



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Certifies Singer Friden Site in San Leandro

Berkeley - - The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has certified the completion of the hazardous substances cleanup at the 20-acre Singer Friden site located at 2350-2450 Washington Avenue in San Leandro. From 1936 to 1976, the site was occupied by a manufacturing and research facility that produced sewing machines and office equipment.

Manufacturing operations were discontinued at the Singer Friden site in 1976, and all buildings were demolished except for a research facility. The site is now occupied by 190 single-family homes that were constructed in 1977 and a renovated office building that re-opened in 1978.

DTSC has collected samples at the site since 1988. These samples showed that soil and groundwater were contaminated with solvents such as trichloroethylene (TCE) and perchloroethylene (PCE) which were used during past manufacturing processes at the site. The contaminated soil, which was discovered in 1996 while installing piping for a groundwater extraction and treatment system, was excavated and disposed offsite that same year.

A groundwater extraction and treatment system began operating at the site in May 2001, and has effectively treated more than 36 million gallons of water and removed more than 110 pounds of contaminants. The groundwater system consists of nine extraction wells that pump underground water to the treatment system where it is treated with activated carbon. Through a permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), the treated water is discharged to a storm sewer. Installation and ongoing operation of the groundwater system is funded by settlement monies generated from agreements between DTSC and the site's former owners. The system will continue to operate for several years.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

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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."