



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Contact: Angela Blanchette
510.540.3732
Ron Baker
916.324.3142

DTSC Certifies Mangels Ranch Site in Fairfield

Berkeley - - The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced certification of the hazardous substances cleanup at the Mangels Ranch site in Fairfield.

The site is located on 5.4 acres of former ranch land on Suisun Valley Road near Westamerica Drive. The certification will allow for unrestricted land use and redevelopment of the property.

The DTSC certification means that all environmental cleanup activities required by the Removal Action Workplan approved in May 2002 are complete. The \$675,000 cleanup, completed in November 2003, was funded with state monies.

"We are pleased that this site is certified for unrestricted use, which is the most protective level for public health and the environment," said DTSC Director Ed Lowry. "It is important that California's contaminated agricultural properties, as well as other abandoned or under-utilized industrial sites, are cleaned up and made available for productive reuse."

The site consists of a vacant ranch formerly occupied by a farmhouse where both vineyard and orchard crops were cultivated. In addition to the eight existing structures, two 550-gallon above-ground gasoline storage tanks, an underground storage tank, and a facility to weigh and process cattle, once existed on the site. The remainder of the property consists of open fields previously used to corral livestock.

A 1998 soil investigation at the site found elevated concentrations of toxaphene, a pesticide once used to remove insects from cattle. In May 2002, the DTSC-approved cleanup plan required excavation of contaminated soils and backfilling with clean soils to meet residential cleanup standards. Completion of these activities in November 2003 facilitates the future redevelopment of the site.

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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.