



NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

DRAFT REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN PROPOSED FOR THE WATSON PARK SITE San Jose, California



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: September 23 through October 22, 2008

WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED? Clean up of soil contaminated with burn ash/dump debris is proposed for the Watson Park site (site). Watson Park is located in the north-central area of the city, approximately two miles northeast of downtown San José. In June 2004, the City discovered soil containing burn ash/dump debris during excavation for a new skate park. Construction was halted and the City sampled the soil to determine the type of contaminants present and the extent of the affected area. Test results showed primarily elevated levels of lead. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing the cleanup activities under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement.

The 35-acre site is where a municipal waste incinerator operated from 1914 until it was demolished in 1934. Prior to its dedication as a park in 1961, named for former Mayor Fred Watson, parts of the land were used as a garbage dump, agricultural fields, orchards, and a strawberry farm. The land was bought by the City of San José in two parts: the 21-acre southern section (from Empire to Jackson Streets) in 1913 and the 14-acre northern section (from Jackson to Taylor) in 1959.

The Draft Remedial Action Plan (Draft RAP) evaluates cleanup alternatives and identifies a preferred alternative which prevents or reduces potential risks to public health and the environment. A Draft RAP summarizes previous studies and identifies the possible removal alternatives. Remedial alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement and cost. The Draft RAP then identifies the alternative DTSC recommends and believes is the most appropriate for the site.

DTSC recommends placing the contaminated soil under a cap of three feet of clean soil or hardscape. This remedy is easily implemented with less disruption to the community.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT – MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION - The City of San Jose has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed park reconfiguration project and site cleanup. DTSC will use this document to address the requirements for the California Environmental Quality Act. The findings are available for review only, along with other supporting documents in the information repositories.

WHY THIS NOTICE? The purpose of this notice is to provide you with the opportunity to learn more about the Draft RAP and to provide comments to DTSC, within thirty (30) days of this notice.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE? Your participation is encouraged. Comments concerning the Draft RAP may be submitted in writing to Katharine Hilf, DTSC Project Manager, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, California 94710, or e-mail Khilf@dtsc.ca.gov. All mail must be postmarked by **October 22, 2008**. E-mailed comments must be received by DTSC on the same date.

On **October 8, 2008** a **public meeting** for the Watson Park site will be held at 6:30 pm at the Empire Gardens Elementary School, 1060 East Empire Street, San Jose, 95112.

WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION? A copy of the Draft RAP and CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for review in the Information Repositories located at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 150 San Fernando Street, San Jose, 95112, Northside Community Center, 488 North 6th Street, San Jose, 95112, Empire Gardens Elementary School, 1060 East Empire Street, San Jose, 95112, and Department of Toxic Substances Control, Berkeley Regional Records Room, 700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, 94710.

CONTACT: If you have any questions or wish to discuss the project, please contact Katharine Hilf, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3817 or by e-mail to Khilf@dtsc.ca.gov. For public participation activities, please contact Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3651 or by e-mail to Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov. Members of the media should contact Ms. Claudia Loomis, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (916) 255-6578 or by e-mail to Cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov.