



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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State and Sacramento County Environmental Management Department Certify Former Pesticide Site in Sacramento

Sacramento – After a successful coordinated effort between the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department (SCEMD), Mercy Housing California now has a safe and clean environment for their new facility, which will provide temporary shelter for abused and neglected elderly adults. The two-acre site, located at 3420 East Country Club Lane in Sacramento, underwent a hazardous substances cleanup and was awarded an “unrestricted-use” certification, DTSC’s most conservative cleanup standard.

The site was the former residence of a pest control operator for approximately 50 years. In 1999, the property was sold to Rural California Housing Corporation. Shortly after the sale of the property, long-time area residents indicated that improper disposal of pesticide-related chemicals occurred on the subject site. Subsequent investigations conducted in 2000, 2001 and 2003 confirmed the presence of elevated levels of chlordane, DDE, DDD, DDT and dieldrin in the site’s surface soils.

“The cleanup of this Brownfield site demonstrates what we can accomplish when we work together,” said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. “This cooperative effort between DTSC, local agencies and private entities was a cost-effective and efficient way to put this property back into productive use. This project exemplifies Governor Schwarzenegger’s vision of public and private sectors working together to protect the environment and public health,” she added.

DTSC, the SCEMD and U.S. EPA worked cooperatively with the site property owner to develop an acceptable Removal Action Workplan. Mercy Housing / Rural California Housing Corporation completed implementation of the cleanup activities in February 2006, which included the excavation of an estimated 712 tons of pesticide contaminated soil, which was transported off-site for disposal at a permitted facility.

Rural California Housing Corporation is a non-profit affiliate with Mercy Housing California in the development of affordable housing. A Brownfields Remediation Grant, awarded to Rural California Housing Corporation by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), provided funding to remediate the site’s soils to residential clean-up levels.

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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.