



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Public Involvement

Fact Sheet, March 2006

Bay Area Research Extension Center Draft Removal Action Workplan Available for Review

A 17-acre parcel of land, formerly known as the Bay Area Research Extension Center (BAREC), is proposed for pesticide and arsenic cleanup. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing the investigation and cleanup activities under a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement.

The cleanup of the property will allow for a planned 165-unit senior housing facility, a 110 single family homes and a community park to be built on the property. BAREC is located at 90 North Winchester Boulevard, Santa Clara, California.

The Bay Area Research Extension Center Draft Removal Action Workplan (Draft RAW) describes the investigation and recommendations to cleanup the soil contamination. We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft RAW. The Draft RAW is available for your review at the Information Repositories listed on page 3. If you have questions about this site, please contact Ms. Virginia Lasky, DTSC Project Manager, at (510) 540-3829 or by e-mail at vlasky@dtsc.ca.gov.

This fact sheet will provide you with a brief summary of the project, its history, what was found at the site and DTSC's proposed cleanup recommendation. This fact sheet also provides information on how you can participate in the decision-making process.

Public Comment Period and Public Meeting

We encourage you to review and comment on the Draft RAW. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning March 22, 2006 and ending on April 21, 2006. All e-mailed comments must be sent to DTSC no later than 5 p.m. on April 21, 2006. Please send written comments to:

Ms. Virginia Lasky, DTSC Project Manager
700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94710
E-mail: vlasky@dtsc.ca.gov

A public meeting will also be held to discuss the Draft RAW and receive oral comments. The public meeting will be held at the following location:

April 13, 2006 • 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Westwood Elementary School
435 Saratoga Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050

For additional information concerning the comment period or public meeting, please contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3651 or by e-mail at krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov



History and Former Use

The 17 acre site was originally used as a Veteran's widow home. BAREC agricultural experimental field stations began operating on the site in 1928. The stations assisted farmers with research on fertilizers, irrigation, different crops and crop disease control. The property was deeded to the University of California, State of California. Operations at the site continued until the University of California closed the research center in early 2003.

What was found at the site?

Soil samples collected at the site found elevated levels of dieldrin and arsenic. DTSC evaluated the potential risks to human health and the environment associated with dieldrin and arsenic. This evaluation revealed that both dieldrin and arsenic are present at levels considered to be a potential health hazard if not properly contained or cleaned up. It was determined, therefore, that cleanup of the contaminated soil at this site was necessary. The Draft RAW describes more fully the site investigation and proposed cleanup.

The Draft RAW Process

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

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve, modify or deny a Draft RAW, the Draft RAW is made available for public comment during a 30-day public comment period. All comments received from the public during the comment period are reviewed and considered before the Draft RAW is approved by DTSC.

Alternatives Considered

Three alternatives were evaluated for BAREC to prevent future exposure to dieldrin and arsenic.

Alternative 1 – No Action: Under this alternative no cleanup activities would be considered. Future use of the property would be restricted.

Alternative 2 – Capping with Institutional

Controls: Under this alternative, excavation of high levels of dieldrin and arsenic would occur. The excavated soils would be disposed of offsite at an approved facility. The remaining contaminated soil would be capped on the site. The cap would consist of clean compacted soil and a deed restriction would be imposed on the capped area.

Alternative 3 – Soil excavation with Offsite

Disposal: All soil above residential cleanup goals would be excavated and disposed of at an offsite facility.

DTSC's Recommendation

The alternatives were evaluated based on effectiveness, ease of implementation and cost. DTSC believes that Alternative 3 is the most protective of public health and the environment. This alternative will allow for unrestricted use of the property and allow for the planned residential development.

This alternative will consist of excavating approximately 5,000 to 6,000 cubic yards (approximately 300 truckloads) of contaminated soil. Soil will be loaded onto trucks and disposed of offsite at an approved landfill.

What will I see during the Excavation?

If the Draft RAW is approved, you will see personnel on the site using standard construction machinery as well as safety gear. As the soil is dug up, it will be stockpiled on plastic and covered to prevent dust. Dust monitoring will be conducted during excavation and loading of contaminated soils. The soil will be loaded onto trucks and transported to either BFI Newby Island Landfill or Kirby Canyon Landfill. All trucks will enter and exit the site on North Winchester Boulevard. They will travel to Stevens Creek Boulevard and then on to Interstate 880 Freeway. Once on Interstate 880, they will travel either north to BFI Newby Island Landfill or south to Kirby Canyon Landfill. At no time, will the trucks travel through residential areas.

All work will be performed in accordance with a site-specific health and safety plan that complies with both State and Federal regulations designed to protect the health and safety of onsite workers and the public.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

The City of Santa Clara has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed site cleanup and development project. DTSC plans to use this document to address the requirements of CEQA. The Draft EIR and the Draft RAW are available for your review at the Information Repositories listed on page 3.

Next Steps

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft RAW. A 30-day public comment period ends on April 21, 2006. During this time, you can review and send your comments to us about the proposed cleanup option. Your comments must be postmarked no later than April 21, 2006. All comments received during the comment period will be considered by DTSC before making a final decision on approving, amending or denying the Draft RAW. Once a decision has been made, a "Response to Comment" document will be sent to those individuals who submitted comments and placed in the information repositories.

For More Information

If you would like more information or have questions on the Draft Removal Action Workplan please contact one of the following DTSC individuals:

Ms. Virginia Lasky, DTSC Project Manager
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3829
E-mail: vlasky@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions about the public participation process please contact:

Ms. Kim Rhodes
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-3651
E-mail: krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions, please contact:

Ms. Angela Blanchette
DTSC Public Information Officer
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3732
E-mail: ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

Information Repositories

The Draft RAW and related documents can be reviewed at the following locations:

Central Park Library

2635 Homestead Road
Santa Clara, CA
(408) 615-2970

Santa Clara City Hall

1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA
(408) 615-2200

The full administrative record is available at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
700 Heinz Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94710
(510) 540-3800
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Please call for an appointment.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378. Please ask to speak to Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3651.

Anuncio

Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Jacinto Soto de el Departamento de Control de Substancias Toxicas. El número de teléfono es (510) 540-3842.

For additional information about DTSC and BAREC, please visit our Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov



Bay Area Research Extension Center (Site), 90 North Winchester Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA