



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Contact: Lisa Gray
916.324-0936
Ron Baker
916.324.3142

DTSC Issues Order for Clean Up of City of Lodi Central Plume Area

Sacramento --- Citing the need to move forward with the investigation and cleanup of groundwater in the City of Lodi, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Director Ed Lowry today announced the issuance of an Imminent and Substantial Endangerment Order to eight responsible parties. The order was issued to address five properties believed to be source areas for groundwater contamination in what has been designated as the Lodi Central Plume Area (the Central Plume).

The Central Plume covers an area of approximately seventy acres which is centered on the intersection of Church and Walnut Streets. The groundwater is contaminated with tetrachloroethylene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE), solvents associated with dry cleaning and industrial operations.

“DTSC is taking this action due to significant groundwater contamination associated with dry cleaning, Lowry said. “The costs associated with cleaning the groundwater must be borne by either the taxpayer or the polluters. For that reason we are issuing this order to the responsible parties.”

In 1997, DTSC entered into a cooperative agreement with the City of Lodi to address the City’s regional groundwater contamination. Under the agreement, the City was designated as the lead enforcement agency to compel responsible parties to conduct cleanup activities, with DTSC providing technical oversight. Due to delays the City has encountered in compelling responsible parties to act, DTSC is proceeding with this additional enforcement action.

The order requires that the following information be submitted within 60 days.

- A detailed report that includes the history of ownership, operators, operations, hazardous materials usage and hazardous waste management practices at each of the properties believed to be source areas. The report is to identify all potential contaminants of concern, which currently appear to be predominantly volatile organic compounds discharged to the city sewer systems.

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- An initial site investigation work plan for each property that includes sampling for all contaminants of concern on the source properties, and identifies methods for investigating the integrity of the sewer laterals leading to the municipal sewer systems.
- A work plan for a pilot soil vapor extraction system in the vicinity of 212 W. Pine Street and 218 W. Pine Street. DTSC and the Regional Water Quality Control Board have already approved a work plan for a pilot soil vapor extraction system at 17 S. Church Street.

The order, issued on May 30, 2003, also requires the responsible parties to:

- Develop an overall site investigation strategy which will identify immediate or potential health risks to the public and the environment
- Complete a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study
- Implement interim remedial measures where necessary
- Complete a Remedial Action Plan and
- Implement final cleanup actions.

The eight responsible parties include past and present business owners, and property owners. Included in the order were Guild Cleaners, Inc., Odd Fellows Hall Association of Lodi, the Estate of Dwight Alquist, Beckman Capitol Corporation, Beckman and Company, Lodi News Sentinel, Farmers and Merchants Bank, and Mrs. Angelina Comporato.

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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."