

Preventing environmental damage from hazardous wastes, and restoring contaminated sites for all Californians

Gardena Sumps Site, Environmental Investigation Resumes

Our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is investigating hazardous waste contamination at the Gardena Sumps site located at the intersection of Artesia Boulevard and Normandie Avenue in Gardena. The 5.6 acre site is partially vacant and subdivided into two parcels, an eastern parcel and a western parcel. The eastern parcel is recognizable by a black, synthetic, protective cap that covers about three acres of the site. The western parcel is occupied by several small businesses. South of the site are four adjacent residential lots. Shopping centers are located across Artesia Boulevard and Normandie Avenue. Residents of Cassidy Street are located across from the southeastern corner of the site and Gardena High School is located about two blocks south of the site where pedestrian and automobile traffic is heavy. This fact sheet provides you with information on previous and current environmental investigations conducted, site history, contact information and next steps.

The Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC), through a court-approved consent decree, has agreed to and has begun performing site response actions requested by DTSC. Atlantic Richfield Company will perform additional field tests, site evaluations and develop a cleanup plan under DTSC oversight.

SEE INSIDE – INFORMATION ON GARDENA SUMPS

This fact sheet tells you about:

- Site history
- Contaminants found at the site
- Environmental investigations conducted
- Next steps
- Who to contact for more information
- Where to find project documents



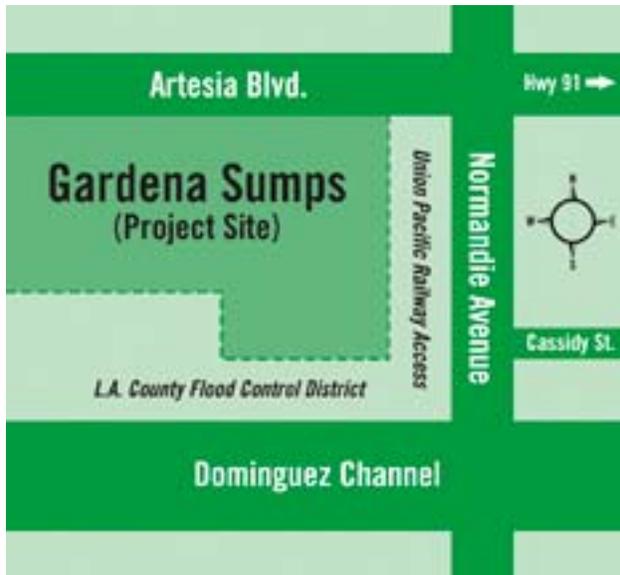
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Location of the Gardena Sumps site.

Site History

Through the mid-1920s, the site was primarily agricultural. In 1925, Moneta Brick Company purchased the land and operated a brick manufacturing plant and clay quarry. In 1932, the plant closed and by the end of the decade excavation pits used for mining clay later became disposal sites for oil wastes from nearby refineries. This use continued into the 1940s. Between the 1940s and 1960s, the property passed through a numbers of parties. During the 1950's, a manufacturing company owned the properties and an aircraft parts manufacturing plant also operated at the site. From the 1960s to early 1990s, much of the eastern property became a dumping ground for trash.

In the 1990s, environmental testing conducted by DTSC confirmed the presence of chemical contaminants from past land uses. Since 1993, a synthetic, protective cap has covered the oily wastes on the site. Currently, part of the western property is occupied by tenants who operate various small businesses there. To protect the public, fencing has been placed around the vacant eastern property preventing public access.

Previous Environmental Investigations

In 1981, DTSC became involved with the site in response to a citizen complaint. At that time, DTSC was known as the State of California, Department of

Health Services (DHS). DHS conducted a preliminary investigation and conducted sampling and analysis from two sumps on the property. Several chemical contaminants were identified that warranted further investigation. In 1982, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) conducted three investigations at the site. Samples were collected and analyzed. USEPA determined the site did warrant further investigation, but did not pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment.

Contamination Found At Gardena Sumps

Soil and Sludge

Soil and sludge were tested and found to contain elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), petroleum hydrocarbons and metals.

Groundwater

In shallow groundwater, traces of metals (antimony, lead and thallium) were detected at levels exceeding the drinking water maximum contaminant levels. This warrants additional monitoring for potential changes in levels. The monitoring of shallow groundwater zones indicates the Gardena Sumps are not impacting deeper drinking water aquifers. The nearest Gardena water supply well is 1,000 feet west-northwest of the site. Groundwater flow at the sumps is away from that location and is not impacting the water supply well.

Air

Two large sumps are currently covered by a synthetic, protective cap while the rest is covered by a concrete surface. This cover controls vapor releases into the air. In 1992, benzene and hydrogen sulfide were detected in sump sample locations where the protective cover was not being properly maintained. Currently, the protective cover has been repaired and will continue on a program of routine maintenance.

Drinking Water Supply Not Affected By Sumps

City of Gardena drinking water consists partially of purchased water imported by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC). The local



The Gardena Sumps site looking west from Normandie Ave. Artesia Blvd. is to the right.

water supplier is the Southern California Water Company (SCWC). SCWC periodically tests its water supply, as required by the federal government. SCWC has not reported any impact to its water supply related to the Gardena Sumps site.

Further Environmental Investigation Continues

DTSC is currently overseeing further investigation activities to identify the specific contaminants and their sources. This is called a Remedial Investigation (RI) that determines the full nature and extent of air, soil surface water and groundwater contamination associated with the site, and to identify all existing potential pathways through which the contaminants could travel. In addition to the RI, a Feasibility Study (FS) will be conducted to evaluate various possible methods that could be used to effectively remedy the site. Also, a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) will be conducted to develop cleanup goals for the site. The HRA will evaluate potential adverse human health effects and determine whether chemical exposures pose any health risks to the community. The RI/FS and HRA, when completed, will be made available for public review at the Information Repositories (*see page 4*). Additional field work will be conducted at the site by ARC under DTSC oversight as early as November 2005.

Project Next Steps

After completion of the RI/FS and HRA, a draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) will be developed that

proposes a cleanup plan for the site. The proposed cleanup plan will take into account site-specific scientific findings, best available technologies, potential future site uses and input obtained from the community. The draft RAP will be made available to the public for comment and will be advertised in a future mailing. A public meeting will also be held to discuss the project and receive public comments.

Who To Call For More Information

If you have questions or concerns about the environmental investigations or activities conducted please contact the following DTSC staff:

Mr. Joseph Cully, Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5473
E-mail: jcully@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Stacey Lear, Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
(714) 484-5354
E-mail: slear@dtsc.ca.gov

For more information about DTSC please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov. For more information about USEPA, please visit www.epa.gov.

DTSC Information Line

To further encourage communication with the public, a toll free, 800-information line has been established for residents and stakeholders to leave messages. If you have questions or concerns, your message will be recorded and forwarded to DTSC staff for contact and response. The toll free number is 1-800-313-2226.

Media Inquiries

If you are a member of the media and wish to have more information on the Gardena Sumps project, please contact:

Ms. Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
(818) 551-2176
E-mail: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice To Hearing Impaired

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378). Ask them to connect you with Ms. Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5343 regarding the Gardena Sumps project.

Where To Find Site Documents

Technical documents pertaining to this site are available for public viewing at the following Information Repository locations:

Gardena Mayme Dear Library
1731 W. Gardena Blvd.
Gardena, CA 90247
(310) 323-6363
Call for hours

Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: Ms. Julie Johnson for an appointment
(714) 484-5337



Ms. Stacey Lear
Department of Toxic Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

**See Inside!
Information on
Gardena Sumps.**