



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 cleanup of Port of Richmond site

BERKELEY – Citing the need for government entities to work together to address contamination and reduce or prevent exposure to hazardous substances, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced the certification of the 53-acre Port of Richmond site. Certification means that all hazardous substance cleanup associated with the Port is now complete.

“The certification of this Port of Richmond site ensures the public will be protected from harmful exposure to toxic contamination,” said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. “It also demonstrates what can be accomplished when local and state governments work together to address the environmental concerns in our communities. With the completion of cleanup activities, this site located within a major Bay Area port, can be reused productively to enhance and expand the port’s existing operations to store vehicles before they are distributed to auto dealers.” “This advances the Governor’s environmental goals to reclaim brownfields and other contaminated properties and will jump start nearby impacted communities.” Gorsen added.

The Port of Richmond site, formally part of the Kaiser Shipyard during World War II, has been leased to various businesses throughout the years, including: ship maintenance and repair companies, scrap metals and salvage yards, and auto importers.

Prior to the environmental cleanup of the site, hazardous waste had been disposed at several locations on the site. The hazardous waste that was disposed contained elevated levels of asbestos, lead, copper, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and included abandoned drums and solvent containers. Cleanup activities at the site included capping of approximately 113,700 cubic yards of contaminated soil in one area and approximately 6,700 cubic yards of contaminated sediment in a second area, and then covering the areas with an asphalt cap and clean sediment. The cost of the cleanup was \$10.4 million.

Now that the remedial actions at the property have been completed, the Port has leased the area as a parking lot that will temporarily store approximately 50,000 vehicles annually that are shipped to the Port of Richmond in route to auto dealerships throughout the U.S.

For more information, visit 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.