



State of California  
City of San Diego  
Semper Vigilans

# QUINCE STREET BURN SITE, SAN DIEGO, CA



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC  
SUBSTANCES CONTROL  
State of California  
California Environmental  
Protection Agency

**Fact Sheet**

**February 2002**

## INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites comments on the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) to remove contaminated burn ash soils from the Quince Street Burn Site, that may pose a threat to human health and the environment. DTSC is overseeing the development and implementation of the RAW and will confirm that the remediation goals of the project have been met. The public comment period begins on February 8, 2002 and closes on March 11, 2002.

This is the second burn site in the City Heights community being addressed by the City of San Diego. The first site is known as the Redwood Street Burn Site and is located one block north of Quince Street. Due to the sites proximity and similarities, studies and knowledge gained during the Redwood Street investigation and cleanup were used for the Quince Street project.

Burn ash is produced as a residual material from the burning of refuse. Burning refuse was a typical disposal practice in the past because it substantially reduced the volume of these materials and minimized potential problems at old dump sites.

## SITE DESCRIPTION

The Quince Street Burn Site is located in the vicinity of 38<sup>th</sup>, 39<sup>th</sup> and Quince Streets in the City Heights neighborhood of San Diego, California. The Burn site is located on portions of 13 residential properties, Caltrans right-of-way, and under the City of San Diego right-of way. Most properties are single-family residential, though there are a few multi-family residential units.

## SITE CHARACTERIZATION REPORT (SCR)

As discussed in prior meetings with the community, the area of the proposed removal is shown on the enclosed map. The boundaries were identified through

### PUBLIC MEETING

DTSC and the City of San Diego invite you to hear more about this project and submit your questions and comments at a community meeting to be held:

February 25, 2002  
6:30 p.m.

City Heights Recreation Center  
4380 Landis Street  
San Diego CA 92115

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

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trenching and soil samples from the surface and down to 25 feet.

Based on the results of the sampling, and the potential health impacts related to elevated constituents, lead was found to be the major chemical of concern. In a few samples, elevated levels of metals such as antimony, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper and zinc along with organic constituents such as dioxins, furans, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and PCBs were also found in the burn ash material.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

A risk assessment is used to determine the current risk posed to individuals coming into direct contact with the chemicals. For Quince Street Burn Site a human health screening evaluation was conducted. In addition, the Redwood Street burn site health risk assessment was used. This was done because both sites accepted similar waste streams and both operated during the same time frame.

According to the risk assessments, there is currently an unacceptable risk to human health if clean up is not performed.

## **DRAFT REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN**

To remove this risk, the draft Removal Action Workplan proposes to remove the top three feet of soil, within the unpaved areas, and replace it with certified clean soils, graded to previous conditions and then landscaped. After completion of the RAW, land use restrictions would be recorded to prevent inappropriate uses. Local enforcement agencies will provide future inspection and maintenance of the area. The removal areas include: 2913, 2933, 2953, 2959, 2963, 2967, 3005, 3009, 3015 38<sup>th</sup> Street, 2968, 3006, 3010 39<sup>th</sup> Street, and the City of San Diego's right-of-way.

Although alternatives to excavation were examined (for example, capping the site), removing the top three feet of soil and backfilling with clean soil is proposed as the best clean up option. This proposed decision is based primarily on its protectiveness to human health and also its cost effectiveness and implementability.

The total volume of soil to be removed is approximately 5276 cubic yards. Prior to removal the area would be marked using stakes or paint to identify the removal area. Construction equipment, such as a front-end loader equipped with a backhoe, would be used to remove the soil and place in stockpiles near the excavation area. A security guard would be used to ensure the safety of the work zone during non-work hours.

During removal activities, the soils would be lightly sprayed with water as needed to keep dust within the removal areas. The stockpiled soil would also be misted with water as needed and would be covered with plastic during non-work hours. In addition, air monitoring would be done in the worker's breathing zone and at the edge of the excavation area.

Approximately 395 trucks would be needed to haul the contaminated soils to a permitted disposal facility. Prior to leaving the work site, contaminated soil in trucks would be secured with a plastic cover. A flag person would be used to ensure safe entrance and exit of the trucks.

Proposed daily work hours are from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Saturday. It is envisioned that the project would start in spring 2002 and take place over 10 to 12 weeks.

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

CEQA is a state law that requires agencies making a discretionary decision to evaluate whether the proposed project will harm the environment. For this project, the City of San Diego, Environmental Analysis Section conducted a review (called an Initial Study) to

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determine if implementing the RAW, as currently written, would harm the environment. Based upon that review, a draft Mitigated Negative Declaration is proposed. This document concludes that because of the specific mitigation measures that will be instituted, the proposed cleanup will not result in any negative effect to public health or the environment.

## **DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN**

A draft Public Participation Plan is also available for public review and comment and can be found in the Appendixes of the draft RAW. This draft document summarizes the community's concerns as they were reflected during discussions with the residents and past community meetings. The document also contains information on demographics, land use and proposed future outreach activities to address the community's information needs.

## **PRE-REMOVAL ACTIVITIES**

To further identify the needs of the residents impacted by this removal, the City will meet with the individual residents prior to the removal. Discussions will focus on how best to address the needs of each household. If impacted residents chose to relocate, the City will assist them in this activity.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Following completion of the public review and comment period on the draft RAW and CEQA documents, DTSC and the City of San Diego will evaluate and respond to all comments received. Based upon that review, the documents will either be modified or accepted as they currently read. All individuals who submitted comments will receive a copy of the written response to their question or concern. DTSC's approval of the RAW will come after the Response to Comments is issued. The approval of the CEQA and RAW will be placed on the City of San Diego Council Agenda tentatively scheduled for April 2002.

## INFORMATION CONTACTS

Please contact any of the following sources of information if you have questions about this project. Inquiries and comments about the CEQA material should be directed to the City; all questions and comments about the draft RAW should be directed to DTSC.

DTSC  
Marsha Mingay  
Public Participation Supervisor  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630  
(714) 484-5416  
E-Mail: [MMingay@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:MMingay@dtsc.ca.gov)

City of San Diego  
Donna Clark  
Environmental Analysis Section  
1222 First Avenue MS 501  
San Diego CA 92101  
(619) 446-5387  
E-Mail: [dwclark@sandiego.gov](mailto:dwclark@sandiego.gov)

All media calls to DTSC should be directed to: Ms. Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer  
(818) 551-2176.

### Copies of the draft documents are located at:

City Heights Weingart Library  
3795 Fairmont Ave  
San Diego CA 92105  
(619) 641-6100

