



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

NEWS RELEASE

T – 24 – 08

Maureen F. Gorsen, Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2008

Contact: Claudia Loomis
(916) 255-6578
cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov

STATE SIGNS OFF ON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY EAST BAY SITE CLEANUP

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced that it issued the final environmental clearance for an Oakland site where Habitat for Humanity East Bay will complete a development to house 54 families in affordable and “green” single-family homes. Working with Habitat East Bay since 2002, DTSC entered into a California Land Reuse and Revitalization Act agreement with the organization to make this urban infill project a reality. The property is located at 10800 Edes Avenue in East Oakland.

“This is a great example of working together to put contaminated property back into sustainable productive use,” said DTSC Director Maureen Gorsen. “Tapping into some of DTSC’s brownfield redevelopment tools enabled this fine organization to take back part of the Oakland Coliseum Redevelopment Area, a corridor under transition from heavy industrial to light industrial, commercial, and residential uses,” Gorsen added.

The homes will be built to Build It Green’s GreenPoint Rated certification, with some certified to national LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification. All of the homes will include solar panels and other energy-saving features. Instead of disposing of the leftover bricks found at the site, Habitat for Humanity elected to reuse them as part of the project after DTSC reviewed testing results and concurred that the bricks could be safely reused.

“Habitat East Bay’s mission is to build sustainable housing and to revitalize communities, and the Edes Avenue development couldn’t be a more positive example of our mission in action. This once-blighted piece of property has now been transformed into a thriving community for deserving families,” said Janice Jensen, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity East Bay.

From the 1920s through 1965, a plant nursery operated on the property. From 1982 until 1996, Evans Brothers construction used the site for recycling bricks. The cleanup involved removing the equivalent of 800 truck loads of soil contaminated with lead and petroleum chemicals and removing three underground storage tanks.

In 2002, DTSC awarded the organization a \$425,000 low-interest loan through the state's Cleanup Loans and Environmental Assistance to Neighborhoods (CLEAN) program. CLEAN funds are used to encourage redevelopment of "Brownfields," which are properties with real or perceived contamination that are underused because of cleanup costs and liability concerns.

For more information about the Habitat for Humanity East Bay site cleanup, visit [DTSC's cleanup site database, EnviroStor](#), or the Habitat for Humanity East Bay Web page about the [Edes Avenue Development](#). Downloadable photos of the project are available at DTSC's [Web-based Press Room](#).

#

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit www.dtsc.ca.gov. To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.