



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Lisa Gray  
916.324.0936  
Ron Baker  
916.324.3142

### **Cleanup and Restoration of Nipomo Residences Complete**

SACRAMENTO --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the completion of the cleanup and restoration of six residential properties in Nipomo, that are located on the site of a former petroleum waste dump. The cleanup of environmental contamination at the Nipomo Waste Oil Dump site (Nipomo) was conducted with the oversight of DTSC and the Central Coast, Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

“Safety of the public and their property is of utmost importance to the Department and we are glad that we could be of assistance to these homeowners in Nipomo in cleaning their contaminated properties and restoring them to their original appearance, said DTSC Director Ed Lowry.”

The cleanup of the Nipomo site included the excavation of 15,000 cubic yards of soil and waste. Approximately 5,074 tons of petroleum hydrocarbon waste was transported to a permitted off-site facility for recycling into road material. Subsurface barrier walls were constructed around portions of two homes and a section of Peacock Way. These walls were erected to prevent the migration of waste that could not feasibly be removed from beneath the structures. After excavation, the Nipomo site was backfilled with more than 7000 tons of clean soil. Since utilities had to be shut off and removed during construction, three families were temporarily relocated for approximately three weeks.

In the 1940's and 1950's, the Nipomo site was used as a dump for petroleum waste. In the mid 1980's, the site was covered with soil and the land was developed into a residential subdivision. Soon after development, new homeowners observed oily waste material in their yards. During the warm months from April through October, the oily waste would seep through the soil cover and onto the surface in a number of locations across at least six residential lots. Homeowners immediately notified the State and Federal Environmental Protection Agencies and local elected officials of the problem.

After several years of searching for funding to conduct tests and assist with clean up costs, State Senator Jack O'Connell was successful in providing for a budget act provision that directed DTSC to remediate the Nipomo site with state funds. These funds, in conjunction

with funds made available by the RWQCB, provided the resources to test and clean the site. DTSC assumed the lead for the cleanup and was supported in the effort by the RWQCB and the San Luis Obispo County Environmental Health Department. Sampling was conducted by DTSC and a Removal Action Workplan was developed. On January 8, 2002, cleanup activities at the Nipomo site began using DTSC contractors.

"I am extremely pleased these Nipomo neighbors finally have a positive outcome to their longstanding pollution problem. It is a testament to their perseverance, as well as a reaffirmation that government can and does step up to the plate. Sometimes, it just takes a while," said Senator O'Connell.

The residential properties have been restored to near original condition with the restoration of landscaping and driveways that were removed to access contaminated soil. In total, site restoration at the six residential properties included replacement of five driveways, more than 1000 feet of fence, more than 150 trees and shrubs, approximately three acres of hydro-seed, and landscaping irrigation systems for five of the properties.

(DTSC has scheduled a Press Day at the site on Friday, May 3, 2002 at 10:00 A.M.)

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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](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)."*