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Secretary for
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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL INCORPORATED (WEI), MECCA, CALIFORNIA.

Dear Community Member:

On December 14, 15 and 16, 2011 the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) oversaw the sampling of soil stockpiles at the Western Environmental Incorporated (WEI) soil treatment and recycling facility at Mecca CA. The sampling was designed to provide chemical data to assist in understanding the nature of materials stored and treated at the WEI facility. This information will assist in evaluating WEI's waste streams and the potential for human health risk to surrounding communities as well as communities where the treated soil may be used.

The WEI facility is operating on sovereign land owned by the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians (CBMI), under a permit issued by CBMI. Under the terms of its permit, WEI is allowed to treat contaminated soil that is considered non-hazardous by federal standards. However, some of the soils accepted by WEI are considered hazardous and subject to California regulation. DTSC is responsible for overseeing the management of hazardous waste in California, and is working with CBMI to ensure the treatment and management of hazardous waste at WEI is in compliance with California standards.

The soil samples were collected by WEI pursuant to a DTSC approved scope of work and under direct DTSC oversight. WEI collected a total of 28 soil samples from both treated and untreated soil stockpiles. The samples are being analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), chlorinated and organophosphate pesticides, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), dioxins and furans, and metals including hexavalent chromium, cyanide and mercury. From among these samples, DTSC collected six (6) samples for analysis at its own laboratory for comparison with the WEI results.

Sampling results are expected within 30 to 45 days. DTSC will analyze the results and share them with the community.

If you have any questions please email: jmartine@dtsc.ca.gov