COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

DTSC Announces Cleanup Completion at the Riverside Agricultural Park, Riverside

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has determined the Phase 3 cleanup of the Riverside Ag Park, also known as the "Ag Park", located at 7020 Crest Avenue, Riverside, has been completed and the Ag Park is suitable for reuse.

Interested in learning more?

Join DTSC and US EPA at the Riverside City Council Meeting

When: 7:00 PM, August 28th, 2018

Location:
Art Pick Council Chamber
3900 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

Background

Soil contamination at the Ag Park resulted from the operation of a former sewage treatment plant built by the U.S. Army on the Ag Park in 1942 as part of the 1,247-acre Camp Anza. After Camp Anza closed in 1946, the sewage treatment plant was run by a private utility company from 1947 to 1963 and then acquired by the City of Riverside in 1963. The City operated the plant until 1965. The Ag Park was used intermittently until the early 2000s for various other activities. In July and August of 2003, the above-ground concrete structures associated with the former sewage treatment plant were demolished, and there was a spill of sludge; this incident started the process of environmental evaluation, leading to DTSC's oversight in 2005.

Several environmental investigations were performed at the Site between 1989 and 2006. Two phases of cleanup were also conducted. The Phase 1 cleanup consisted of the removal of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-impacted soil to a target level of 50 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) and was conducted in 2009. The Phase 2 cleanup efforts consisted of the removal of PCB-impacted soil to a target level of 0.22 mg/kg (based on the US EPA Region 9 Preliminary Remediation Goal [PRG] at the time) and was conducted in 2013 and 2014. Between these two phases of remediation, a combined total of ~204,000 tons of material were removed. DTSC approved the cleanup and certified the Ag Park in April 2014. Subsequently, the owner of the Ag Park proceeded with the process for preparing the property for residential development.

Community involvement resulted in collaborative activities with DTSC

Ag Park Re-Evaluation

In March 2015, a community group requested both a re-analysis of Ag Park data and United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) involvement. DTSC's response included establishing a relationship with US EPA for consultation on decisions for the Ag Park, and the collection and evaluation of additional samples. The analysis of the new data led to the discovery of previously unknown areas of PCB concentrations above the target level, and consequently DTSC and US EPA requested the Phase 3 cleanup.

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Phase 3 Cleanup

Phase 3 activities were initiated to address the previously unknown areas of PCB soil contamination and were implemented between August 2016 and January 2018. DTSC provided full time oversight for all soil disturbance activities. A rigorous air monitoring and dust suppression program was implemented in consultation with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), also under DTSC's consistent oversight. Approximately 7,235 soil samples were collected over the course of the Phase 3 implementation to assess the adequacy of excavation.
Excavation areas were completed only after verifying PCB concentrations were less than their respective cleanup goals for residential land use. The total amount of soil removed during Phase 3 was approximately 303,000 tons.

Over 7,200 soil samples were collected, and 303,000 tons of soil were successfully removed

DTSC and US EPA Approval

Data indicates that all known concentrations in excess of the cleanup goals, have been removed. Both US EPA and DTSC have determined the Ag Park is suitable for residential development.

Next Steps

DTSC's involvement in the Ag Park property cleanup is now complete. Any further decisions regarding redevelopment will be made by the City of Riverside.

Neighborhood Evaluation

To address community concerns about possible impact from historical activities in the Ag Park on the neighborhood, DTSC sampled 27 properties adjacent to the Ag Park, including two properties owned by the City of Riverside (Rutland Park and a right-of-way bordering Ag Park on the west). DTSC and US EPA determined the levels of PCBs **are below** a level of health concern for both the City properties, and the residential properties that participated in the sampling. However, as a precautionary measure, DTSC is working with the City of Riverside to conduct a cleanup in the backyard of one of the homes where PCB concentrations were slightly higher than the cleanup goal for the Ag Park.

More Information

For information, contact Philip McPhaul, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (714) 484-5488 or via e-mail at [HYPERLINK "mailto:Philip.McPhaul@dtsc.ca.gov"]

For media inquiries, please contact Sandy Nax, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (916) 327-6114, or via e-mail: [HYPERLINK "mailto:Sandy.Nax@dtsc.ca.gov"]

Notice to Hearing Impaired
TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378.

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