

## FACT SHEET

OCTOBER 2001



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.

# Public Comment Period Westley Tire Fire Site Draft Removal Action Workplan



## WESTLEY, CALIFORNIA

### Public Review and Comment Period

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) encourages you to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) and review a Notice of Exemption for the Westley Tire Fire site during a public comment period which runs from October 17 through November 17, 2000. A public meeting will be held on October 30, 2001, to provide details, answer questions, and take comments on the Draft RAW.

### Open House and Public Meeting October 30, 2001

Grayson Elementary School  
Cafeteria

301 Howard Road

Westley, California

Open House Runs From 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Public Meeting Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Written comments must be postmarked no later than November 17, 2001, and should be sent to :

Eric Wallberg

Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive

Sacramento, CA 95826

(916) 255-3749

Copies of the Draft RAW and Notice of Exemption are available at the Patterson Public Library located at 46 North Salado Avenue, Patterson, California.

### INTRODUCTION

This is the third in a series of fact sheets that describes investigation and proposed cleanup activities for the Westley Tire Fire site (Site) located in the vicinity of 4401 and 4549 Ingram Creek Road, Westley, Stanislaus County, California. This fact sheet discusses Site history and background, the Draft Removal Action Workplan and California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption, public involvement opportunities, and project contacts.

### SITE HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Since the early 1960s the Site operated as a used-tire disposal facility. In 1987 a waste-to-energy facility was constructed at the Site by Modesto Energy Limited

Partnership to convert tires into energy. On September 22, 1999, lightning ignited stockpiled tires which burned until the fire was extinguished on October 26, 1999. After the fire was extinguished, a California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) team consisting of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) was organized to conduct environmental investigations.

Remediation activities that have occurred at the Site to date include: installation of a storm water diversion system; shredding and removal of unburned tires; and removal of contaminated soil/sediment.

#### **DRAFT REMOVAL ACTION WORK PLAN**

A Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) has been prepared by a State-approved contractor. The primary objective of the Draft RAW is to perform a time critical removal action to prevent, minimize, or mitigate potential damage to public health and/or the environment; while at the same time continuing to characterize soil and groundwater contamination Site-wide. The Draft RAW summarizes previous studies, outlines available remedial alternatives, and proposes a remedial option. The Draft RAW focuses on remediation as it relates to the removal of tires, ash, debris, and contaminated soil associated with the September 1999 fire.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve or deny the Draft RAW, it is being made available for a 30-day public review and comment period. During the 30-day public comment period, an open house and public meeting to answer questions and accept verbal and written comments on the Draft RAW will be held.

Three alternatives identified in the Draft RAW are as follows:

- Alternative #1: No Action/Institutional Controls
- Alternative #2: Off-Site Disposal
- Alternative #3: Off-Site Disposal With Volume Reduction

Of the three alternatives evaluated, Alternative #2 was selected as the preferred option. Under this alternative approximately 158,000 cubic yards of non-hazardous waste (e.g. unburned tires, ash) would be excavated and transported to an appropriate Class II disposal facility. The remaining 20,600 cubic yards of hazardous waste (e.g. debris containing elevated zinc levels) would be excavated and transported to an appropriate Class I disposal facility. After the debris is moved, clean soil would be placed into the excavated areas to stabilize Site drainage, prevent erosion, and maintain slope stability.

#### **FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

After the 30-day public comment period has ended, DTSC will review all comments received and make a final determination. Anyone who submitted either verbal or written comments on the Draft RAW will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document provides all of the comments submitted during the 30-day comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. The Response to Comments will be available in the repository that has been established for the Site. A fact sheet/flier announcing DTSC's final decision will also be mailed to the Site specific mailing list.

#### **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

On October 30, 2001, an open house and public meeting will be held at Grayson Elementary School, 301 Howard Road, Westley, California. The open house will run from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. The formal public meeting will be begin at 7:00 p.m.

In addition, fact sheets such as this one will be developed as technical milestones are reached; however, you are encouraged to contact any of the following individuals throughout the life of the project with any questions or concerns you may have:

Eric Wallberg  
Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
(916) 255-3749

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Integrated Waste Management Board  
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(916) 341-6687

Kim Schwabb, R.G.  
Associate Engineering Geologist  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
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Sacramento, California 95827-3003  
(916) 255-3137

Heidi Nelson  
Public Participation Specialist  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
(916) 255-3575

Ron Baker  
Media Contact  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
P.O. Box 806  
Sacramento, California 95812-0806  
(916) 324-3142

## REPOSITORY LOCATION

Copies of the Draft RAW and Notice of Exemption are available at the Patterson Public Library located at 46 North Salado Avenue, Patterson. Please contact the library directly at (209) 892-6473 for hours of operation.

## NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Eric Wallberg at (916) 255-3749 regarding the Westley Tire Fire site.

## MEETING ACCESSIBILITY

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Ms. Heidi Nelson at (916) 255-3575.

### *Mailing List Coupon*

If you have any comments concerning the **Westley Tire Fire site** or if you would like to be put on the Site specific mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Ms. Heidi Nelson, DTSC, Public Participation Branch, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826. 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 Code

Phone Number:

E-Mail:

Fax Number: