DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL
NOVEMBER 28, 2017
RIVERSIDE AG PARK / SITE CLEANUP & NEIGHBORHOOD SAMPLING

FINAL DRAFT

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Dear Community Member:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing cleanup activities on the Riverside Agricultural Park (Ag Park) property, located at 7020 Crest Avenue in Riverside. This cleanup consists of removing soil containing chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from Ag Park, and it is expected to be completed by the end of 2017. To address community concerns, DTSC has also conducted soil sampling at certain neighborhood properties bordering Ag Park. The following is a more detailed update of onsite work and a summary of the neighborhood sampling results for Ag Park.

Ag Park Cleanup

- DTSC has provided full-time oversight for air monitoring and dust control at Ag Park, and has overseen the collection of nearly 7,000 soil samples. DTSC has also overseen the excavation and hauling away of over 11,900 truckloads of soil. It is anticipated that the soil removal will be completed by the end of 2017.

- After soil removal work is completed, a full report will be prepared for DTSC's review to document all Ag Park cleanup activities. DTSC is working in partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), and will consult and concur with US EPA on the effectiveness of the final phase of the cleanup. Upon completion of this review, the final report will be made available to the public.

Neighborhood Soil Sampling

- In response to community concerns, DTSC conducted soil sampling in the neighborhood near Ag Park. DTSC shared a Draft Sampling Plan with the community and released it for a 30-day public comment period. After consideration of all comments, DTSC finalized the sampling plan and began the neighborhood soil sampling in mid-summer 2017. Please see the attached for more background information related to the neighborhood soil sampling.

- DTSC sampled 27 properties, including two properties owned by the City of Riverside (Rutland Park and a right-of-way bordering Ag Park on the west), where public has access to. DTSC prepared a report for each property where sampling was conducted. DTSC has shared the sampling results with the City of Riverside (for City's properties) and with each resident (for their own property) whose property was sampled. DTSC has also offered to meet with each resident in person to review their individual sampling results. For privacy reasons, the individual sampling results are confidential, however, the summary of the sampling results are discussed below.

- DTSC and US EPA have determined that neighborhood sampling results demonstrated that conditions are health protective for residents of the properties adjacent to Ag Park that participated in the neighborhood sampling program. However, as a precautionary measure, DTSC intends to conduct additional sampling at one residential property where two (2) of DTSC's collected soil sample results showed higher PCB detected concentrations. The following is a summary of the sampling results:

    - A total of 119 soil samples (111 from both front and back yards of residential properties and 8 from City public access areas) were collected and all analyzed. In addition, 25 duplicate or split samples were also collected and all 144 samples were analyzed.
    - Of the 144 total samples, 103 showed no detection of PCBs at all,36 of the samples with detection of PCBs were below the US EPA screening (conservative health protective) level of 0.22 milligram per kilogram (mg/kg). It should be noted that PCBs detected above the screening level of 0.22 mg/kg may also be considered health protective.
    - Of the remaining five (5) samples, two (2) were at the backyard of two of the residential properties adjacent to Ag Park and measured at 0.275 mg/kg or less and very close to the screening level of 0.22 mg/kg. Based on a health risk evaluation, DTSC and US EPA consider the results health protective. One (1) sample at the City property was at 0.529, which is also below (almost one half of) non-residential screening (conservative health protective) level of 0.94 mg/kg. All three (3) sample results are considered health protective.
    - Two (2) of the samples at one residential property's backyard adjacent to Ag Park were above the US EPA cleanup goal of 1.0 mg/kg. However, the US EPA analyzed a split of one of the samples and showed that the result was below 1.0 mg/kg. As a precautionary measure, DTSC intends to conduct additional sampling at this residential property to further evaluate potential risks in this backyard.
    - US EPA collected and analyzed soil samples (split samples) of the same areas sampled by DTSC and all of the US EPA's sample results indicate that the properties sampled are health protective.

We appreciate your participation in the development of the sampling protocol and patience while we complete the cleanup work at the Ag Park, and the evaluation of any potential health risk in the adjacent neighborhood. DTSC is committed to the ongoing protection of public health and the environment, and the completion of this cleanup project.

Thank You

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