

# FORMER PUREGRO SITE BRAWLEY, CALIFORNIA



## Our Commitment to the People and Environment of California

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is committed to protect Californians and their environment from exposure to hazardous wastes by enforcing hazardous waste laws and regulations. The department takes enforcement action against violators; oversees cleanup of hazardous wastes on contaminated properties; makes decisions on permit applications from companies that want to store, treat or dispose of hazardous waste; and protects consumers against toxic ingredients in everyday products. The Department is committed to engaging the public in a way that gives those most affected by its decisions opportunities to voice their concerns and ask questions

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the status of the cleanup at this time?

DTSC is evaluating various cleanup plans for removing the stockpile and remediating the site. DTSC plans on releasing a new draft cleanup plan to the public that meets all requirements of state and federal law/regulations by the Fall of 2019. DTSC is committed to ensuring that the cleanup of the PureGro property is implemented as expediently as possible, and that the public continues to be informed of cleanup activities.

### Is the Former PureGro Site a Superfund Site?

**No.** The Former PureGro Site is not classified as a Superfund Site. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designates some hazardous waste sites as Superfund sites which require cleanup because they are generally very large sites that may pose a significant risk to human health and/or the environment. The Former PureGro Site is not a candidate to be classified a Superfund Site. The Site does not pose a significant human health risk to surrounding community, or to the environment. The Site requires cleanup activities to ensure that future occupants of the property are protected.



### Is the site safe?

**Yes.** In 2010, the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) determined that the Site does not pose a health risk to the surrounding community, including residents adjacent to the Former PureGro Site. The HHRA specifically looked at risks to people on and off the Site from surface soil and dust generated from the Site via wind. Construction workers on the property are also safe because they follow an approved health and safety plan.

### How far does the contamination reach?

**Soil contamination is only within the fenced area.** A series of investigations have taken place both off and on the Site, to identify the extent of contamination in soil and groundwater. Any potential off-site soil contamination has already been cleaned up (via removal from the adjacent property). Investigations completed after the off-site soil cleanup indicate that the remaining soil contamination is confined to within the fenced area, and there is no evidence that chemicals from the Site have moved beyond the property boundary.

### Is our water safe to drink?

**Yes,** because Brawley residents are supplied with water from the Colorado River via the Imperial Irrigation District. Although groundwater contamination has been found under the Site, local groundwater (including the groundwater under the Site) is not used for drinking or irrigation.

### What about the stockpile?

The stockpile is made of dirt (100%) that was removed from the adjacent property to the east. It is covered with erosion control blankets to prevent dust from leaving the Site, and it is surrounded by a fence to prevent access. It is regularly inspected and maintained. Approximately 97% of the soil in the stockpile is safe for use at an industrial site. The remaining 3% is considered California hazardous waste. All future remedial plans will include the removal of the stockpile.

### What is DTSC's role on PureGro?

DTSC directed Chevron (the current owner of the property) to develop a cleanup plan for the former PureGro Site that meets the requirements of the law and state and federal regulations as well as the City of Brawley zoning for the property. DTSC is responsible for reviewing and evaluating the proposed cleanup plan, asking for feedback from the community on the plan, and approving the final plan.

DTSC also approved the Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment for the Site, which focused on the current and future uses and cleanup requirements that are consistent with the zoning of the site. Risk assessments determine what level of risk is acceptable before and after the cleanup.