

FACT SHEET
MARCH 2001

Lead Found in Four Back Yards Along the Western Boundary of the Union Pacific Rail Yard



SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



**California
Environmental
Protection Agency**



**DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES CONTROL**

***It is DTSC's mission to
protect public health
and the environment
from harmful exposure
to hazardous
substances.***

Introduction

The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to inform you of the contamination discovered in four back yards at the end of Bidwell and Weller Ways next to the western boundary of the Union Pacific Railroad Company (Union Pacific) Rail Yard (Rail Yard). Union Pacific collected samples in the back yards after sampling in the active Rail Yard showed debris containing high levels of lead next to the fence line on the western edge of the Rail Yard. The Union Pacific Rail Yard covers about 94 acres, consisting of an inactive eastern portion and an active rail corridor and switching area in the western portion. This fact sheet covers the initial discovery of the debris, the sampling in the active Rail Yard and the sampling of the residential back yards at the end of Bidwell and Weller Ways. Also, this fact sheet covers DTSC's plans for further steps to remove the lead contaminated soil as well as contact numbers for information.

History of the Initial Discovery

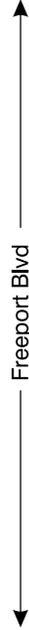
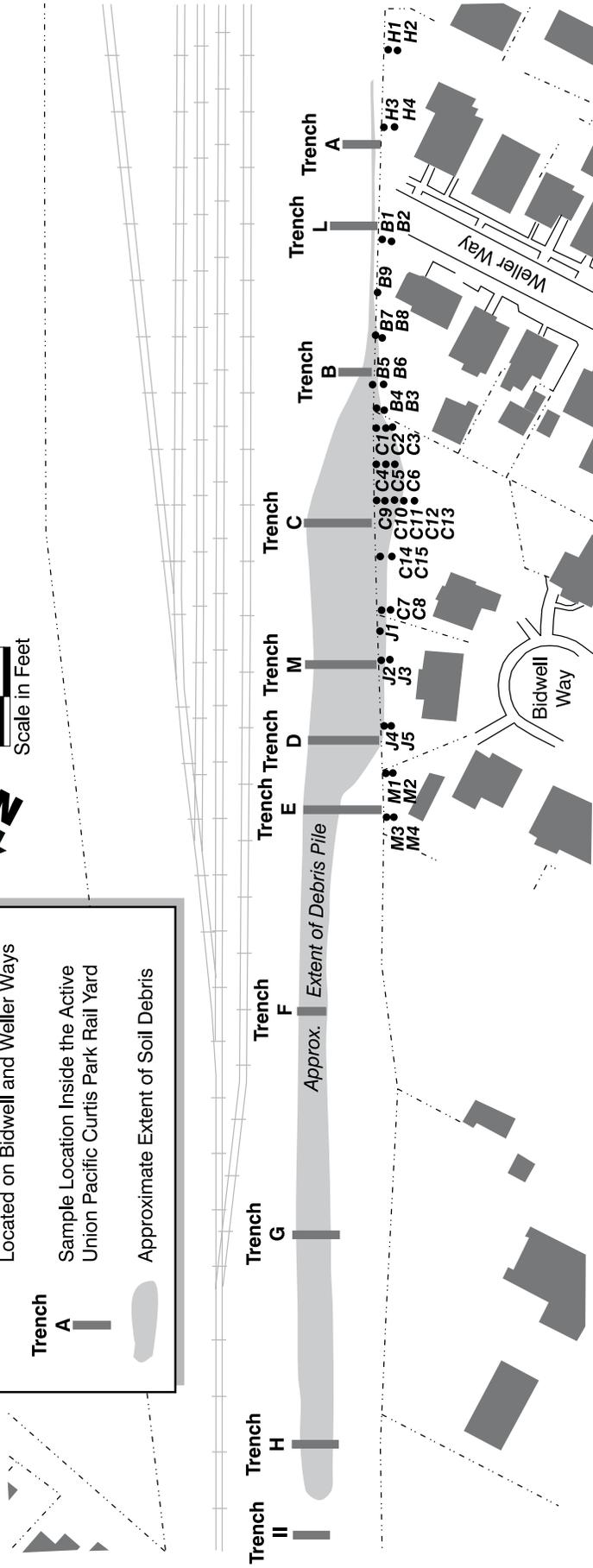
The Sacramento Regional Transit District (Regional Transit) has been working in the Rail Yard to extend Light Rail Service from downtown Sacramento out to Meadowview Road in south Sacramento. As part of this project, in preparing for a sound wall, Regional Transit had trenched through the ground next to the boundary of the Rail Yard in December, 2000. In trenching, Regional Transit's crew noticed the soil contained a large amount of assorted debris. Regional Transit took some samples that showed a high level of lead (5,000 to 7,000 parts per million) to be present in the trench. After Union Pacific notified DTSC, DTSC requested that Union Pacific do sampling to determine the nature and extent of the contamination.

Immediately following the debris discovery, DTSC notified the neighbors asking them not to dig in their yards until further notice. In January, DTSC met with the neighbors, informed them of the initial Regional Transit results and asked for their cooperation in allowing back yard sampling.

Sampling and Trench Location Map

Legend

- H3 Sample Location in Residential Yards Located on Bidwell and Weller Ways
- Trench A Sample Location Inside the Active Union Pacific Curtis Park Rail Yard
- Approximate Extent of Soil Debris



Active Rail Yard And Back Yard Sampling

On January 26, 2001, sampling took place in all of the Weller Way and Bidwell Way back yards bordering the active Rail Yard. Samples revealed elevated levels of lead in four of five back yards sampled. Results ranged from below the residential action level (220 parts per million) up to 10,200 parts per million. Other metals were found but at levels well below levels that show a risk to human health. Early January samples taken from trenches along the Regional Transit corridor reveal a similar range of lead from below 220 parts per million up to 9,000 parts per million. Again other metals were found but not at levels requiring any clean-up action to protect human health. All trenches have been filled in throughout the corridor. See the Sampling and Trench location map on page two for the position of these activities. This map also depicts the extent of the soil debris found within the Rail Yard corridor with a small portion extending into several neighboring back yards.

Further Steps

Union Pacific has begun preparing a work plan outlining the necessary steps to remove the contaminated soil from the back yards as well as the Regional Transit corridor. This removal will be done under the contingency measures outlined in the Regional Transit corridor (Operable Unit S6) Slag Removal Action Work plan. The removal is also based on remedial goals established in the 1995 Remedial Action Plan for the Rail Yard. DTSC has determined that this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, based on the need to do the removal quickly. Union Pacific is preparing a draft work plan for review and approval by DTSC before removing debris. DTSC has presented this Draft Work Plan to affected residents for their review and input. Part of this Work Plan is a Health and Safety Plan that includes planned air monitoring and dust control actions. Union Pacific plans to start removing soil in the back yards and move toward the east, back into the Regional Transit corridor area. Both DTSC and Union

Pacific staff will continue meeting with neighborhood residents to plan all of the necessary details for the upcoming removal. Union Pacific plans to remove the contaminated debris sometime in March 2001. Start dates are being coordinated with the affected residents.

Information Repositories and Contacts

If you wish to review any of the reports on the earlier work done at the Rail Yard, please visit any of the following repositories:

*Belle Cooleage Library
Reference Librarian
5600 South Land Park Drive
Sacramento CA 95822
(916) 264-2700*

*Sacramento City College Library
Reference Desk
3835 Freeport Blvd.
Sacramento CA 95822
(916) 558-2461*

*Sacramento City Clerk
915 I Street, Room 304
Sacramento CA 95814
(916) 264-5799*

The full administrative record is available for public review at the DTSC Sacramento Office.

If you have questions about the sampling results or the removal planning, please feel free to contact:

*Nathan Schumacher
Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-3650*

or

*Fernando Amador
Project Manager
(916) 255-3737
Department of Toxic Substances Control
10151 Croydon Way, Suite 3
Sacramento CA 95827*

Mailing List

If you would like to be put on the Union Pacific Curtis Park mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to:

Nathan Schumacher,
DTSC, Sacramento Office,
10151 Croydon Way, Suite 3,
Sacramento, CA 95827

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and, if requested, may be subject to release.

Name: -----

Address: -----

City: ----- State: ----- Zip: -----

Phone Number: -----

E-mail: -----



Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals:
TDD users can obtain additional information about the Union Pacific Rail Yard, Curtis Park by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) and asking to reach Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650.

If you are a member of the media, please contact Lisa Kunz, Public Information Office, (916) 327-6104.

Nathan Schumacher, Public Participation Specialist
DTSC, Sacramento Office
10151 Croydon Way, Suite 3
Sacramento, CA 95827

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Dear Fellow Californian:

January 24, 2001

The energy challenge facing California is real and affects all of us. Its potential to affect our environment is real as well, and that is one reason our immediate action is important.

In the long run, we will solve the problem of cleanly generating plentiful electricity. In the short term, the smartest and most environmentally sensible plan is conservation. That is why I am asking you to join me and millions of Californians in cutting our energy use.

California continues to experience electrical shortages that have resulted in rolling blackouts throughout the State. To reduce the risk of power outages, the most important action we can take is to use less energy.

The Governor and leaders of the California Legislature are working with utility companies, power suppliers and consumer groups to fashion long-term solutions for reliable and affordable electricity. The State has already implemented a program to reduce energy consumption by a minimum of eight percent (8%).

California has the power of nearly 35 million people. By reducing our electricity demand, we can reduce prices, avoid shortages and lower energy bills.

You have an important role in your home and at your workplace. Here are easy ways to cut energy use.

At Home

- **If possible, turn your thermostat down to 68° F degrees or lower during the day, and 55° F at night. You can save five percent (5%) on heating bills for every one degree you lower your thermostat.**
- **Use lower washing temperatures and line dry clothes whenever you can. Take a short shower instead of a bath.**
- **Turn out lights in empty rooms. Cut the use of non-essential appliances. When not in use, turn off computers and other electronic equipment completely. Unplug electronic chargers when not in use (e.g., cell phone chargers).**
- **Refrigerators use one-sixth of a home's energy. Dusting coils and checking door seals can help save electricity. You can set the temperature as high as 38° without spoiling food.**

At Work

- **Minimize energy usage during the peak demand hours of 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (If possible shift high energy use tasks to non-peak hours.)**
- **As at home, lower your thermostat to 68° F or less.**
- **Turn off unneeded lights and equipment, especially in unused offices and conference rooms. Turn down other lighting when possible.**
- **Turn computers, copiers and other office equipment to low-power standby mode. Turn equipment off at the end of the workday.**
- **Use inkjet printers rather than laser printers to save up to 90 percent on printer energy costs. Use laptop computers if possible. Laptops use significantly less energy than typical desktop models.**
- **Buy ENERGY STAR™ equipment, products, and lights.**

Thank you for doing your part to conserve energy.
Sincerely,

Winston H. Hickox

Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary