



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

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DTSC Wins Temporary Restraining Order Against Richmond Plating Facility

SACRAMENTO, Calif. –The Contra Costa County Superior Court has granted the Department of Toxic Substances Control’s (DTSC) request for a temporary restraining order that stops ongoing violations of the State’s hazardous waste laws. The order requires the Richmond metal plating company and its owners to immediately remove large quantities of hazardous waste from their property on Nevin Avenue.

Electro-Forming, Co., and its owners Marion Patigler, the Estate of Gerhard Patigler, and the Estate of Ingrid Patigler, have been ordered to immediately remove all hazardous waste from the Richmond facility within two weeks. In its petition, DTSC alleged that Electro-Forming was illegally storing, treating and disposing of hazardous waste at its facility and that it was storing incompatible hazardous wastes next to each other.

The temporary restraining order includes strict compliance deadlines and requires Electro-Forming to immediately hire an authorized contractor to remove hazardous waste stored in various drums, containers, and a 6,900-gallon “Baker tank” that Electro-Forming was allegedly using to illegally store plating waste that contains hazardous waste levels of cyanide and metals. If Electro-Forming fails to meet deadlines set for the removal work, the temporary restraining order also authorizes DTSC to complete the removal and recover its costs from Electro-Forming.

“This company has failed to comply with the rules that protect public health of the neighborhood around Electro-Forming” said Reed Sato, Chief Counsel for DTSC. “The State had to stop this reckless behavior.”

DTSC has also requested that the Court grant a preliminary injunction, which would extend the provisions of the temporary restraining order prohibiting Electro-Forming from continuing its pattern of hazardous waste violations. A hearing on the preliminary injunction will be held on Jan. 15, 2014.

In August, the California Attorney General’s Office filed a civil complaint against Electro-Forming on behalf of DTSC for numerous alleged violations of California hazardous waste laws. That complaint alleged that Electro-Forming illegally disposed of hazardous waste in the street and on adjacent property. It also alleged that the company was unlawfully boiling off liquid plating waste and combining different types of hazardous waste in a tank. Electro-Forming operates in a neighborhood that has a mix of industrial and residential buildings.

Friday's temporary restraining order enjoins Electro-Forming from continuing to violate hazardous waste laws, which could pose a serious threat to the public and to the environment if not immediately rectified by the facility.

The [temporary restraining order](#), DTSC's [civil complaint](#) and an earlier [news release](#) are available online.



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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The Mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated properties, identifying and promoting safer ingredients in consumer products, and ensuring stewardship through enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.