



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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DTSC Certifies the Crossroads Site in Murrieta

Murrieta, Riverside County - - The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced today the certification of a hazardous substances cleanup at the Crossroads Site located at 24250 Adams Avenue in Murrieta. The site was certified on December 24, 2002. Certification means that all activities to clean up the site have been completed. Under the Crossroads certification, the entire 20-acre site is approved for “unrestricted” future land use, which allows uses ranging from single-family homes, to commercial or industrial development.

“The cleanup of this property will enable redevelopment that is consistent with the surrounding community,” said DTSC Director Ed Lowry. “Restoring abandoned and underused properties is a top priority for the State’s policymakers, public interest organizations, and property owners. Putting these properties back into productive use works to stimulate redevelopment, protect public health and the environment, attract capital investment, and improve the quality of life in affected communities.” Lowry added.

Crossroads Investors III, LLC conducted the cleanup, during a two-month period (August – September 2002), and removed approximately 9,000 cubic yards of lead contaminated soils. The average depth of excavated area ranged from approximately six inches to five feet. Contaminated soil was placed on trucks and disposed of at a hazardous waste landfill and the excavations were backfilled with clean soil.

Between 1955 and 1960, the Oakley Battery Plant operated at the site. After investigation and soil sampling were complete, it was found that soil at the site was contaminated with lead caused by the battery recycling operations.

Crossroads Investors III, LLC qualified for a DTSC Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) Program loan and was issued a check for \$700,000. The low-interest loan was used to investigate and remove the lead

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contaminated soil at the Murrieta site. Since the site has been certified, beginning in January 2003, Crossroads Investors III, LLC must start repayment of the \$700,000 plus interest, which is expected to be approximately \$10,000.

Plans for the site include construction of 55 single family homes and a park area.

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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.1

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"The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web-site at www.dtsc.ca.gov."