DTSC Plays a Role in Process of Constructing New Arena in Downtown Sacramento

Sacramento's Downtown Plaza is being demolished to construct an arena that will host Sacramento Kings games and other events beginning in October of 2016, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has a role in the process.

Hazardous substances engineer Ruth Cayabyab is DTSC's project manager for the site.

"The groundwater plume from the Downtown Railyards that Union Pacific is remediating extends beneath the proposed arena site. So we are working with the arena developers to assist them in minimizing the potential for their activities to exacerbate the plume," Cayabyab said. "The developers (ICON Venue Group) are planning on excavating deeper than the existing parking garage, and they may need to pump water out. If the water isn't clean, they'll need to manage it appropriately."

ICON's concern is that they could potentially become responsible for part of the cleanup, along with Union Pacific, if they pull contaminated groundwater into clean aquifers or move the plume so that the remedy no longer works.

ICON is working with its contractors to conduct a pump test in mid-September to determine the volume rates and to analyze the water quality. They will update their current dewatering plan based on the pump test results and begin dewatering construction in late-September. DTSC will review the updated dewatering plan and provide comments.

DTSC will continue to coordinate with ICON, Regional Water Quality Control Board, the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, Sacramento Regional Sanitation District and others.

DTSC had an introductory meeting with ICON on June 5. The department executed a standard CONTINUED >

Ongoing demolition at Sacramento's Downtown Plaza. The arena is expected to open in 2016.

Contractors spray water to control dust during demolition.

New Arena in Sacramento

< PREVIOUS agreement for cost recovery with ICON on July 24, one week before demolition at the site began. DTSC attorney Isabella Alasti was involved in making sure that an agreement was reached for DTSC to recover its costs.

Alasti explained that the department had to have the cost recovery agreement complete before it could start providing oversight and reviewing ICON's workplan and other documents.

Joining Cayabyab and Alasti are supervising hazardous substances engineer Fernando Amador, engineering geologist Jerod Randall, hazardous substances engineer Peter Gathungu, staff services manager Ed Scholte and associate governmental program analyst Hilary Thomas.

DTSC was involved in the arena process before the June 5 meeting with ICON. Previous activities included working with the city on developing the Environmental Impact Report.