



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Department of Toxic Substances Control

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DTSC announces \$2 million settlement to help remediate groundwater plume in Southern California

Sacramento – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced a nearly \$2 million settlement with the current and two previous owners of the former Chicago Musical Instruments (CMI) site in Fullerton. The settlement is for previously incurred costs related to its investigation and remediation efforts at the site. Historical operations at the site resulted in contamination of the soil and groundwater by volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

As part of the settlement, United Duralume Products Inc. (UDP), the current owner, paid \$1.1 million for previous costs. Prior owners, Pitney Bowes Inc., and Novitex Enterprise Solutions, Inc., paid more than \$800,000 for previous costs and are responsible for all of DTSC's future costs related to the investigation and remediation of the VOCs at the site and off-site.

CMI, a former musical instrument manufacturer, constructed several concrete sumps within the manufacturing building that were used for degreasing. UPD became the owner in 1979 and operated machinery that bends aluminum sheeting for products such as siding and patio covers. UPD filled the sumps and capped them with concrete so the sumps would not interfere with their operations.

The investigation found elevated levels of trichloroethene (TCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), and 1,1-dichloroethene (1,1-DCE) at the site. DTSC has overseen the investigation and remediation since 2010.

Currently, DTSC is working with the Orange County Water District to address the VOC-impacted groundwater contamination that has moved beyond the site's boundaries.

More information about the site can be found [here](#).



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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 DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.