



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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For Immediate Release

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Former California Spray and Chemical Company Site Certified

Berkeley --The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today certified the completion of a hazardous substances cleanup at the former California Spray and Chemical Company (Cal Spray) site. The 3.5– acre site is located in the southwest portion of the city of Watsonville, near the intersections of Riverside Drive and Locust and Walker Streets.

“Through the cooperative efforts of state and local agencies, Chevron, and area residents, the contaminated soil surrounding the former Cal Spray site was removed and the land restored to productive use in the Watsonville community,” said DTSC director Ed Lowry. “We are pleased to see the successful completion of the work at this site.”

Cal Spray, a predecessor of Chevron Chemical Company, produced lead arsenate insecticide spray at the site between 1908 and 1929 to control coddling moths in Pajaro Valley apple orchards. From 1929 to the 1950’s the site was used by Cal Spray for warehouse operations and from the 1950’s to present the site has been used by various companies for a wide variety of light industrial activities such as truck repair and tire sales. Environmental investigations were initiated in 1996 when discolored material was discovered during construction of a new building. Chevron Chemical Company entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with the DTSC in 1997 to perform environmental cleanup activities.

Three parcels of the four-parcel site were certified after cleanup to levels for lead (210 parts per million) and arsenic (18 parts per million) were achieved. Excavations at the parcels were as deep as 11 feet, and all excavated areas were backfilled with clean soil. Chevron removed approximately 1,850 cubic yards of contaminated soil from the parcels. Excavated soil classified as hazardous waste was transported to a hazardous waste landfill in Kettleman City, while non-hazardous excavated soil was transported to an Altamont landfill.

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Under the DTSC certification, the three parcels have been approved for “unrestricted” future land use, which would allow uses ranging from single-family homes, to commercial or industrial development.

The remaining parcel, the location of the former Cal Spray operations, was certified after an asphalt cap was constructed in November 2001. A deed restriction was recorded allowing only commercial and industrial uses for the parcel. DTSC is requiring Chevron to perform ongoing maintenance and groundwater monitoring at this parcel.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control’s mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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“The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.”