



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 Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Site

Berkeley --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced completion of all environmental cleanup activities at the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (CCCSD) site in Martinez located at 5019 Imhoff Place.

In 1995, the California Environmental Protection Agency Site Designation Committee selected DTSC to be the lead agency responsible for overseeing all cleanup activities at the site. That same year, CCCSD entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement with DTSC in which the District agreed to perform additional investigation, risk assessment, and cleanup activities at the site.

DTSC's recent issuance of the certificate of completion for the site means that all activities required by a cleanup plan approved in March 2002 are complete. The site now meets all environmental cleanup standards of state and local regulatory agencies including: DTSC, the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Contra Costa Environmental Health Department, and the California Department of Fish and Game. A deed restriction limits the site to industrial uses.

"This project demonstrates that state and local agencies can beneficially work together to streamline the environmental cleanup process," said DTSC Chief Deputy Director B.B. Blevins.

The cleanup plan, implemented between August 2003 and October 2003, required CCCSD to place a clean soil cap over contaminated soil on a 22-acre undeveloped portion of the site called the Basin A South and Surcharge Fill area to prevent any exposure to harmful contaminants. The soil was contaminated with diesel, benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), lead, cadmium and chromium. Long term maintenance of the soil cap, which will be covered with native grass to control erosion and dust, will be performed by CCCSD.

The soil at the site is believed to have become contaminated after the CCCSD received about 5,000 cubic yards of waste material from a nearby refinery in Martinez in 1966. The waste material was deposited and incorporated into various areas of the CCCSD site as soil fill or to stabilize soil. The waste material contained organic sludge, lead sulfate, dirt, sulfuric acid, water, tars, and wood debris.

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Groundwater monitoring has detected only low-level contamination in the center of the CCCSD site, and monitoring performed adjacent to Grayson Creek which is located along the eastern border of the site, indicates that contaminants are not migrating offsite. Groundwater monitoring will continue to be conducted to check contamination levels and migration.

Groundwater beneath the site is not being used for drinking water and is not considered a potential drinking water source, due to its high electrical conductivity measurements. Drinking water is provided to area residents from the Delta by the local water district.

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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.