



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, July 2009

McGuire Ranch Draft Removal Action Workplan Available for Public Review

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is announcing the availability of the McGuire Ranch Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for public review and comment. McGuire Ranch (Site) is a 256 acre property located at 22501 Bald Hill Road in unincorporated Mendocino County, California. The Draft RAW proposes to clean up 2.5 acres of soil contaminated with dioxins/furans at concentrations that could pose a potential risk to human health and the environment. The Draft RAW describes the remedial goals for the Site and the cleanup options evaluated to address the identified contamination. You are invited to review and comment on the Draft RAW. The project will have a 36-day public comment period from July 2 to August 7, 2009.

This Fact Sheet Provides a Brief Summary of:

- Why Cleanup is Necessary
- Site History and Background
- Site Investigations
- The Draft RAW
- Next Steps in the Cleanup Process

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

July 2 to August 7, 2009

The 36-day public comment period for the Draft RAW begins on July 2, 2009 and closes on August 7, 2009. The Draft RAW is available at the information repositories listed on Page 4 of this fact sheet. Please send your comments by mail or email to:

Tom Lanphar, DTSC Project Manager

700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 100

Berkeley, California 94710-2721

(510) 540-3776

Tlanphar@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC will hold a Community Meeting for the Draft RAW to present the proposed cleanup plan and to answer community questions. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at the following location:

Dana Gray Elementary School

1197 E. Chestnut Street

Fort Bragg, California 95437



Why Cleanup is Necessary

Environmental investigations have determined that dioxins/furans have impacted a 2.5 acre portion of the Site at levels that could pose a potential risk to human health and the environment.

DTSC has recommended that a cleanup plan be prepared to address the contamination to protect human health and the environment from risks associated with potential exposure. DTSC will oversee the proposed removal action, which will be implemented in accordance with the Draft RAW safety plan for the Site.

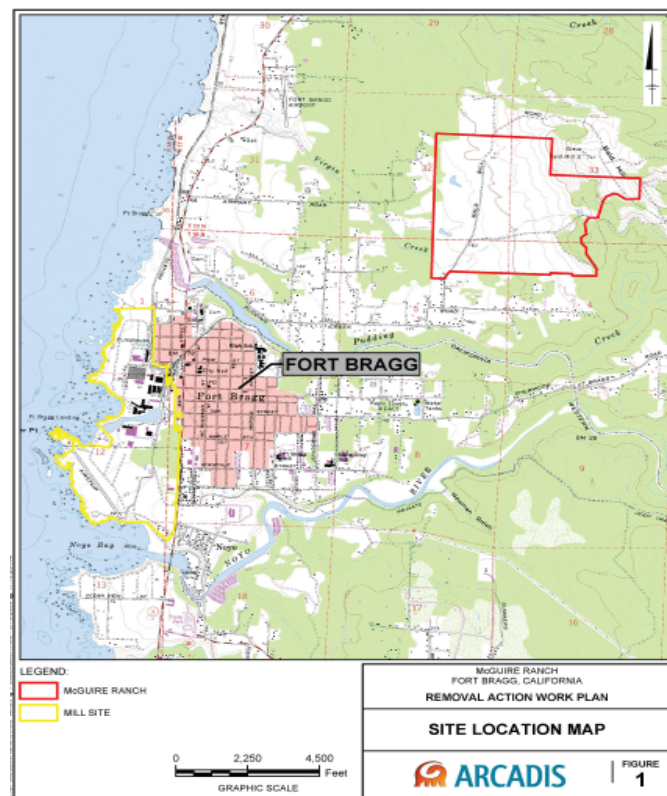
Site History and Background

The Site is located on property currently operated as a privately owned ranch, and consists primarily of pasture land used for grazing. There are 16 fields used for beef cattle grazing at the Site. Approximately 2.5 acres of Field Number 14 has been identified as the removal action area. Beginning in 1992 and continuing through 2002, fly ash generated at the former Georgia-Pacific Wood Products Facility in Fort Bragg, California was taken to the ranch, where it was stockpiled and then used as a soil amendment in areas of the property used as pasture land. The fly ash was generated by burning hog fuel (wood, sawdust, bark) in the powerhouse boilers at Georgia Pacific. Use of fly ash as a soil amendment was conducted under a permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Ash generated from burning of municipal wood waste, which occurred only from 2001 to 2002, is the likely source of elevated concentrations of dioxins/furans in ash-amended soil at the Site.

Site Investigations

Soil and creek sediment samples were taken as part of the site investigations. The results indicate that the only contaminants of concern in soil at the Site are dioxins/furans. The soil is impacted to a depth of approximately 1 foot below ground surface within an approximately 2.5 acre portion of one of 16 fields used for grazing. Concentrations of dioxins/furans found in creek sediments at the Site do not exceed levels considered safe for human health and the surrounding environment. The

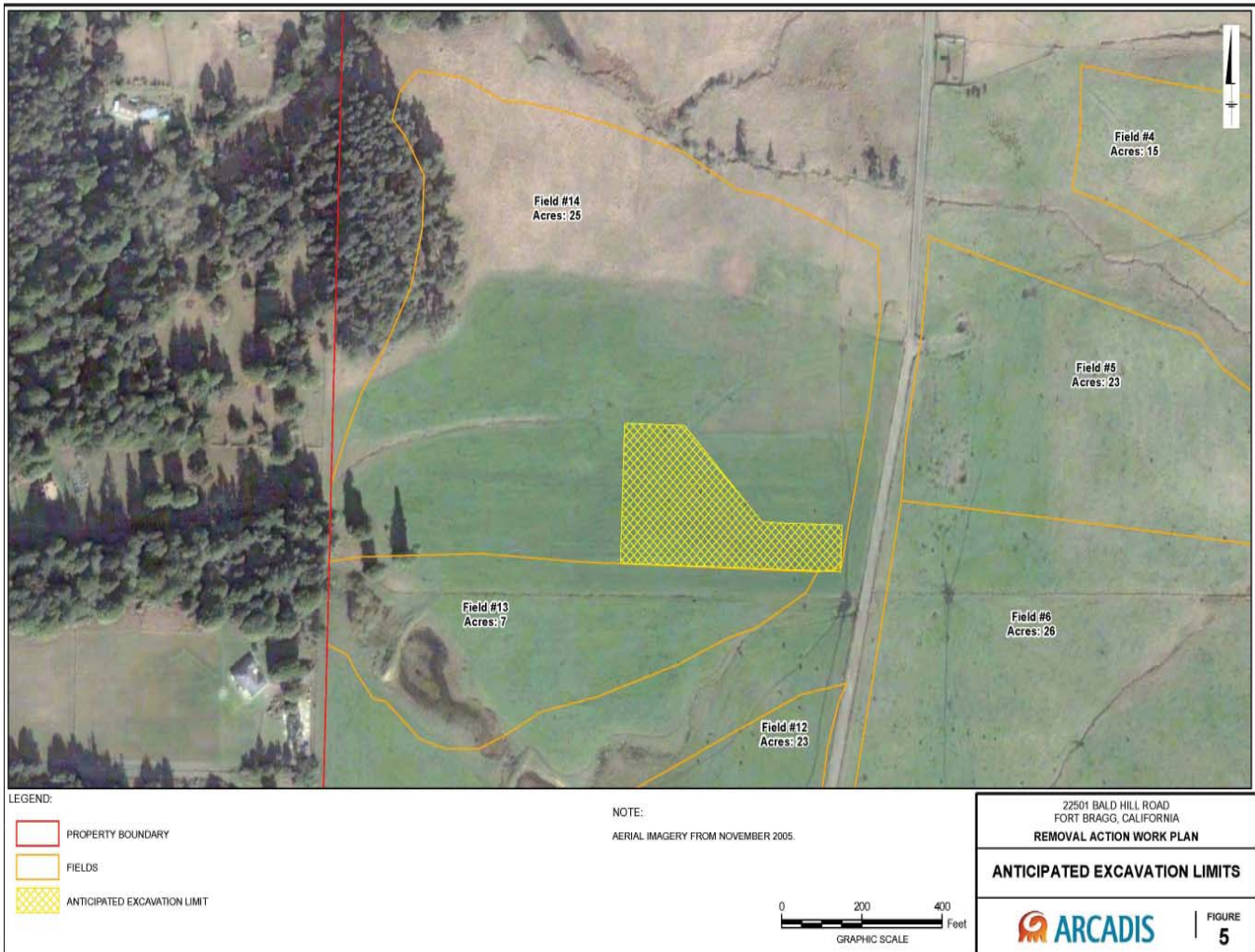
fields were sampled for other contaminants, such as metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. All other detected contaminants were found to be well below health-based levels.



Removal action objectives have been established for this project. They are protective of human health and the environment and reduce the potential for exposure to contaminants at the site. These objectives include:

- To clean up contaminated soil to levels protective of humans and animals for continued agricultural use at the Site
- To provide a remedy that will not impact the overall operation of the Site as a cattle ranch/ grazing operation

The specific cleanup goal established for the Site is to remove soils with levels of dioxins/furans greater than 40 pg/g (picograms per gram), which is the suggested cleanup goal developed by DTSC for agricultural land use. The 2.5 acre area of soil at the site with concentrations of dioxins/furans exceeding the cleanup goal encompasses approximately 3,900 cubic yards. The removal will include the top one foot of impacted soil.



The Draft Removal Action Workplan

Proposed Cleanup options

The cleanup options (also known as remedial alternatives) evaluated in the Draft RAW are:

- No action
- Land Use Restrictions/Controls
- Excavation and offsite disposal (at an appropriately permitted facility)
- Capping

Based on the evaluation of alternatives, the cleanup option selected was excavation and offsite disposal. This alternative was selected as it is effective (removes contamination from the site), is readily implementable due to the small volume, and its cost is comparable to the capping alternative.

All of the excavated soil containing dioxins/furans above Site cleanup goals will be disposed of at an

appropriate disposal facility. Once confirmation samples verify that the Site cleanup goals have been achieved, the excavations will be backfilled with imported fill soil and restored to the original grade and condition.

Safety and Dust Control

The following actions will be implemented during the cleanup to minimize airborne dust and ensure public safety:

- Spraying of active excavations, stockpiles, and roadways with clean water to control dust
- Stockpiling soil on plastic and covering with plastic
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Brushing truck tires exiting the site to remove soil and debris
- Monitoring the air at the Site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Proposed Transportation Route

Trucks departing with contaminated soil will leave the Site by going south on Bald Hill Road and then west on Pudding Creek Road to Hwy 1 south and then onto Hwy 20 east. Trucks will depart the site between the hours of 7 am and 1 pm. Approximately 250 truckloads will be required over approximately 3 weeks to transport the soil to the designated landfill, assuming an average of 16 trucks per day. The maximum number of truck trips per day will be 20. Contaminated soil will be disposed of at an approved landfill. A second period of truck traffic will occur when clean soil is transported to the site. Trucks will use the same route coming to the Site. This period will last about one week and will include 40 -50 trucks per day. The project safety plan calls for trucks to follow all designated speed limits while transporting soils to and from the Site.

California Environmental Quality Act

DTSC has determined that, as a minor hazardous waste removal action, implementation of the RAW is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DTSC has therefore prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) that describes measures to be taken during the removal of contaminated soil to avoid harm to human health or the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review at the information repositories listed below.

Next Steps in the Cleanup Process

DTSC will review and consider public comments before implementing the Draft RAW. The cleanup will last approximately two months; from late August to late October, 2009. Confirmation sampling will be conducted to verify that cleanup goals have been reached. DTSC will issue a Response to Comments responding to public comments received on the Draft RAW. The Response to Comments will also be placed in the information repositories for public review.

Information Repositories

The Draft RAW, Notice of (CEQA) Exemption and other site-related documents are available for review at the following locations:

Fort Bragg Library
499 Laurel Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
(707) 964-2020

Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710-2721
(510) 540-2122

Online at: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC Contacts

We welcome questions and concerns from the community. For more information about this fact sheet, the Draft RAW, Draft NOE, or general project questions, please contact the following DTSC project staff:

Tom Lanphar
DTSC Project Manager
(510) 540-3776
Email at: Tlanphar@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions about public participation, please contact:

Marcus Simpson
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-6683, toll free at 1-866-495-5651
Email at: Msimpson@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries, please contact:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 717-6573
Email at: JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877 5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Marcus Simpson regarding the McGuire Ranch Site.