



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*Preventing  
environmental  
damage from  
hazardous waste,  
and restoring  
contaminated  
sites for all  
Californians.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

## Fact Sheet, February 2006

### Allen Property Burn Piles Draft Removal Action Workplan and Proposed Negative Declaration

Chico, California

#### INTRODUCTION

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is accepting public comment on the draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) and the proposed California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the Allen Property Burn Piles Site (Site). DTSC is the lead California State governmental agency overseeing the investigation and cleanup of the Site. The draft RAW proposes how to address arsenic and dioxin contaminated soil where the burn piles are located (see page four for information on arsenic and dioxins). The Site consists of a portion of the Allen Ranch Property located near the intersection of Nord Highway and Esplanade in Chico, California. This fact sheet contains information concerning the public comment period, site background, the draft RAW, the CEQA Notice of Exemption, information repositories, contact and mailing list information.

#### SITE DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND

From the early 1950s through the 1980s the Allen Ranch was operated for commercial agriculture. A kiwi orchard was planted around 1974 and operated until 2003. The kiwis were supported by a trellis structure, which consisted of pressure treated

#### Public Comment Period

The public comment period begins on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 and ends on Thursday, March 2, 2006. Written comments must be postmarked by or e-mailed by Thursday, March 2, 2006 and sent to:

Duane White, Project Manager  
DTSC Regional Office  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
dwhite@dtsc.ca.gov

Before making a final determination on the draft RAW and Proposed NOE, DTSC will review and respond in writing to all public comments. The DTSC Response to Comments will be sent to all individuals who submitted comments or those who request a copy. A copy will also be placed in the information repositories listed in this fact sheet.



chromated copper arsenate poles. PVC piping and plastic irrigation hose were used.

In fall of 2004, the owner had the land cleared. Poles, PVC piping, and plastic irrigation equipment were burned and placed into approximately 15 piles. Butte County issued a Notice to Abate Public Nuisance Order because the burning released hazardous materials. Soil was tested to determine the nature and extent of contamination from the burning. The tests revealed arsenic and dioxins in the soil above levels considered safe for long term human contact.

### PROPOSED CLEANUP

The goal of the proposed cleanup is to reduce the potential human health risk associated with elevated levels of arsenic and dioxins in soil to a level considered safe for unrestricted exposures. Six potential methods of clean up were evaluated for achieving the clean up goals. They were evaluated against five criteria. The five criteria were:

- 1. Protection of human health and the environment.** For an alternative to be selected it must prevent site contamination from threatening public health and the environment.
- 2. Short term effectiveness.** The ability to be effective in dealing with Site contamination during initial implementation examined.
- 3. Long term effectiveness.** This examines how effective the alternative will be eliminating potential exposure to Site contamination over a number of years.
- 4. Implementability.** This looks at the ability to implement the proposed alternative.
- 5. Cost.** Cost is examined after the first four criteria are met. If alternatives are equally protective then cost may determine which one is finally chosen.

### The six potential methods for clean up evaluated were:

- 1. No action.** This examines the potential risks if the Site is left as is. If there would be no risk to human health or the environment from no action then no other alternatives would be evaluated.
- 2. Off-site disposal.** Contaminated soil would be dug up and transported offsite to a landfill.
- 3. Deed restriction.** This would be limiting the use of the Site to prevent significant exposure.
- 4. Off-site disposal and deed restriction.** This would involve offsite disposal as described above and restricting use of the property.
- 5. Off-site treatment and recycling.** Excavated debris and affected soils would be divided into recyclable and non-recyclable. Recyclable debris would be sent offsite for energy recovery or reuse and non-recyclable would be sent to the appropriate offsite disposal facility.
- 6. On-site treatment.** Similar to offsite treatment except recyclable material would be utilized onsite.

### PROPOSED CLEAN UP METHOD

Based on the five criteria the second option, **offsite disposal of affected soils is being proposed.** Soil up to 18 inches below ground surface would be excavated and loaded into cargo boxes or a dump truck for transport to an offsite disposal facility. Excavated soils could be stockpiled on the Site for up to 30 days.

Stockpiled soil would be sprayed with water and covered with plastic in order to prevent dust from migrating offsite. Equipment will be brushed and rinsed to also prevent offsite dust migration. Soil would be transported to a disposal facility by licensed haulers. Soil samples would be collected to confirm that contaminated soil has been removed. Excavated areas would be backfilled with clean soil.

## **CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)**

The RAW is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DTSC has determined that implementation of the RAW will not have an adverse affect on human health and the environment and thus would be exempt from CEQA. Therefore DTSC has drafted a Notice of Exemption.

## **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

If approved activities for finalized RAW would begin approximately in the spring this year. Prior to work beginning a Start Work Notification flier will be distributed to the mailing list and will detail what can be expected at the Site when work begins. If the draft RAW is approved, you might see the following during cleanup activities:

Use of Construction Equipment: On-site construction equipment such as scrapers and trucks will be in operation from 6:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 6:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. Approximately 6,000 cubic yards (similar in size to an Olympic size swimming pool) of contaminated soil will be removed from the site.

Light and Heavy-Duty Diesel Traffic: A variety of truck types will be used to deliver and remove supplies and materials from the Site on an as-needed basis. Trucks will be moving in and out of the Site at any given time during designated hours of operation. Trucks entering and/or leaving the Site will use Esplanade Road and Nord Street. Up to 40 trucks per-day will travel to and from the Site over a one to two week period.

Dust: During construction activities, water will be applied as a dust suppressant to control or reduce any dust that might be generated.

Noise: There will be some noise associated with cleanup activities especially from operation of excavation equipment and truck traffic. Hours of

equipment operation and traffic activity will be confined to the designated hours of operation. There will be no specific noise monitoring, however the noise emitted by Site activities should be comparable to the sound of a leaf blower.

## **INFORMATION CONTACTS**

If you have questions concerning the Allen Property Site please contact:

Duane White  
DTSC Project Manager  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916)-255-3585 or [dwhite@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:dwhite@dtsc.ca.gov)

Randy Sturgeon  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916) 255-3649 or [rsturgeo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:rsturgeo@dtsc.ca.gov)

Media questions, please contact:

Carol Singleton  
DTSC Public Information Officer  
(916) 255-6578

## **INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

Copies of the Draft Remedial Action Workplan, the proposed Negative Declaration, as well as and other Site-related documents are available for public review at the following information repositories:

Meriam Library, Special Collection Department  
California State University Chico  
Chico, CA 95929  
(530) 895-5710

Butte County Library, Chico Branch  
1108 Sherman Avenue  
Chico, CA 95925  
(530) 891-2762

DTSC, Sacramento Office File Room  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
Contact: Bobbie Jensen at (916) 255-3758

Butte Environmental Council  
116 W. Second Street, #3  
Chico, CA 95928  
(530) 891-6424

**The full Administrative Record for the Site is available at the DTSC Office listed above.**

### ARSENIC

The contaminant of concern is arsenic. There are two types of arsenic, organic and inorganic. The type of arsenic found at the Site is organic. Organic arsenic is a naturally occurring element widely distributed in the earth's crust. Arsenic in animals and plants combines with carbon and hydrogen to form organic arsenic compounds. Organic arsenic compounds are used as pesticides, primarily on cotton plants. Organic arsenic compounds are less toxic than inorganic arsenic compounds.

Breathing small amounts of organic arsenic may cause headaches, lung irritation, dizziness, poor coordination, and difficulty concentrating. Exposure to high levels of some organic arsenic compounds may cause nausea and vomiting, decreased production of red and white blood cells, abnormal heart rhythm, damage to blood vessels, and a sensation of «pins and needles» in hands and feet.

### DIOXIN

Dioxins are formed by burning PVC piping and other plastics. Long term exposure to dioxins can cause cancer, birth defects, learning disabilities, endometriosis, infertility, and suppressed immune function.

### Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak to Randy Sturgeon at (916) 255-3649.

#### ARE YOU ON DTSC's MAILING LIST?

If you would like to be on the mailing list for the Allen Property Site, please fill out the information below and mail back to Randy Sturgeon, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

Please print name and address clearly.

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Please take me off the mailing list.

Note: While the mailing list is solely for DTSC use, the list is considered a public record.