a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study and the draft RAP, which describes the plume, the extent of the contamination, and the proposed remedy for cleanup.

In early 2005, a “hot spot” of contamination was discovered through additional groundwater sampling in the Shallow Zone Aquifer (SZA) found in the front parking lot of Flair Custom Cleaners. The SZA is approximately 13 to 50 feet below ground and is not used for public drinking water. A Removal Action Workplan was prepared that proposes to clean the hot spot through injecting a chemical agent (Permanganate) in the contaminated area. The chemical agent reacts with the PCE and removes it by turning it into carbon dioxide, manganese oxide, salt, and hydrochloric acid.

System Monitoring and Maintenance

Following the design and installation of the three groundwater extraction wells and one monitoring well, the system will be tested. After ensuring that the system works properly, groundwater clean up operations will be started and system progress will be monitored. The equipment used in the groundwater treatment system will be evaluated and maintained during the clean up to ensure that the treatment is working properly. Operations monitoring and maintenance will be conducted by The California Water Service.

The Draft Remedial Action Plan

The purpose of the draft RAP is to describe the proposed plan for cleanup, to minimize the potential for human exposure, environmental risk, further migration (movement) within, and the removal of PCE from the groundwater. This draft RAP proposes the continued use of the IRM as well as the installation of three additional groundwater extraction wells and one monitoring well. One groundwater extraction well will be placed near the Flair Custom Cleaners, one in the central portion of the Site near Chico High School, and another in the down-gradient portion of the plume near the intersection of West Sacramento Avenue and North Cedar Street. The new groundwater monitoring well will be located near the down-gradient extraction well and will be used to make sure the plume is not migrating. After the groundwater extraction wells are installed, the extracted groundwater will then be cleaned and treated by the IRM and piped into the California Water Service distribution system and blended with other water.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In accordance with CEQA, an initial study was prepared to evaluate potential negative environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the draft RAP. DTSC has determined that because the focus of the draft RAP is to clean up contaminated impacted groundwater there will be no negative impacts on the environment, making an Environmental Impact Report unnecessary. Therefore, DTSC has proposed a Negative Declaration for the actions proposed in the Chico Groundwater Central Plume draft RAP.

Future Activities

After the 30-day public comment period has ended, DTSC will review all comments received and make a final determination. Anyone who submitted a comment on the draft RAP and proposed Negative Declaration will receive a DTSC "Response to Comments" document. This document provides all comments submitted during the public comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. The Response to Comments will also be available for review at the locations listed under Information Respositories.

Public Involvement Opportunities

A Public Meeting scheduled for **May 2, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.** This meeting will provide you with information, answer questions, and accept comments on the draft RAP and proposed Negative Declaration. A decision on the proposed draft RAP will not be made by DTSC until all comments received have been reviewed and considered.

For questions about the Public Meeting contact Marcus Simpson, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-6683, or via email at MSimpson@dtsc.ca.gov

In addition, by providing comment on the draft RAP and the proposed Negative Declaration. Send your comments to:

Don Mandel
Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Written comments must be postmarked no later than **May 17, 2007.**

Submit email comments to: Dmandel@dtsc.ca.gov

Email comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **May 17, 2007.**

Information Respositories

The draft RAP and the proposed Negative Declaration document can be reviewed at the following three locations:

Butte County Library, Chico Branch
1108 Sherman Avenue
Chico, CA 95925
(530) 891-2762 For Hours of Operation

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Sacramento Office File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Contact the File Room at (916) 255-3779
Document review is by appointment only.

Online at DTSC's Envirostor Site Database
http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=04990003

Once there, click on the 'Community Involvement' link and that will allow you to view the draft RAP and Negative Declaration.

Questions?

For questions regarding the draft RAP, proposed Negative Declaration, or the project in general, please contact Don Mandel, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-3667, or via email at Dmandel@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding public participation activities, please contact Marcus Simpson, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-6683, or via email at Msimpson@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

For questions from the media, please contact Ron Baker, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (916) 324-3142, or via email at Rbaker@dtsc.ca.gov

Website Information

If you would like to learn more about the Department of Toxic Substances Control, you can visit us online at www.dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to the Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Don Mandel at (916) 255-3667.

*Para información en contacto español Jesus Cruz,
Especialista de Participación Público en
1 (866) 495-5651.*

Are You On DTSC's Mailing List?

If you would like to be on the mailing list for the Chico Groundwater Central Plume, please complete this form and mail to:

Marcus Simpson
Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, California, 95826

Please print your name and address clearly.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please add me to the mailing list.

Please remove from the mailing list.

Note: While this mailing list is solely for DTSC's use, the list is considered a public record.