



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*The Mission of  
the Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control is to  
provide the highest  
level of safety, and  
to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
toxic harm.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

May 2008

## La Barr Meadows Road Property Cleanup Proposal Available for Public Review and Comment

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for cleanup of contaminated soil at the LaBarr Meadows Road property. The public comment period runs from May 12 through June 13, 2008. The 45-acre site is located immediately east of La Barr Meadows Road, approximately ¼ mile southeast of the intersection of East McKnight Road and Highway 49, and is adjacent to the city limits of Grass Valley, California. Past operations at the site (including mining) contaminated some soil with metals including arsenic, lead, cadmium and mercury.

### Why Cleanup is Necessary

The property owners wish to redevelop the property for residential and commercial land use. Redevelopment activities would disturb contaminated soil and could cause exposure to elevated levels of the contaminants in soil, potentially causing adverse health effects. The property owner elected to prepare a draft RAW and submit it to DTSC for approval, prior to redevelopment activities. DTSC will oversee the removal action after the draft RAW is approved to ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment. At present, there is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil.

### Environmental Investigations

There are two areas of contamination being addressed in the draft RAW. The first area contains mining wastes and soil contaminated with arsenic and mercury. As part of hard rock mining, certain rocks and minerals were excavated from within the earth and deposited on the ground surface (mining waste). The second area (also referred to as Area 2 North and Area 2 South) contains soil contaminated with lead and cadmium.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

May 12 to June 13, 2008

Your participation is encouraged. The draft RAW and other related project documents for this site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. DTSC will make a final decision after all public comment has been reviewed and considered. Written comments must be postmarked by 5 P.M. on June 13, 2008, and should be addressed to Mr. Mike Vivas, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826. Comments may be submitted by email to Mr. Vivas at [mvivas@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:mvivas@dtsc.ca.gov).



Groundwater and surface water at the site were sampled for all contaminants of concern and a human health risk assessment was performed. The results of the human health risk assessment indicate the water is not suitable for drinking. However, the concentrations of contaminants in the water are consistent with background conditions, and are not thought to be from the mine wastes on-site.

### **Proposed Cleanup Options**

The following three Cleanup Options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Further Action

Alternative 2 –Excavation and On-Site Placement of Affected Soil

Alternative 3 – Removal and Off-Site Disposal of Affected Soil

Based on careful analysis of the options, the draft RAW recommends Excavation and On-Site Placement for areas containing mine waste. As proposed, approximately 5,400 cubic yards of mine waste and affected soil will be buried on-site in a deed restricted area, covered with a cap, and fenced to prevent exposure to the mine waste. When the site is developed, a commercial office building and paved parking lot are planned for the deed restricted area. The deed restriction will include an operation and maintenance plan for the deed restricted area and will limit what this area of the site can be used for in the future.

The draft RAW recommends Excavation and Off-Site Disposal for an additional 40 cubic yards of soil from Area 2 North and Area 2 South. This contaminated soil will be excavated and disposed of at an off-site landfill. This soil contains contamination from non-mine waste disposal practices.

### **Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup**

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Areas of disturbance will be identified by

staking or marking prior to construction activity;

- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property;
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust;
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site; and,
- Vehicle tires leaving the site will be brushed to remove soils and debris.

### **Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks**

About 40 cubic yards (or about 52 tons) of lead-contaminated soil will be removed and taken off-site for disposal. It will take about three truckloads to remove the contaminated soil from the site. Trucks leave the site going north and will follow the relatively short path from the site along La Barr Meadows Road to Highway 49. The soil will be taken to a state licensed and approved disposal facility. This work is limited to the hours between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM daily. The process of excavating and removing soil from the site for disposal is expected to take about 2 working days.

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

DTSC has determined that the project qualifies as a Class 30 categorical exemption project (as provided by in the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15300.2 and 15330) and is, therefore, exempt from the provisions of CEQA.

DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for approving the draft RAW. DTSC has determined that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment. The cleanup is of short duration, and involves relatively small amounts of contaminated soil to be removed at a cost under one million dollars.

### **Next Steps**

At the close of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments and make any necessary revisions to

the draft RAW prior to final approval. DTSC will prepare a draft Response to Comments (RTC) document. The RTC lists all of the comments received during the comment period and DTSC's responses to those comments.

The RTC will be mailed to everyone who made a comment (provided they give their name and address). In addition, the RTC will be available for review at the information repository established for this project. If you did not make a comment during the comment period but would like a copy of the RTC, please contact Mr. Mike Vivas at (916) 255-3682.

The soil removal may take place in the summer of 2008. The entire process should take about two weeks. After the cleanup process is completed, Holdrege & Kull (consultants) will conduct soil testing to confirm cleanup goals have been reached and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

#### **Where to Find the Documents**

The draft RAW and other related documents for the La Barr Meadows Road Property are available for review at the following locations:

Grass Valley Public Library  
207 Mill Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945  
Phone: 530-273-4117

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Regional Records Office  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
Contact: (916) 255-3779  
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Site documents are also available at: [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) for your review. Once at the website, type the word "Grass Valley" in the "city" line item and press 'enter'. You will be shown several projects. Find the "LaBarr Meadows" report and press 'enter'. Move your cursor to the box reading "Community Involvement" and press 'enter'. A list of documents available for review will be shown on your computer screen. You may select the documents you are interested in reviewing.

#### **Who to Contact for Information**

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

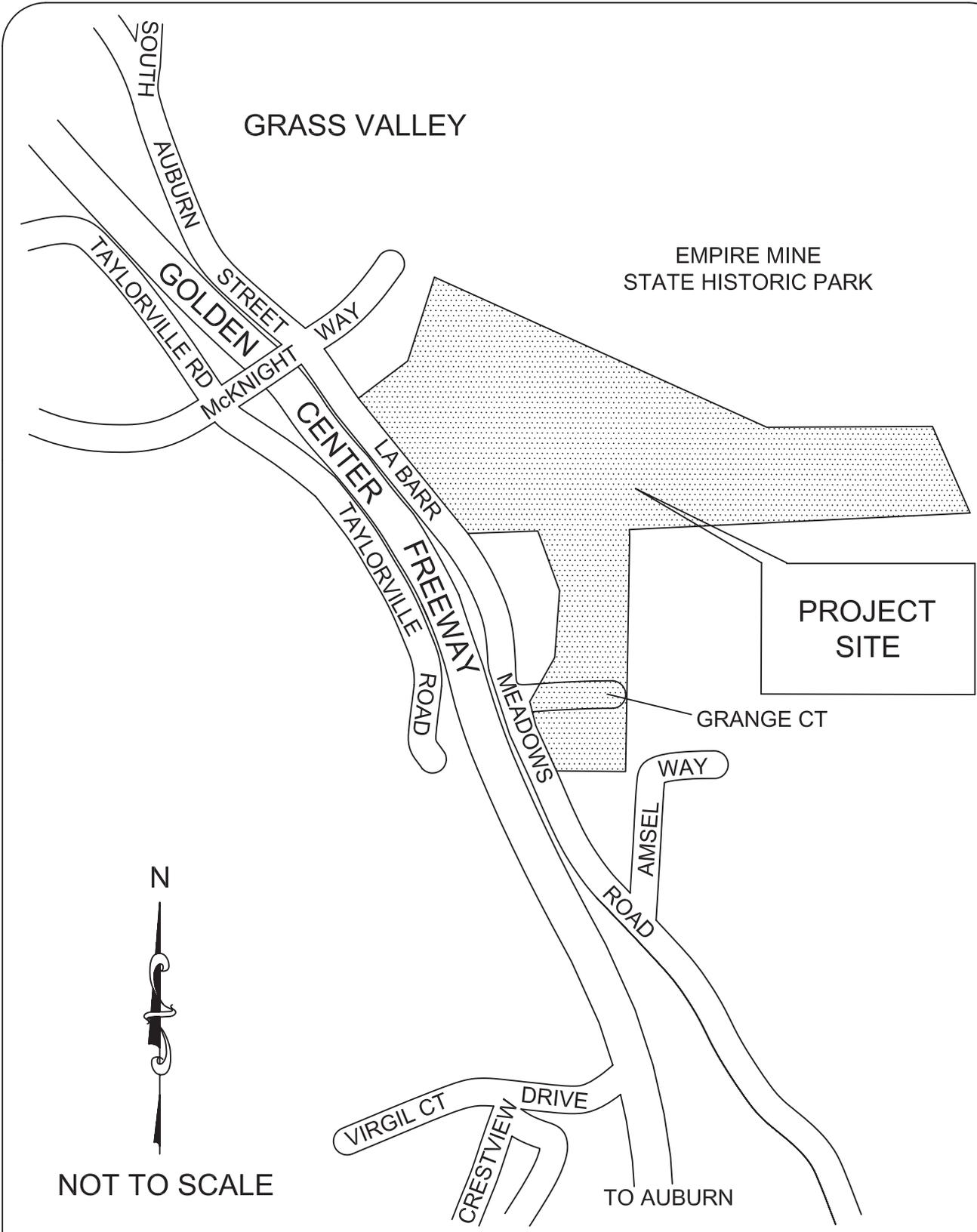
Mr. Mike Vivas, P.E.  
DTSC Project Manager  
(916) 255-3682  
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Ms. Jeannie Garcia  
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#### **Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals**

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877 5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Mr. Mike Vivas at (916) 255-3682 regarding the La Barr Meadows Road Property project.



GRASS VALLEY

EMPIRE MINE  
STATE HISTORIC PARK

PROJECT  
SITE

GRANGE CT



NOT TO SCALE

SITE LOCATION MAP  
 LA BARR MEADOWS PROPERTY  
 APNs 09-620-10 & 12,  
 22-150-23 & 30, AND 29-350-12  
 NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

