COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and the environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

Para información en español por favor comuniquese con Jesus Cruz al numero (916) 255-3315.

Cleanup of Riverside Agricultural Park In Riverside Completed in April 2014

Why This Notice: Our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), provided lead regulatory oversight of the removal of soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at the Riverside Agricultural Park site, located at 7020 Crest Avenue in the city of Riverside. DTSC is a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, and is responsible for overseeing environmental investigation and cleanup activities at sites such as Riverside Agricultural Park. The site is a vacant parcel of land bordered by Crest Avenue, Rutland Avenue and the Santa Ana River. The site is currently undergoing approved activities consistent with residential development.

This notice is designed to inform the community about the environmental cleanup work already conducted at the site, and correct a recent series of inaccuracies that have recently been noted. DTSC was contacted by community members to ensure the approved soil removal activities did not harm people or the environment. DTSC's goal is to provide correct information to nearby residents and interested community members.

To correct misinformation, DTSC offers the following facts:

Riverside Agricultural Park IS NOT a Toxic Waste Dump
The property is not now, nor has ever been a disposal facility for toxic waste. Soil contamination resulted from the operation of a former sewage treatment plant built by the U.S. Army on the site in 1942, run by a private utility company from 1947 to 1963, acquired by the City of Riverside in 1963, and operated by the City until 1965.

Riverside Agricultural Park IS NOT Currently Contaminated With PCBs
The site has been cleaned up. DTSC was the lead regulatory agency that provided oversight of the cleanup action and ensured that cleanup activities were performed in a manner that did not harm people or the environment. The cleanup was done in accordance with a Response Plan that was approved by DTSC in August 2006. Although DTSC approved the Response Plan in August 2006, actual cleanup activities were delayed due to unforeseen circumstances and changes in the economy. The cleanup work was divided into two phases, Phase 1, and Phase 2.

Phase 1 - Between April and July 2009, about 8,666 tons of soil and 720 tons of concrete containing PCB concentrations above 50 milligrams per kilogram (MG/kg) were removed during Phase 1 work. 50 mg/kg is the total threshold limit concentration for hazardous waste in California. This soil was disposed at the waste Management, Incorporated (WMI), Kettleman Hills facility in Kettleman City, California.

Phase 2 - Between July 2013 and January 2014, about 166, 000 tons of soil containing PCB concentrations above 0.22 mg/kg were removed during Phase 2 work. 0.22 mg/kg was the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regional screening level (RSL) for residential use of a property. The soil was transported to the Waste Management, Inc., Azusa Land Reclamation facility in Azusa, California, for recycling.

Confirmation samples were collected to ensure that cleanup goals were met. Details of the cleanup activities along with supporting information such as laboratory reports and manifests documenting the transport and disposal of the soil removed from the site are included in a Phase 1 Response Plan Implementation Report and a Phase 2 Response Plan Implementation Report.

The Area Around Riverside Agricultural Park Has NOT BEEN Designated As a Cancer Cluster
In response to community concern, DTSC reached out to the Riverside County Department of Disease Control and the California Cancer Registry. These agencies have the authority to examine disease and cancer. Neither the Riverside County Department of Disease Control nor the California Cancer Registry has been informed of cancer concerns in this area. Therefore, the community around the site has not been identified as a cancer cluster.

Riverside Agricultural Park HAS BEEN Cleared for Residential Development by the City
Currently, the property is planned for residential development as the site has been certified by DTSC, which allows for residential use. Residential development is planned to begin in January 2015 and will take about 12 months to complete. The City of Riverside Planning Department approved the development on May 23, 2003. Work will be conducted during daylight hours 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. There are no street or road closures that are anticipated to occur.

How to Get More Information: The approved Response Plan, implementation reports and other project documents are available for review electronically at www.EnviroStor.dtsc.ca.gov, or at the DTSC Cypress office, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732. Contact Ms. Julie Johnson at (714) 484-5337 for an appointment, or at following Information Repository locations:

Riverside Planning Department
3900 Main Street, 3rd Floor
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 826-5624

La Sierra Branch Library
4600 La Sierra Avenue
Riverside, CA 92505-2763
(951) 688-7740 call for hours

Questions?
For questions regarding the Phase 1 and Phase 2 cleanup, contact Maryam Tasnif-Abbasi, DTSC Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732, or via e-mail at Maryam.Tasnif-Abbasi@dtsc.ca.gov, or Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630-4732, (714) 484-5354 or via e-mail at Stacey.Lear@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions regarding your personal health, please contact your personal physician. If you do have access to healthcare, please contact Riverside Community Connect 1-800-464-1123.

For reporting incidences of cancer or other illnesses, please contact the Riverside County Disease Control Branch at (951) 358-5107.

For cancer information and questions about cancer monitoring and cancer clusters – The California Cancer Registry has not currently been informed of cancer concerns in this area. Please contact Dr. John Morgan, Regional Epidemiologist, Region 5, California Cancer Registry at (909) 558-6181 for questions about cancer occurrences.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals
TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach Stacey Lear, DTSC Public Participation Specialist at (714) 484-5354 or toll-free 1-866-495-5651.