



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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Department of Toxic Substances Control

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**DTSC certifies cleanup of Chico Burn Piles**

CHICO – Citing the need for cities, counties and state governments to work together to address contamination and reduce or prevent exposure to hazardous materials, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the certification of the Allen Property Burn Piles, located at Nord and Esplandade highways in Chico. Certification means that all hazardous waste cleanup associated with the burn piles is complete.

“The certification of this site ensures the public will be protected from harmful exposure to toxic contamination. It also demonstrates what can be accomplished when cities, counties and state governments work together to address the environmental concerns in our communities. With this certification, the property can now be returned to the owner who wants to build new houses,” said Maureen Gorsen, DTSC Director.

“This is consistent with the Governor’s Schwarzenegger’s Environmental Action Plan to work with local officials to identify and evaluate redevelopment of blighted and underutilized sites, allowing cities to accommodate locally desirable mixed use, compact development and urban infill growth, while curtailing urban sprawl,” Gorsen added.

Cleanup at the site followed Butte County’s concerns about public health after a construction firm, hired by the property owner to clear away and burn debris from the 70-acre site, formerly used as a fruit orchard, burned PVC plastic irrigation hose and pressure treated chromated copper arsenate post and treated wood trellis. In 2004, Jaeger Construction used approximately 15 burn piles to destroy the debris.

Due to health and safety concerns, Butte County authorities stopped the burns and ordered the construction company to clean up the site. DTSC testing of the burn piles revealed soil contaminated with arsenic. The cleanup process included excavating the burned material and transporting it to a permitted landfill.

The cleanup, which cost the construction company approximately \$400,000, was conducted as a response to a Butte County violation report regarding the approximate one-acre burn pile, and is not intended to serve as an assessment of the entire 70-acre parcel.

Now that the property has been certified as free from hazardous waste, the property-owner plans to sell the land to a developer for residential housing.

For more information, visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

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***The Department of Toxic Substances Control is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC’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.***