Laytonville Landfill and Health Concerns raised by Tribes at the Laytonville Rancheria

Background

Cahto and the Wailaki tribal members on the Laytonville Rancheria, adjacent to the Laytonville Landfill, are concerned with potential health impacts from living by the landfill. In 2016, sampling by the Tribe found arsenic, lead and hexavalent chromium as contaminants of concern. Since then the Tribes and GreenAction have raised concerns with increased cancer and respiratory issues at the Rancheria and have advocated to CA and BIA that tribal members be relocated away from the landfill.

EPA reviewed the Tribe's analytical report and two subsequent sampling reports from BIA sampling conducted in 2017. The Tribe's 2016 analytical results showed minor hits of three metals; arsenic, lead, and hexavalent chromium. In 2017 BIA conducted two rounds of more extensive soil testing in 20 quadrants throughout the Rancheria. The results were similar for arsenic, no lead above Residential Screening Level and no detections of hexavalent chromium.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control collected samples at the landfill itself and we are waiting for those results.

The question for us is, is there evidence of elevated levels of constituents from the landfill that would result in an increased prevalence of illness to those living around it? Data to date does not indicate elevated levels of constituents that would lead us to recommend that DTSC or BIA consider relocation of people from their homes near the landfill.

Talking points

1) We share tribal concerns about elevated cancer rates and respiratory illness.

2) Based on the testing we have seen from the Rancheria we have not seen evidence of elevated levels of constituents that would result in an increased prevalence of illness.

3) We should know more about constituents found at the landfill when we get information from the DTSC sampling.

4) Region 9 will continue to support DTSC and BIA in their work with this community.