



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Agnews Development Center, DGS Parcels Certified by DTSC

Berkeley - - - The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the completion of hazardous waste cleanup to unrestricted use and issued a certification to the Department of General Services (DGS) for 24 acres (a.k.a. parcels 1, 2, 3, & 4) found within the former Agnews Development Center located at the intersection of Agnew Road and Hope Drive in Santa Clara.

I am pleased that the DTSC has successfully completed its work and studies and now these parcels can be given back to the community for unlimited development uses, said Ed Lowry, DTSC Director. It is important that the state and local authorities work as partners to ensure that land, once contaminated, be restored to provide jobs, housing and community vitality.

The "unrestricted use" certification is the DTSC's most health protective and allows for future land use ranging from single family homes to commercial and industrial development.

The site, which the state of California owns, is part of the larger 295-acre Agnews Development Center, which ceased operations in 1999. Parcel 1, approximately 4 acres, had several buildings that had been demolished previously. Parcel 2 consisted of an acre of land and was a vacant lot. Parcel 3 consisted of about 3 acres of land that contained a storage building where containers and bags of insecticides were stored. A 300-gallon diesel underground storage tank on Parcel 3 was removed in 1987. Parcel four consisted of 16 acres of land and was an undeveloped vacant lot.

Under the oversight of DTSC, DGS conducted a remedial investigation and risk assessment to characterize the distribution of chemical compounds at the sites. The Remedial Action Plan (RAP) identified contaminated soils and established cleanup goals consistent with a future "unrestricted" land use.

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In carrying out the RAP, DGSs contractors removed approximately 6,000 cubic yards of soil from Parcel 2, 3, and 4. The RAP found that Parcel 1 required no soil removal. The soils removed were contaminated with arsenic and lead. The established cleanup goals for these contaminants were background for arsenic and 190 parts per million for lead. Excavation depths varied from 1 foot to 1.5 feet.

Contaminated soils that were not hazardous were reused in the Caltrans Highway 87 construction project, while soils deemed hazardous were disposed at a hazardous waste landfill. Neither the contamination nor the remediation effort impacted the groundwater.

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting its reduction.

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."