



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

Fact Sheet – October 2007

DTSC proposes groundwater cleanup at the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site

Introduction

This fact sheet invites your comments and questions on the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) draft plan to clean up trichloroethene (TCE) and perchlorate in soil below the Inactive Rancho Cordova Test Site (IRCTS) and in groundwater below Mather Field and below and south of the IRCSTS. Mather Field and the IRCSTS are located about 15 miles east of Sacramento in a newly developing area of southeastern Rancho Cordova, California (please see **Figure 1** on page two).

Under DTSC's oversight, McDonnell Douglas Corporation (MDC), now owned by The Boeing Company (Boeing), and the Aerojet-General Corporation (Aerojet) have prepared a Draft Remedial Action Plan (Draft RAP) that describes how we propose to clean up the soil below the IRCSTS and the groundwater below Mather Field and the IRCSTS. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has proposed a Negative Declaration for this Draft RAP.

This fact sheet provides information on the history of the IRCSTS, groundwater and soil conditions, and the proposed cleanup plan. It also has public involvement information, locations to review site information, and contacts that can answer questions regarding the proposed project.

Site History

MDC and Aerojet used the IRCSTS between 1956 and 1969 for aerospace-related activities, including testing of solid propellant rocket motors and liquid-fuel rocket engines. Aerojet acquired the property in 1984; and MDC became a wholly-owned subsidiary of Boeing in 1997. In the early 1980s, MDC developed its former administration area in the southeastern corner of the

PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD

Meeting on this Draft RAP

October 24, 2007, 6:30 PM
Community Board Room
City Hall, Rancho Cordova
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Public Comment Period

Begins: October 11, 2007
Ends: November 9, 2007

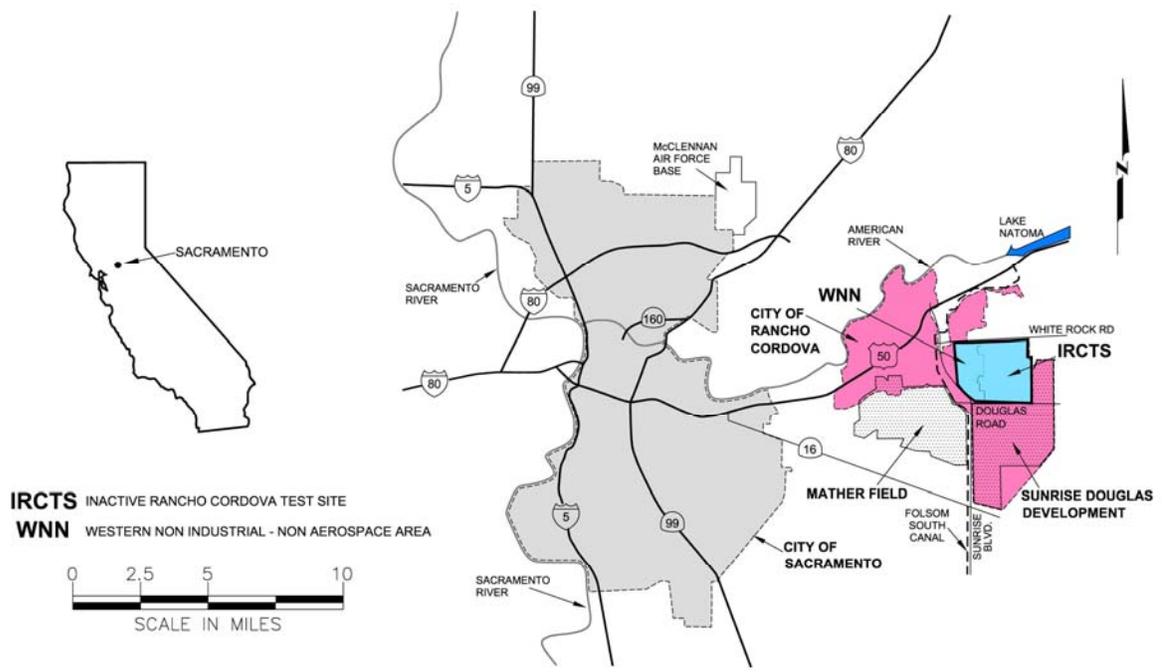
Send written comments to:

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Sacramento, CA 95826-3200

ECargile@dtsc.ca.gov

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Nathan Schumacher, Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3650 or e-mail, NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov





IRCTS into Security Park and sold the property to various commercial and light industrial businesses.

Mather Field was formerly Mather Air Force Base, which was closed in 1993. The United States Air Force has transferred the land to the County of Sacramento. The former base is being redeveloped, to include commercial properties in the former Main Base Area, and residential housing.

Remedial Investigation

Numerous groundwater samples have been collected since 1992 from the over 500 monitor wells both on and off the IRCTS and on Mather Field. Additionally, soil investigations have been conducted on the IRCTS to identify the sources of the chemicals found in groundwater. Data from these investigations have been presented in various reports submitted to DTSC and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) between 1997 and 2002.

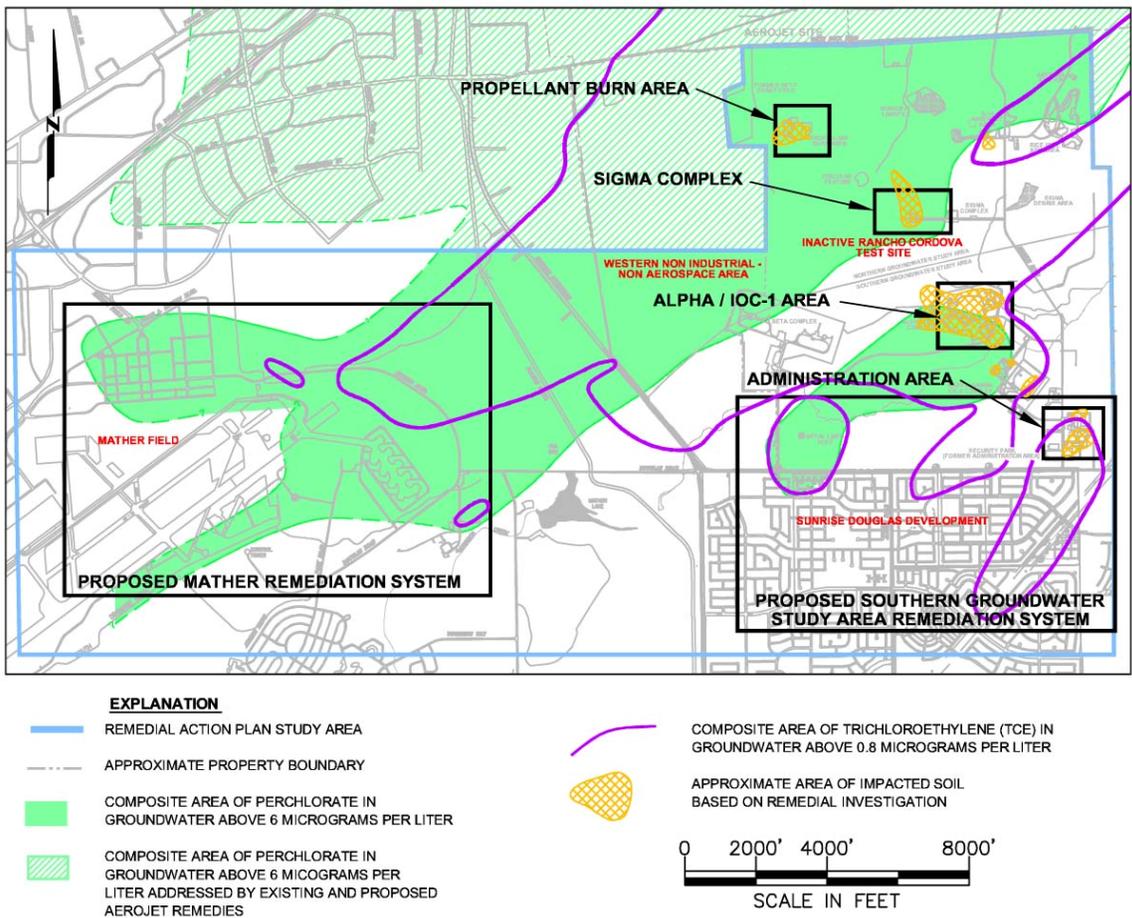
Investigation activities show groundwater contamination below the IRCTS and Mather Field (Please see Figure 2 on page three). Groundwater sampling has revealed TCE and perchlorate in the groundwater. Only perchlorate and TCE have been found in groundwater samples from wells south of the IRCTS, and west of the IRCTS on Mather Field. A risk assessment identified TCE and perchlorate as the chemicals that would pose the principal threat to human health, if people are exposed to them.

Investigation activities have identified the former Administration Area (i.e., Security Park), Alpha/IOC-1 Complex (Alpha), Sigma Complex (Sigma) and the Propellant Burn Area (PBA) as source areas for groundwater contamination (Please see Figure 2 on page 3).

TCE, along with other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) was found in the soil and soil vapor at the former Administration Area and Alpha. VOCs are a group of chemicals, including solvents such as TCE, that readily evaporate at temperatures normally found at the ground surface.

Dioxins and perchlorate were identified in soil at the PBA, and Sigma. Perchlorate is a salt used in solid rocket propellant and other combustible products. Dioxins are a group of generally toxic organic compounds that can form during the incomplete burning of materials containing chlorine.

No unacceptable health risks from chemicals in soil and soil vapor were identified at Sigma. Sigma is, however, a source of perchlorate in groundwater below the IRCTS.



Interim Remedial Actions

Several interim actions have been initiated under the oversight of DTSC and the RWQCB to lessen the threat to human health and control TCE and perchlorate in groundwater.

Soil vapor extraction (SVE) systems were installed to clean up soil and soil vapor below the former Administration Area and Alpha in 1997 and 2001, respectively. The Administration Area system consists of eight SVE wells, whereas the Alpha system consists of 22 SVE wells.

Under an interim cleanup action, excavation of dioxin-impacted soils at PBA was completed in 2006.

Initial groundwater treatment was started in 2002 at Mather Field in the Main Base Area, and south of the former Administration Area and the IRCTS. The interim program at Mather Field was expanded in 2006 to include three additional extraction wells, which completed the Phase I portion of the final remedy as described in the draft RAP.

The southern IRCTS program was also expanded in 2005 and 2006 with additional wells along Douglas Road. Final expansion of the groundwater treatment program is what DTSC proposes to complete in 2008.

Draft Remedial Action Plan

What do we propose?

The remedy proposed in the draft RAP expands upon the Phase I measures already in operation at Mather Field and the IRCTS. (Please see Figure 3 on page 4).

The draft RAP proposes the following:

- Add up to eight groundwater extraction wells and about 9,000 feet of additional pipeline within the former Main Base area and in the open space east and south of the runways at Mather. These pipes will transport contaminated groundwater to a treatment plant using activated carbon.
- Add up to 14 groundwater extraction wells located near the main pipelines along Douglas Road and the PG&E easement and approximately 500 feet of additional pipeline. These pipes will transport contaminated groundwater to a treatment plant using activated carbon.
- Continue to operate the existing SVE system at the Alpha/IOC-1 Complex.

