



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

Fact Sheet, March 2010

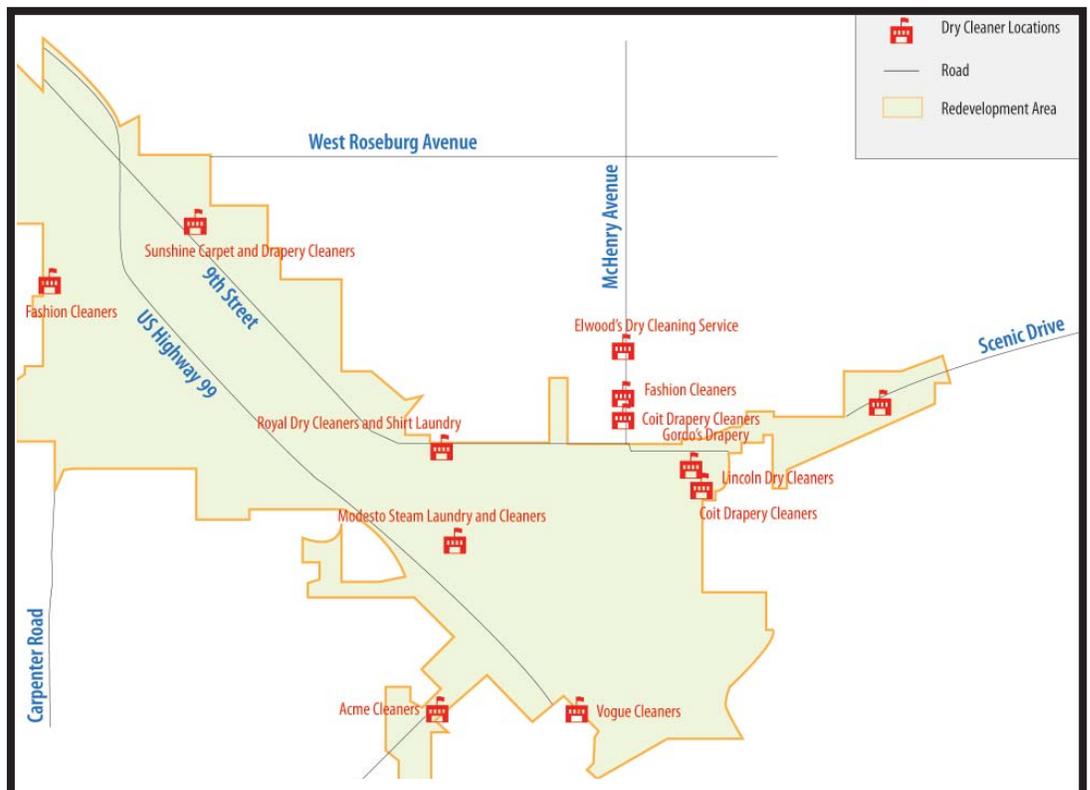
Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Veronica Lopez -Villasenor, Departamento de Control de Substancias Toxicas. El numero de es (866) 495-5611.

Environmental Investigations Are Being Conducted At Former and Current Modesto Dry Cleaners

Why Did I Receive This Fact Sheet?

This fact sheet has been developed to let you know about activities being performed at former and current dry cleaners in the City of Modesto. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the City of Modesto Redevelopment Agency (MRA) are working together performing environmental investigations on soil, soil gas, and groundwater at the following locations:

- Acme Cleaners, 122 H Street
- Coit Drapery Cleaners/Gordo's Draperies, 207 McHenry Street
- Coit Drapery Cleaners, 1807 G Street
- Fashion Cleaners, 1324 North Carpenter
- Fashion Cleaners, 229 McHenry Avenue
- Jerry's Drapery Service, 1140 Scenic Drive
- Lincoln Dry Cleaners, 1801 H Street
- Modesto Steam Laundry and Cleaners, 1201 8th Street
- Royal Dry Cleaners and Shirt Laundry, 1508 10th Street
- Sunshine Carpet and Drapery, 1645 Princeton Avenue
- Two former dry cleaners in one building;
 - ◆ Elwood's Dry Cleaners, 433 McHenry Avenue
 - ◆ Sunshine Cleaners, 441 McHenry Avenue
- Vogue Cleaners, 409 7th Street



Map Not To Scale

Who is Conducting The Site Investigation?

DTSC and the MRA signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement which states that the MRA will pay for the environmental investigations at the Sites. DTSC is the regulatory agency overseeing the activities to ensure that they are done in a way that is protective of human health and the environment. MRA's consultant, GeoTrans, Inc., is conducting the investigations.

How Did The Site Get Contaminated?

In the past, dry cleaners used solvents in their cleaning processes. It was common for them to spill solvents on the ground during transfer to dry cleaning machines. Dry cleaners also discharged wastewater containing solvents down the drain.

Today the rules for handling and disposing of solvents are more stringent and are considerate of human health and the environment. Dry cleaners have a legal obligation to properly use and dispose of any and all chemicals used in the dry cleaning process.

Unfortunately, however, improper use and disposal resulted in contamination of soil, soil gas, and groundwater.

In early 2002, the City of Modesto started takings soil, soil gas and groundwater samples at some former and current dry cleaner locations. Results from the samples taken found Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination.

What is PCE?

PCE is a manufactured chemical that is widely used for dry cleaning of fabrics and for metal-degreasing. It is also used to make other chemicals and is used in some consumer products. It is a nonflammable liquid at room temperature. It evaporates easily into the air and has a sharp, sweet odor. At high doses and/or under prolonged exposure, PCE may irritate the skin and eyes, cause liver damage, and is known to cause cancer in animals.



Why Are The Investigations Being Conducted Now?

Before the MRA can move forward with redevelopment within the redevelopment areas (please see map on Page 1) contamination concerns must be addressed.

The first step is to determine the amount and extent of contamination. The results of the investigations being conducted now will be evaluated along with existing data to develop a cleanup strategy for each individual Site sometime in the near future.

What Does The Investigation Consist Of?

- ◆ Installing groundwater monitoring wells.
- ◆ Establishing permanent vapor monitoring locations for collecting soil gas samples. Soil gas is the vapor that exists between soil particles. These vapors can contain contamination.
- ◆ Performing Active Soil Gas Surveys at multiple depths per boring location. Active Soil Gas Surveys are used as a screening tool to determine how much and what kind of contamination exists in soil.

Please remember to forward your Survey results to

***Ms. Heidi Nelson, Public Participation Specialist
8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826
Email: hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov***

◆Collecting soil, soil gas, and groundwater samples to determine if possible vapor intrusion is occurring at any of the Sites.

What is Vapor Intrusion?

Vapor intrusion occurs when contamination in soil, soil gas, or groundwater volatilizes and enters overlying buildings as a gas, creating indoor air quality problems and potential health risks to occupants or employees. The seepage of harmful vapors can enter buildings through cracks or openings in foundations such as conduits.

What Happens After The Investigation is Done?

The MRA will take the data collected and use it together with previously collected data to identify source areas with concentrations of PCE that pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Once these areas are identified, potential cleanup alternatives will be developed.

It's important to note that the processes mentioned above can take time. This fact sheet pertains to the investigation phase of the project. Fliers and/or fact sheets like this one will be used throughout the life of the project to update and inform the community about activities at the Sites.

Information Provided Electronically

If you'd like to research this project online, please visit the following Link and Website:

Link: http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=50720008

Website: www.dtsc.ca.gov

Information Repository

Copies of documents, reports, and data associated with this project will be made available at the following locations:

Stanislaus County Free Library

1500 I Street
Modesto, California 95354-1166
(209) 558-7801

Please call for days and hours of operation.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-4159

Please call to make an appointment.

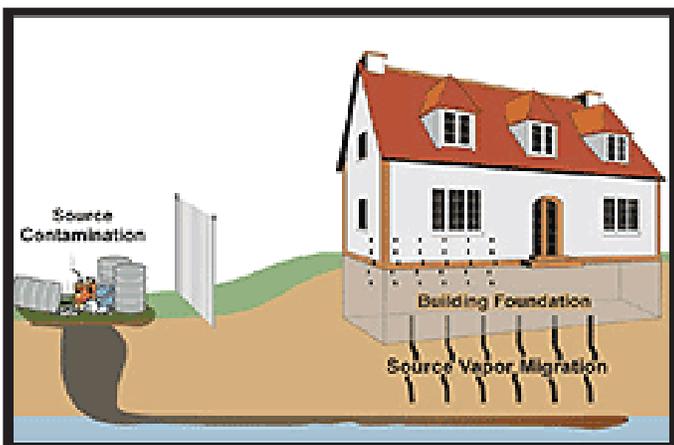
Contact Information

Mr. Mike Vivas	Ms. Heidi Nelson
Project Manager	Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-3682	(916) 255-3575
mvivas@dtsc.ca.gov	hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov

Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826

Media Contact

Ms. Kam Kimberley Coveyou
Public Information Officer
PO Box 806
Sacramento, California 95812-0806
(916) 324-8304
kcoveyou@dtsc.ca.gov



Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Mr. Mike Vivas at (916) 255-3682 regarding the ***Modesto Groundwater Investigation*** project.



Linda S. Adams
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Maziar Movassaghi
Acting Director
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

March 29, 2010

Dear Community Member:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about an environmental investigation (referred to as a Remedial Investigation or RI) that will be conducted at current and former dry cleaners in Modesto, and, most importantly to request your participation in completing the attached Community Survey. The formal name of this project is the Modesto Groundwater Investigation.

Along with this letter and survey, we've also provided a fact sheet describing such information as the location and history of the dry cleaner sites, the reason for conducting the investigation, and a description of the contaminants of concern.

The dry cleaners being investigated are:

Acme Cleaners, 122 H Street
Two former dry cleaners in one building;
Elwood's Dry Cleaners, 433 McHenry Avenue
Sunshine Cleaners, 441 McHenry Avenue
Fashion Cleaners, 229 McHenry Avenue
Jerry's Drapery Service, 1140 Scenic Drive
Lincoln Dry Cleaners, 1801 H Street
Sunshine Carpet & Drapery, 1645 Princeton Avenue.

Modesto Steam Laundry and Cleaners, 1201 8th Street
Coit Drapery Cleaners/ Gordo's Draperies
207 McHenry Street
Coit Drapery Cleaners, 1807 G Street
Vogue Cleaners, 409 7th Street
Fashion Cleaners, 1324 North Carpenter
Royal Dry Cleaners and Shirt Laundry, 1508 10th Street

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the regulatory agency providing oversight of the RI at the dry cleaner sites. Your response to the survey will enable DTSC to determine the level of community interest, conduct appropriate community outreach activities, and inform the community of the project's status.

Thank you in advance for filling out and returning the enclosed community survey to me by April 12, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3575 or toll-free (866) 495-5651. You can also email me at hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Heidi Nelson
DTSC Public Participation Specialist

Enclosures

Modesto Groundwater Investigation

Please return your responses to Ms. Heidi Nelson by **April 2, 2010** at the address listed on the last page of this Survey.

1. Please mark your current knowledge about this Site.

- I do not know anything about this Site.
- I have heard about this Site but have little or no information on it.
- I know a lot about this Site.

2. Please mark your interest in this Site.

- I do not know anything about this Site and cannot tell you if I am interested or not.
- I have no interest. I would not be interested in information about this Site.
- I have some interest. I would be interested in hearing or reading more about this Site.
- I am very interested. I would read information mailed to me and talk to people about this Site.

3. Please mark your willingness to attend a meeting regarding this Site.

- I would not attend a meeting.
- I might attend a meeting if it was convenient for me.
- I would attend a meeting.

4. Please tell us how many times you have attended a public meeting on an issue that concerns you?

- Never
- 1-2 times
- 3-5 times
- More than 5 times

5. Do you have a language preference for receiving information about this Site?

- English
- Spanish
- Other _____

6. We want to tell you more about this Site. What is the best way to provide information to you?

- Printed material and/or letters.
- By newspaper. What newspaper do you read? _____
- By radio. What radio station do you listen to? _____
- Community meetings. When is the best time for you to attend?
 - During the day
 - In the evening
 - Saturday

7. We sometimes need to talk with community members to learn more. Would you be willing to talk with us?

- No
- Yes → How may we contact you?

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

E-Mail Address _____

8. Do you know of an active community group or individual in your neighborhood that we should add to our mailing list? If so, please provide us with the following information:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone number _____

9. Please feel free to add any other comments you may have about the Site or public participation.

10. If you received this survey by hand-delivery or e-mail and would like to receive more information regarding this site, please complete the information below and we will add you to the site mailing list.

By checking this box, you are requesting to be removed from the site specific mailing list. Please provide your name and address below for removal.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Email _____

We appreciate the time you have taken to fill out this survey for us. If you have questions or concerns regarding this site, please contact us. We want to hear from you.

Ms. Heidi Nelson
Public Participation Specialist
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(866) 495-5651 and/or (916) 255-3575
hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov

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