



DEPARTMENT OF  
TOXIC SUBSTANCES  
CONTROL

*The mission of the  
Department of Toxic  
Substances Control is  
to provide the  
highest level of safety,  
and to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
toxic harm.*

## Notice of Expedited Soil Removal Activities, City of Huntington Beach, City Hall Site, Huntington Beach

An expedited draft plan to excavate, remove and dispose of contaminated soil from the City of Huntington Beach, City Hall site is available for public review and comment. The draft plan, called a Removal Action Workplan (RAW), was developed for the City of Huntington Beach, City Hall site located at 2000 Main Street that includes the City Hall and Civic Center areas. This fact sheet provides information on the contaminated soil discovery, investigation conducted and the proposed expedited cleanup plans for the site. Inside this fact sheet you will find information on:

- Why Cleanup is Necessary
- Site History & Operations
- Proposed Soil Cleanup Plan
- Safety Measures and Dust Control
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Next Steps and Who to Contact for More Information

### ABBREVIATED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ANNOUNCEMENT DECEMBER 4 to DECEMBER 13, 2008

You are invited to provide public comments on the draft RAW that outlines our proposed expedited soil removal and disposal activities during the abbreviated public comment period that begins **December 4, and ends December 13, 2008**. Protection to city employees and visitors is the reason DTSC is abbreviating the public comment period and expediting proposed soil removal activities. The NOE and other project documents are available for review at the Information Repository locations listed on page 3. We will consider and respond to all public comments before implementing field work. **Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than December 13, 2008, and sent to:**

Mr. Safouh Sayed, DTSC Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
E-mail: [ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov).



State of California



Cal/EPA



## Why Cleanup Is Necessary

During recent construction activities for seismic retrofitting of the City Hall building, creosote-covered exterior walls and foundation were uncovered by the general contractor. The creosote was determined to contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at elevated levels that require further cleanup to protect contract workers, City of Huntington Beach employees, visitors and pedestrians. Protection to city employees and visitors is the reason DTSC is abbreviating the public comment period and expediting proposed soil removal activities. Our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will oversee soil excavation, removal and transportation activities and ensure site activities are conducted in accordance with state laws and regulations.

## Site History & Operations

The site is located within an oil field in a mixed residential and commercial zone and is bordered by Yorktown Avenue to the north with commercial units beyond that, Lake Street to the east and commercial units beyond it, Park Street and a portion of West Utica Avenue to the south with residential units beyond it, and Main Street to the west and Huntington Beach High School across Main Street. Existing structures at the site include four (4) buildings; two (2) small trailers, three (3) active oil wells, eight (8) abandoned oil wells, mechanical oil pumps, oil production accessories, private streets, parking lot paved area and planters. Currently, the site parcel is known as the City and Hall or Civic Center and is owned by the City of Huntington Beach. The location of creosote material containing PAHs is limited to the creosote cover of the foundation of the buildings.

## Proposed Soil Cleanup Plan

The draft RAW proposes excavation and removal of about 1,150 cubic yards (about 15 truck loads) of contaminated soil. The contaminated soil will be transported off-site to an approved disposal facility and confirmation sampling from excavated areas will be conducted to ensure cleanup goals are achieved. Excavated areas will be backfilled soil and a concrete cap will be placed on the excavated area.

## Safety Measures & Dust Control During Cleanup Activities

The following actions will be implemented to ensure public safety and minimize dust during soil excavation and removal activities:

- Work zones will be cordoned off and site fencing will be installed prior to initiation of site cleanup activities;
- Signage of work area and site activities will be posted
- Driving vehicles at slow speeds while on the site property;
- Spraying work areas and loading of soil transportation vehicles with clean water to control dust;
- Minimizing drop heights of impacted soil during loading and unloading activities;
- Securing truck contents with covers before leaving the site;
- Brushing truck tires from equipment and transportation vehicles entering and exiting the site to remove soil, dust and debris (if weather conditions warrant, high-pressure washing may be conducted);
- Monitoring the air quality (including fence line monitoring for dust and chemicals) to ensure dust levels remain at safe levels, protective of the community.

## How You Can Participate

We want to know what you think of the draft RAW activities for the City of Huntington Beach, City Hall site. **An abbreviated public comment period begins December 4, 2008 and ends December 13, 2008. You may provide your comments on the draft RAW during this time. All public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by December 13, 2008 and sent to:**

Mr. Safouh Sayed, Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
E-mail: [ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov)

## California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires government agencies to review all proposed projects such as environmental cleanup work to determine if the cleanup process

itself will have a harmful effect on public health or the environment. DTSC prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) as proposed cleanup activities will not have an adverse environmental impact.

### **Where to View draft RAW and Other Project Documents**

The draft RAW and other supporting project documents can be viewed at the following Information Repositories:

Huntington Beach City Hall  
City Clerk's Office  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648  
(714) 536-5431  
Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
(714) 484-5337  
Mon – Fri 8:00am – 5:00pm  
Please contact Ms. Julie Johnson at the number above to make an appointment.

### **Next Steps**

DTSC will consider and respond in writing to all public comments received. DTSC anticipates proposed RAW activities will begin after the draft RAW approval. During approved excavation and removal activities, work will occur Monday through Saturday from 7:00am to 6:00pm.

### **Who to Contact at DTSC for Information**

If you have any questions about the project or the proposed RAW activities, please contact:

Mr. Safouh Sayed, Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630-4732  
(714) 484-5478  
E-mail: [ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ssayed@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **For Media Inquiries**

Ms. Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
9211 Oakdale Avenue  
Chatsworth, CA 91311-6520  
(818) 717-6573  
E-mail: [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Notice to Hearing Impaired**

TDD users can contact the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.

*For more information about our department, please visit our website [at www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*



