**Site Mitigation and Restoration Program**

**(Cleanup Program)**

**Workload Analysis for FY 2018-19**

Key Findings

**Background**

California laws authorize DTSC to protect public health from harmful chemicals by investigating and cleaning up contaminated sites. DTSC’s oversight is required to certify compliance with federal and state scientific and regulatory standards. These cleanups provide opportunities to reuse existing facilities, restore habitats and open space, and construct cleaner, more sustainable, businesses and communities.

The Cleanup Program presently oversees 1,800 sites in various phases of investigation and cleanup under enforcement orders or voluntary agreements. The sites vary in size from smaller properties located in urban areas to larger properties such as open or closed military bases.

* Nearly one in three people in California live within one mile of a site where DTSC is investigating or cleaning up contamination.
* Forty-six percent of these sites are in environmental justice communities.

**Program Analysis (FY 2018-19)**

The Cleanup Program, comprised of 337.6[[1]](#footnote-2) highly skilled scientists, engineers, geologists, toxicologists, and multidisciplinary staff, operated with a $113.0 million budget.

In FY 2018-19, the Cleanup Program worked on 1,756 sites, including:

| Site Type | Description | # Sites | % Sites |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Voluntary Agreement Cleanups | Brownfields that prospective purchasers may receive liability protection for existing contamination when cleaning up and redeveloping properties. | 772 | 44% |
| State Response | State Superfund sites. Responsible parties fund cleanup. | 373 | 21% |
| Schools | K-12 schools that use state funds for new or expanded facilities. | 167 | 10% |
| Corrective Action | Sites contaminated with hazardous waste. | 144 | 8% |
| Federal and State Orphan | Federal orphan Superfund sites/U.S. EPA has designated DTSC as the lead statewide agency. State orphan sites/DTSC is lead agency and responsible for cleanup. Both are publicly funded. | 119 | 7% |
| Federal Superfund | U.S.EPA is lead agency, DTSC enforces state standards. Responsible parties fund cleanup. | 80 | 5% |
| Evaluation | Investigations using CalMortgage loans or federal grants. | 75 | 4% |
| Military | Open and closed military bases and other defense sites. | 26 | 1% |

Additionally, the Cleanup Program cleared 161 sites for reuse in residential, commercial, or industrial development. Program staff met or exceeded project milestones for site characterizations and cleanup plans.

The Cleanup Program is creating a culture of process improvements, identifying opportunities for program enhancements, and streamlining its delivery of services by:

* + Implementing efficiencies for the timely review of reports. Review timelines have improved by 95 percent.
  + Tracking progress and increasing accountability with visual management tools.
  + Reorganizing the program to better align resources with work, training staff on Lean 6-Sigma process improvements, and developing dashboard project management tools.

**Resource Gap Analysis**

There are an estimated 200,000 undiscovered contaminated sites in California.

* The Cleanup Program is not resourced to support a site discovery program that identifies sites that threaten public health. This is a vital first step in initiating needed cleanup work that can help to revitalize communities, spur housing development and economic growth, and protect drinking water supplies.
* 15,000 known contaminated sites need assessment and potential cleanup, including 8,600 dry cleaner sites that can threaten groundwater and people in nearby structures
* With 55 additional positions, the Cleanup Program could build a site discovery program, investigate roughly 50 sites a year, and initiate action on an estimated 63 sites to protect public health and revitalize communities.
* With 195 more positions, the Cleanup Program would increase to an estimated 300 site discoveries a year and initiate action on an estimated 255 contaminated sites a year.

This analysis represents activities with significant resource gaps but does not reflect all resource limitations impacting the Cleanup Program’s delivery of services. Resources will be needed in other DTSC programs to support these activities.

The focus on site discovery and cleanup of sites that revitalizes communities, provides opportunities for new housing and cleans up drinking water, which aligns with Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-10-19.

1. Although the Cleanup Program has 342.6 authorized positions, only 337.6 were included in the workload analysis. Unfunded and executive office positions were not included. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)