

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

UPDATE ON THE FORMER CHATHAM BROTHERS BARREL YARD, ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA

Para información en español por favor comuníquese con Elsa Lopez al número (818) 717 6571.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) developed this update for the Former Chatham Brothers Barrel Yard (Yard). The Yard was a solvent and waste oil barrel recycling facility located at 2257 Bernardo Avenue, Escondido, San Diego County, California 92029. Barrel recycling activities at the Yard contaminated the soil and groundwater beneath the Yard. Soil contamination has been excavated and capped beneath the Yard with clean fill; however, contaminated groundwater is present beneath the Yard and has migrated through the subsurface to Felicita Creek (in the Felicita County Park area).



The Former Chatham Barrel Yard showing groundwater treatment system.

During a public meeting in 2014, residents expressed concern about the contamination. The main concerns included the long-term protection of public health, water well quality, contamination in Felicita Creek, soil vapor intrusion, and the ongoing migration of contaminants.

DTSC and the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) have been successfully working with the Chatham Brothers Barrel Yard Responsible Parties (RPs) to remove contamination from the soil and groundwater at the Yard. The soil cleanup involved excavation and removal of impacted soils in 2000, and soil vapor extraction (SVE). The SVE system continues to operate at the Yard. Groundwater cleanup occurs as water is removed by on-Yard extraction wells and through natural attenuation. The RP group is also treating contamination found in down-gradient irrigation wells under agreements with those owners. Soil and groundwater evaluation and cleanup activities implemented since the 2014 public meeting are outlined on the next page of this update.



Soil Vapor Extraction: SVE was installed to remove volatile contaminants from the soil beneath the former Yard. Over 3,800 pounds of solvents - primarily Tetrachloroethene (PCE) and Trichloroethene (TCE) have been removed from the soil.

Soil Vapor Sampling: Soil vapor sampling was originally performed in 2004 and 2005 adjacent to the Yard and also between Hamilton Avenue and Felicita Park above the off-Site groundwater plume. Follow-up sampling was performed in 2014 at seven locations, east (on Bernardo Lane), west (south of Gamble Lane) of the yard, and south of Hamilton Avenue, and north of Felicita Park. Due to the elevated levels of PCE and other volatile compounds present in soil-gas west of the yard, additional sampling was performed in this area in 2016 and will be followed up with indoor air sampling in one home. Three soil-gas samples were also taken in 2016 near the intersection of Felicita Road and Miller Avenue near the off-Site shallow groundwater plume. The shallow plume has diminished in concentration, but continues to flow south where it may impact Felicita Park. Low levels of PCE were present in these samples, so additional samples will be taken in this area to determine if more investigations are needed east of Felicita Park.

Ground Water Movement: The RPs monitor groundwater levels across the area in 115 wells (groundwater monitoring wells and irrigation wells). Water level data indicate the depth to groundwater near the Yard ranges from near surface to greater than 25 feet below the surface. Some of the shallow groundwater enters the creek, while some of the deeper groundwater is captured by irrigation wells. When necessary, the water pumped from the irrigation wells is treated to remove contaminants under agreement with the well owner and the RP group.

Five irrigation wells have been fitted with treatment systems to remove the dissolved contaminants. An additional treatment system is being designed in 2017.

Felicita Creek Water Sampling: Groundwater emerges into Felicita Creek and a couple of ephemeral creeks in the Felicita Creek County Park. DTSC instructed the RPs to test the water in the creeks. Quarterly monitoring of Felicita creek water samples finds low levels of PCE and TCE and other solvents. Samples taken on the East fork of the creek on the north half of the park (above the east-west access road) are frequently measured above drinking water standards. Health risk based exposure levels for these chemicals have been recalculated considering input provided by the community at the 2014 public meeting on the frequent use of the park by residents in the area. These risk based levels assume a higher level of exposure than in the previous risk assessment. However, the levels of chemicals in the creek are still below these recalculated risk based levels, and are considered protective of a park visitor including children who periodically wade or play in the creek.

DTSC and the Water Board are working with the RPs to complete a Feasibility Evaluation to determine if further actions should be considered to ensure continued protection of the public from the solvents in Felicita Creek. Updates will follow once the Feasibility Evaluation is completed.

Next Steps: After the Feasibility Evaluation is completed, DTSC will schedule a public meeting with the residents to discuss the proposed remediation actions.

Where you can find Project Documents: The review of Yard related project documents can be found at the following locations:

Escondido Library

239 S. Kalmia Street, Escondido, CA 92025
(760) 839-4684

DTSC File Room

5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Contact Jone Barrio, phone: (714) 484-5336.

You can also visit the DTSC EnviroStor website at:

http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=37490029

Who to Contact for More Information: For more information about the Report, please contact the following DTSC representatives:

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