

Fact Sheet
March 2003

Habitat for Humanity

10900 Edes Avenue

Oakland, CA



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



PROPOSED CLEANUP IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

We, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, are overseeing the cleanup of soil on the property now owned by East Bay Habitat for Humanity. We would like to tell you more about the planned cleanup of that site and invite you to give us your comments.

The East Bay Habitat for Humanity Site (Site) is located at 10900 Edes Avenue in Oakland, California.

Comment Period March 07 - April 07

We invite your comments and questions about the Removal Action Workplan and Negative Declaration. We will take written public comments beginning March 07 and ending April 07, 2003. Comments can be sent to:

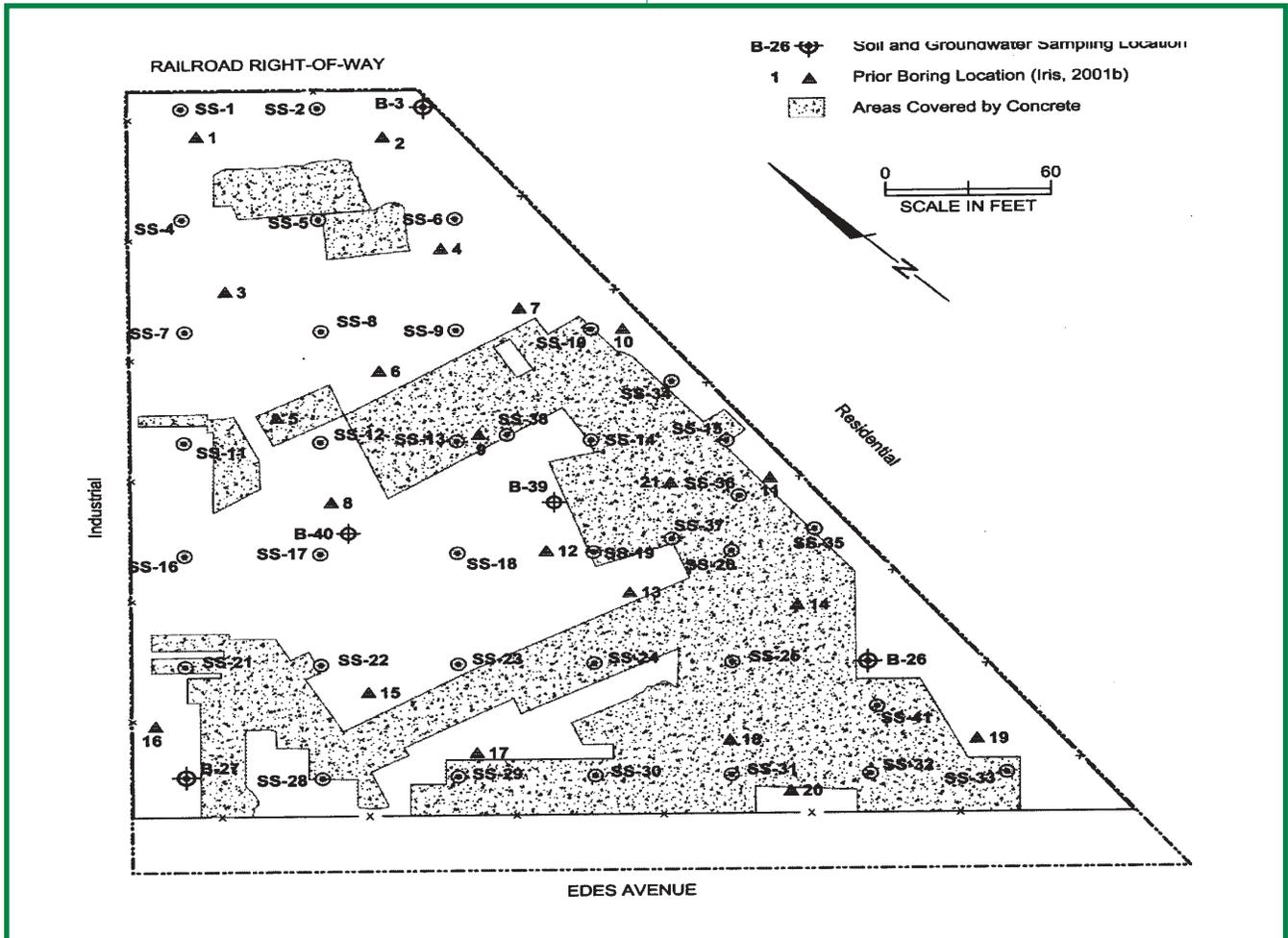
Jonathan Largent
700 Heinz Street, Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710
jlargent@dtsc.ca.gov

Further information about how to become involved is on page 4.

Last year samples were taken of the soil and groundwater. Chemicals were found in soil above levels considered safe for the proposed future residential land use. Therefore, we looked at ways to make the site safe for residential use. Since the Site is currently fenced and unoccupied, chemicals present in soil do not pose a current threat to public health and/or the environment. A draft workplan has been prepared that outlines how the Site will be cleaned. We call this workplan a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW). Another document, called a Negative Declaration, has also been prepared. This document explains why we believe the planned cleanup will not have a harmful effect on the environment. We would like to invite you to comment on the draft RAW and Negative Declaration. These documents and other site-related documents are at the information repositories listed on Page 4.

RESULTS FROM THE SITE INVESTIGATION

In 2001 and 2002 samples were taken of the soil and groundwater at the East Bay Habitat for Humanity Site. This 2-acre site is surrounded by houses, a storage yard, and by the Southern Pacific Railroad right of way. Currently the site is vacant with some concrete pads still in place. Between 1926 and 1952 the Site was a nursery and gardening outlet, which had eight greenhouse buildings and two small buildings. Between 1952 and 1996 the Site was operated by Decker Truck Parts as a truck dismantling yard. Because East Bay Habitat for Humanity plans to build single-family houses on the Site, we are making sure that it is clean enough for people to live there.



Soil and groundwater tests revealed some chemicals in surface soil at levels above those safe for residential use. These chemicals included Aroclor 1254, Aroclor 1260, benzo(a)pyrene, and lead.

Aroclor 1254 and Aroclor 1260 are part of a group of chemicals called Polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs for short. PCBs were once used in electrical transformers and hydraulic fluids. They can cause cancer and other health problems if you are exposed to them over a long period of time, typically many years. The PCBs were found near the old dismantling pad.

Benzo(a)pyrene is part of a group of chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs for short. These chemicals can occur from incomplete burning of things like coal, oil, gas, garbage, tobacco, or charbroiled meat. It is found in crude oil, roofing tar, and sometimes in plastics and pesticides. They also can cause cancer and other health problems if you are exposed to them over a long period of time, typically many years. The PAHs were also found near the old dismantling pad.

Lead can naturally occur in the soil at low levels. It is also found from man-made activities like mining and manufacturing. Long term exposure to lead can cause damage to the nervous and reproductive systems and inhibit development, especially in children. Lead was detected at multiple locations on-Site.

Test results from the groundwater show that no chemicals from this site have reached the groundwater.

A CLEANUP PLAN IS RECOMMENDED

Once we know what is in the soil, we must decide the best thing to do to make the Site safe for residential use. We looked at two options:

1. “No Action” - We must consider what would happen if the soil was left in place. This is what we compare all other options to.
2. “Excavation to meet single-family residential cleanup goals and offsite disposal with backfilling as needed” – The soil containing the chemicals would be dug and sent to an appropriate place, and clean dirt would be used to replace it if needed.

Each option was evaluated based on how well it would protect the health of the public and the environment and whether it complied with relevant laws. Additionally, each option was evaluated based on how effective it would be, how easily it could be done, and how much it costs. Based on these criteria, the second option is recommended.

HOW THE CLEANUP WILL AFFECT THE NEIGHBORHOOD

If the workplan is approved, there will be digging on the site for about one month, Monday through Saturday from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Dust controls will be used to limit the amount of airborne dust generated. The Site cleanup will require the removal of about 60 truckloads of soil. The trucks will use Edes Avenue to exit from the Site, and travel westbound to 98th Avenue, then travel southbound to Interstate 880. Trucks carrying contaminated soil will be covered before leaving the site.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

We have evaluated the cleanup project, in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act requirements, to determine if the proposed cleanup will have any negative impacts on the environment. We have determined that the cleanup will improve environmental quality, and does not have negative impacts on the environment. Therefore, a Negative Declaration has been prepared for this project.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE

The Removal Action Workplan, the Negative Declaration, and all other site documents may be reviewed at the reference desk of the Brookfield Branch of the Oakland Public Library.

Brookfield Branch Library
9255 Edes Avenue
Oakland, California 94603
(510) 615-5725

Hours: 10 am – 5:30 pm Tues. and Thurs.
11:30 am – 7 pm Wednesday
noon – 5:30 pm Friday
10 am – 5:30 pm Saturday

We also have the documents at our agency's office at 700 Heinz Street in Berkeley. Please call Lule Valera, File Room Coordinator, at (510) 540-3800 to make an appointment.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

If you have questions or comments about the proposed site cleanup, please call or email either of these people at the Department of Toxic Substances Control:

Jonathan Largent, Project Manager
(510) 540-3836
email: Jlargent@dtsc.ca.gov

Lora Barrett, Public Participation Specialist
Toll free: (866) 495-5651
email: Lbarrett@dtsc.ca.gov

For Media Inquiries

Angela Blanchette
(510) 540-3732
email: ABlanche@dtsc.ca.gov

Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378. Ask them to contact Jonathan Largent at (510) 540-3836 about the Habitat for Humanity Remedial Action Workplan.

