



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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\$422,000 Braito Bill Sent to Attorney General for Collection

(SACRAMENTO) --- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), today announced it has referred billings for \$422,000 of outstanding debt to the State Attorney General for collection from Granite Management Corporation (Granite) for work completed at the Granite Southampton site in Benicia.

DTSC continues to work at the site because of commitments made to the community as well as a 1995 Consent Agreement which covered specific elements of the project leading to a Remedial Action Plan which declares how a site will be remediated.

“Our first commitment is to protect public health, however, State cleanup law mandates that responsible parties must pay for DTSC oversight. DTSC has committed significant time and talent to this project and will be paid,” said Bill Ryan, DTSC Site Mitigation Division Chief.

DTSC will continue ongoing work which includes completion of the Hillside Area Report, the Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) for the Study Area, and other Consent Agreement elements.

DTSC requested the Attorney General to proceed with the expeditious filing of a civil lawsuit after many months of routine billing failed to result in payment; Granite has not paid DTSC for the past three quarters.

The last payment was made in August 1998 for the period of April 1996 through September 1997 pursuant to lengthy informal and formal dispute resolution. It amounted to some \$1.1 million.

Under a 1995 Consent Agreement, DTSC has been overseeing testing and cleanup work at the former Braito Landfill and responding to the community's concerns regarding potential health hazards associated with contaminated surface and subsurface soils. Under the agreement, DTSC agreed to submit bills, Granite (the responsible party) agreed to pay, on a quarterly basis.

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