



Shopping center

Site Facts

Sites:

Agnews State Hospital - DGS and Rivermark Properties

Location:

Santa Clara, CA

Certification Date:

June 2001 and November 2004

Site Size:

177 acres total

Historical Uses:

Hospital, agricultural use, and automotive repair

Contaminants of Concern:

Arsenic, chlordane, DDT, lead, mercury, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE)

Length of Cleanup:

5 years

Land Use Restrictions:

Restrictions on portion of the site where groundwater contamination exist.

Redeveloped Use:

Residential, commercial, schools and parks



State of California

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Brownfield Revitalization

SUCCESS STORY, October 2006

Agnews Developmental Center

Santa Clara's Rivermark development is a perfect example of one very effective way to bring brownfield sites back into productive use – the urban village. Built atop 177 acres that housed the historic Agnews Developmental Center, the master planned community boasts: a pedestrian-friendly Main Street; 3,000 housing units – including detached houses and town homes – a 450-unit apartment complex, and 300 affordable housing units for seniors, the developmentally-disabled, and homeless families; a 14- acre park, pocket parks, walking trails and greenbelts; and a large shopping center.

It didn't start out that way. Industrial and commercial activities that kept Agnews running since 1889 left behind lead, pesticides, and solvents that made the property less than marketable. When California's economy reeled from the end of the "dot-com boom," the Governor ordered the sale of all surplus State property, including Agnews.

In August 1999, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) signed Voluntary Cleanup Agreements with the Department of General Services (DGS) and with CSL Agnews Development LLC, which later became Rivermark Partners, to restore the site. In quick succession over three years to allow phased construction, DTSC signed off on seven cleanup actions, the last of which was completed in October 2004.

Also, rather than dispose of enough soil to fill a baseball stadium three feet deep, DTSC allowed Caltrans to use the soil for the Guadalupe Parkway expansion project in San Jose. That saved the State from having to purchase the necessary fill material, and avoided all of the small particulate polluting truck traffic that moving that much soil around would have caused.

Finally, DTSC also oversaw the cleanup activities and signed-off on construction of the \$20 million Don Callejon kindergarten through 8th grade school serving Rivermark, the first new school to be built in Santa Clara in 30 years.

Thanks to DTSC's lead and a strong public/partner partnership, a new California community is born.



New housing made available.

