

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Department of Toxic Substances Control - Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

Remedial Action Plan and Mitigated Negative Declaration Approved for the Former PureGro Facility Property in Brawley

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has approved the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Mitigated Negative Declaration for the 11-acre former PureGro Facility property located at 1025 River Drive in Brawley, California.

Input from you and your neighbors was important in shaping the cleanup plan and DTSC's decision to approve the plan and get it started. For example, community input and requests over the past two years resulted in new options being selected as part of the approved cleanup plan. Those features include removal and offsite disposal of the soil stockpile, excavation and removal of additional soils in targeted areas of the property, creation of 50-foot wide residential buffer zones on the eastern and southern sides of the property, and landscaping along River Drive. DTSC will also require measures to protect public safety and the environment during cleanup activities, including dust control and use of a designated truck route into and out of the site.

Approved Cleanup Plan

Based on DTSC's technical evaluation and review of public comments received on the draft RAP by December 17, 2019, the approved final cleanup plan includes the following activities:

- ✓ **Remove the soil stockpile** and transport for offsite disposal.
- ✓ **Excavate soil from targeted areas**, remove concrete slabs, and transport for offsite disposal.
- ✓ **Create 50-foot wide buffer zones** on the south and east sides of the property.
- ✓ **Place a protective engineered cover** on the remaining areas of the property.
- ✓ **Install a new fence and gates with landscaping** along the south side of the property (River Drive).
- ✓ **Update the groundwater monitoring well network** and implement a Groundwater Monitoring Plan.
- ✓ **Protect the long-term integrity of the remedy** through a land-use covenant governing potential future use or construction on the property and in compliance with current zoning (i.e., Light Manufacturing).
- ✓ **Create and implement an Operations and Maintenance Plan**, including reporting to DTSC. Plus, DTSC will review remedy performance every 5 years to verify it continues to perform as designed.



Next Steps

The cleanup project will likely proceed in two overall steps. Before any work starts at the site, DTSC will send a Work Notice to nearby residents, businesses, and schools with more details about what to expect. DTSC will oversee all work and will coordinate with the City of Brawley, the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, and others before and during the project.

The first priority is removal of the soil stockpile located at the northern end of the property. To do that, DTSC will review and approve a work plan that explains how the stockpile removal will be done safely for workers, the community, and the environment. The Stockpile Removal Work Plan will include a Dust Control Plan, Transportation Plan, noise controls, and other measures required by DTSC and the CEQA Mitigated Negative Declaration. DTSC's goal is to complete the work plan and stockpile removal this year.

Final steps will include all remaining parts of the cleanup plan. A detailed engineering design and remedial implementation plan are required for this part of the cleanup because it involves soil excavation, placement of an engineered cover, and replacement of groundwater monitoring wells. DTSC will review and approve the design before allowing these tasks to begin. During the work, DTSC will require all the same safety measures, such as dust control, noise control, and use of a designated truck route. After completion of field work at the property, DTSC requires an Operations and Maintenance Plan and Groundwater Monitoring Plan.

Where to Find Project Documents

DTSC reviewed and considered community input before approving the RAP. DTSC responses to written and verbal comments received during the public comment period (November 13 to December 17, 2019) are provided in the Responsiveness Summary issued with the approved RAP.

Due to current conditions regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the approved RAP and other site documents are temporarily only available electronically on EnviroStor at:

https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=13070097 and DTSC's website at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/smrp-projects/puregro-company>

All documents made available to the public by DTSC may be provided in an alternate format (i.e., Braille, large print, etc.) or in another language as appropriate, in accordance with State and Federal law. For assistance with alternative information formats, please contact Elsa Lopez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (818) 717-6566 or via email at Elsa.Lopez@dtsc.ca.gov.

In the future, Site documents will be available for review at the following information repositories:

Brawley Public Library
Tel: (760) 344-1891

DTSC Regional Records Office (by appointment only)
Tel: (714) 484-5337

Who to Contact at DTSC for More Information

If you have any questions about the project, please contact the following DTSC staff:

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