



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD  
The Draft Removal Action Workplan for  
Brownfields Cleanup-Proposed Civic Center  
Is Available for Review  
Visalia, California**



Public Comment Period: May 1, 2009 through June 1, 2009

**WHAT'S BEING PROPOSED?**

A draft cleanup plan to remove soil containing lead and cadmium from the proposed Civic Center Property is available for public review and comment. The draft plan, known as a Removal Action Workplan (RAW) was submitted by the City of Visalia Community Development Department and the Redevelopment Agency (collectively Agency) for the vacant properties located on Burke Street and north of East Center Street in Visalia California. The new Civic Center complex will consist of municipal buildings, landscape areas, and road improvements and parking areas. In 2006 the Agency was awarded two brownfields hazardous substances cleanup grants by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to cleanup the properties.

There is no immediate health or environmental risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However because potential exposure for the future land use may cause an adverse health effect, DTSC recommended that the Agency prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose the contaminated soil to protect future occupants and visitors of the proposed Civic Center. DTSC will oversee the cleanup plan that will take place prior to construction of the new Civic Center and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

The Site consists of two vacant parcels totaling 11.23 acres. Previous Site uses (from 1913 to 1976) include a former auto wrecking and dismantler, loading docks and warehouse storage, and rail house. An active rail line traverses the Site. All previous buildings have been removed, although concrete building pads remain onsite.

The Draft RAW proposed to removal and off-site disposal of approximately 341 cubic yards (about 17 truckloads) of contaminated soil.

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT – NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

DTSC evaluated any possible impacts of the removal action for this project, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) that states this removal action will not have a significant impact on the environment. The Draft NOE is available for public review, along with other supporting documents.

**WHY THIS NOTICE?**

The purpose of this notice is to provide you with the opportunity to learn more about the project and to provide comments to DTSC, concerning the proposed soil removal action, within thirty (30) days of this notice.

**HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?**

Your participation is encouraged. Comment concerning the Draft RAW may be submitted in writing to Mr. Mike Pfister, DTSC Project Manager, 1515 Tollhouse Road Clovis, California 93611 or e-mail [mpfister@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:mpfister@dtsc.ca.gov). All mail must be postmarked by 5 PM on June 1, 2009. Emailed comments must be received by DTSC no later than 5 PM on the same date.

**WHERE DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?**

A copy of the draft RAW and NOE are available for review in the Information Repositories located at Tulare County Library, Visalia Branch, 200 W. Oak Ave, Visalia, California, or DTSC File Room, 1515 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, California 93611.

**CONTACT:**

If you have any further questions or wish to discuss the project, please contact Mr. Mike Pfister, Project Manger, at Phone (599) 297-3958 or by e-mail to [mpfister@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:mpfister@dtsc.ca.gov). For public participation activities, please contact Mr. Nathan Schumacher, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3650 or by e-mail to [nschumac@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:nschumac@dtsc.ca.gov). Members of the media should contact Ms. Claudia Loomis, DTSC Public Information Office, at (916) 255-6578 or by e-mail to [cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov).