

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DTSC Evaluation of Soil Sampling at WEI, December 2011

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has evaluated the results of the soil sampling conducted by the Western Environmental Inc. (WEI) soil treatment and recycling facility in December 2011. The WEI facility is located within tribal land of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians (CBMI) and has been permitted by CBMI to treat contaminated soils that are non-hazardous by federal standards. Because of California's more stringent regulations, some of these soils are hazardous by California definition. The soil sampling was conducted as part of DTSC's overall evaluation of WEI operations so California standards can be implemented at the facility, and to address public concerns about the potential health impacts to surrounding communities and the safety of treated soils leaving the facility.

WEI conducted the sampling of its treated and untreated soil stockpiles in December 2011 based on a Scope of Work provided by DTSC. The soils were tested for a broad list of potential contaminants that might be present in these soils. In February 2012, DTSC undertook an independent collection of a limited number of surface soil samples from offsite locations to evaluate potential effect of windborne dusts on WEI's soil stockpiles.

The main findings are:

- Chemical concentrations of the treated soils are below federal and California hazardous waste limits.
- The treated soils are acceptable for human health exposure at commercial industrial sites. Arsenic and polychlorinated biphenyls are slightly above but within acceptable range for commercial-industrial human health exposure.
- Limited random sampling of untreated soils confirms non-hazardous classification (federal and California standards).
- WEI has not provided results for dioxin analysis as required by DTSC.
- DTSC's dioxin data indicated low levels of dioxin in WEI soils (treated and untreated) but within acceptable human health standards.
- Low levels of dioxin are found in offsite surface soils and within acceptable human health standards. There is no indication that offsite dusts have any significant effect on WEI's soil piles.