



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, September 2007

Loma Rica Ranch Cleanup Proposal Available for Public Review and Comment

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) during a public comment period (September 10 through October 10, 2007) for the proposed cleanup of the Loma Rica Ranch site. The 450-acre site is located near the intersection of Brunswick and Idaho Maryland Roads in Grass Valley. Past mining operations at the site contaminated some soil with lead and arsenic.

Environmental investigations occurred at four areas of the site (Area M1, M2, M3 and the former Domestic Disposal Area) (see map). The environmental investigations concluded that past mining activities contaminated some soil with lead and arsenic. Before the current owner can develop the site they must complete cleanup activities under DTSC oversight as outlined below.

PROPOSED CLEANUP

The goal of the proposed cleanup is to reduce the potential human health risk associated with elevated levels of lead in soil. Before a cleanup method was approved, several alternative methods were evaluated. The options considered were:

- * Leaving the impacted soil in place and not cleaning it up,
- * Excavating contaminated soil and disposing of it on site,
- * Excavating contaminated soil and transporting it to an offsite landfill; and,
- * Placing a deed restriction on the property.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public comments on the Loma Rica Ranch site's draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) and Notice of Exemption are being accepted:

September 10 through October 10, 2007

Written comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2007 and should be addressed to Mr. James Rohrer, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826. Comments may be submitted by email to Mr. Rohrer at jrohrer@dtsc.ca.gov.

Copies of the draft RAW and the Notice of Exemption are available for review at the Grass Valley Public Library, 207 Mill Street, Grass Valley, California, 95945. Call (530) 273-4117 for days and hours of operation. Information is also available at the DTSC Cal Center office in Sacramento. Please contact Mr. Rohrer at (916) 255-3709 to setup an appointment to review files at the Cal Center office.



The proposed cleanup outlined in the draft RAW workplan includes: excavation and off-site disposal of lead contaminated soil from Area M1; and, placing a deed restriction on Area M1 and Area M2 limiting what they can be used for in the future. For example, the deed restriction requires that contaminated soil at Area M1 and Area M2 (approximately 3000 cubic yards) not be used for any purpose. No cleanup of Area M3 is required. Upon removal of any remaining debris, the excavated soil from the former Disposal Area will be placed back in the excavated area.

DTSC will make a final decision on the draft RAW after all comments submitted during the comment period have been considered.

EFFECTS OF THE CLEANUP ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Before DTSC can approve a cleanup method, it must meet the requirements of a California state law known as the California Environmental Quality Act (commonly referred to as CEQA). The purpose of CEQA is to analyze if a proposed cleanup could impact the environment. The proposed cleanup at the site involves removal of a relatively small amount of lead contaminated soil in a comparatively short period of time; therefore, DTSC has determined that the proposed cleanup qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA and will have no potential negative effect on the environment. The Notice of Exemption will be available for review during the public comment period.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

DTSC will not make a decision to approve or amend the draft RAW until the public has had an opportunity to review and provide comment on the documents. Once a determination is made, a document titled "Response to Comments" will be sent to anyone who submitted comments during the comment period, anyone who requests a copy, and at the information repositories that have been established for this project. The Response to Comments outlines all comments received and DTSC's response to those comments.

NEXT STEPS

A flier announcing the beginning of cleanup activities (for example, the type of equipment to be used, hours and days of operation) will be distributed prior to work beginning.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

The draft RAW and Notice of Exemption are available for public review at the Grass Valley Public Library, 207 Mill Street, Grass Valley, California, 95945. Call (530) 273-4117 for days and hours of operation.

These documents are also available for review at the Department of Toxic Substances Control's office located at 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California. Please contact Mr. Jim Rohrer at (916) 255-3709, if you wish to review documents at the Cal Center office.

The documents may also be reviewed electronically at <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>. Enter Grass Valley under City, select the Loma Rica site, then click on Community Involvement.

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

Comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by 5:00 p.m. on October 10, 2007. Send your comments to:

Mr. James Rohrer
Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 255-3709
jrohrer@dtsc.ca.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have question about the proposed cleanup, please call or e-mail Mr. James Rohrer or Ms. Heidi Nelson, Public Participation Specialist, Department of Toxic Substances Control at (916) 255-3575 or free of charge at (866) 495-5651, hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

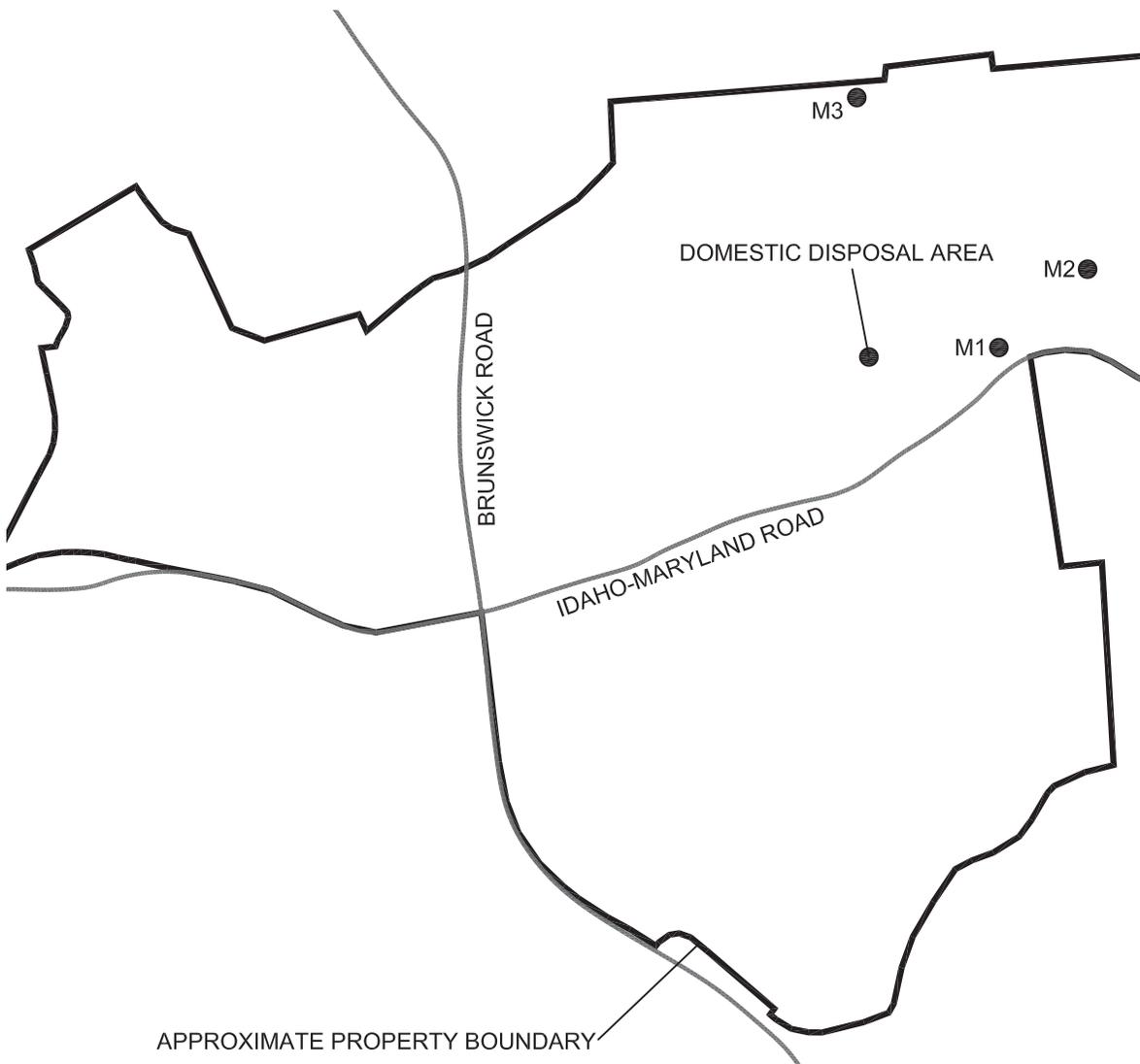
Members of the media are requested to contact Mr. Ron Baker, Public Information Officer, Department of Toxic Substances Control at (916) 324-3142, rbaker@dtsc.ca.gov.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay service at (888-877-5378) (TDD). Ask them to contact Mr. James Rohrer at (916) 255-3708 regarding the Loma Rica Ranch project.

DTSC WEBSITE

To learn more about DTSC you are encouraged to visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.



Map Not To Scale