



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## San Francisco Bay Region



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400, Oakland, California 94612  
(510) 622-2300 • Fax (510) 622-2460  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay>

Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

### Cleanup Activity Fact Sheet Former Los Medanos Tank Farm 2360 Buchanan Road, Pittsburg August 2007

#### Purpose

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) has prepared this Fact Sheet to provide information about the proposed cleanup of soils at former Los Medanos Tank Farm. The site is located along the Antioch/Pittsburg boundary, near the intersection of Somersville and Buchanan Roads (see Site Location Map). The Water Board will oversee site cleanup activities. This Fact Sheet summarizes existing information about the proposed site restoration project and is intended to facilitate community awareness.

#### Background & Site History

Los Medanos Tank Farm was built around 1913 and contained 40 above-ground storage tanks, each with a capacity of about 35,000 barrels. The site was owned and operated by Chevron, USA, and the tanks were used to store crude oil prior to refining. The site was used until 1980. In 1981, all of the tanks and associated piping were dismantled and removed, with the exception of the one tank still used by Chevron at its pump station on Buchanan Road (see map).

#### Soil and Groundwater Contamination

Environmental investigations begun in the 1980s and completed in 2005 have characterized the extent of chemical contamination at the site. Soil contamination consists primarily of residual petroleum hydrocarbons derived from the breakdown of crude oil. Toxic constituents such as benzene and organic solvents are generally not present. Soils containing elevated concentrations of lead were removed in the 1980s and current metals concentrations do not exceed local background levels. Petroleum hydrocarbon impacts in soil generally do not extend more than 15 feet below ground surface. However, two former tank locations will require excavation to a depth of 20 feet.

Groundwater was not encountered in any of the soil borings drilled to a depth of 25 feet, and earlier investigations showed no groundwater present at depths less than 100 feet. A water well at the northern end of the site was sampled and contained no detectable fuel hydrocarbons. Therefore, it does not appear that groundwater has been impacted at the site, and it is unlikely that petroleum hydrocarbons have migrated offsite.



Site Location Map

#### Site Restoration and Redevelopment Plans

The current property owner, West Coast Home Builders, has submitted a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to the Water Board that describes the soil cleanup plan for a 140-acre portion of the former tank farm. Soil cleanup is needed to prepare the site for proposed residential redevelopment. An adjacent 50-acre parcel in the western part of the former tank farm was cleaned up and redeveloped as Highlands Ranch Phase I between 2001 and 2003. This proposed development is known as Highlands Ranch Phase II.

The Remedial Action Plan proposes excavation of petroleum-impacted soils followed by on-site bioremediation as the soil cleanup remedy. Bioremediation is a form of enhanced breakdown of organic material such as petroleum hydrocarbons, in which the natural processes are accelerated by addition of soil amendments. These amendments stimulate the growth of micro-organisms in the soil, which then consume the petroleum. An estimated 75,000 cubic yards of petroleum-impacted soils will be excavated and treated onsite in phases. Excavated soils will be placed in onsite bio-treatment cells to reduce soil contaminant concentrations to the target cleanup levels. This treatment is expected to promptly reduce contaminant concentrations and therefore reduce the potential for long-term exposure to contaminated soils. Water Board staff reviewed and approved this remedy in a letter dated July 20, 2007.

Soil cleanup activities at the site may generate odors, dust, and noise that have the potential to be a nuisance to nearby residents. However, generation of dust can be controlled by watering work areas and soil piles if the work is performed during dry conditions. To minimize odors and noise, soil stockpiling and treatment will be performed at a designated location near the center of the 140-acre parcel, at considerable distance from neighboring residences. Because soils will not be hauled offsite, significant impacts on local traffic are not anticipated. The cleanup activities are not expected to affect endangered or threatened species or have other significant negative environmental impacts.

#### **Site Cleanup Criteria**

The risks to human health from soils containing residual petroleum hydrocarbons from degradation of crude oil are low. There are no specific risk-based cleanup criteria for TPH in soil. However, because residential development is planned for the site, it is assumed that direct human contact with shallow soils is likely through common activities such as gardening, landscaping, and pool installation. Therefore, the cleanup goals established for the site must be stringent enough to protect human health assuming unrestricted use. In its July 20, 2007 letter approving the RAP, the Water Board established site cleanup criteria that must be achieved before site redevelopment can begin.

#### **Public Review of Cleanup Plans**

Presentation of this Fact Sheet initiates the Public Participation Process for the proposed cleanup activities at the site. A 30-day public review period will begin on September 4, 2007. Comments on the proposed site cleanup activities will be accepted until **October 5, 2007**.

Documents describing the proposed cleanup, including the Remedial Action Plan, the Water Board's letter approving the RAP, this Fact Sheet, and other relevant documents, are available for review at the Pittsburg Public Library, located at 80 Power Avenue. These documents can also be viewed online at [www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/sitecleanupdocs.htm](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/sitecleanupdocs.htm). Any comments on the proposed cleanup activities should be submitted in writing to the Water Board staff member identified below.

#### **Regulatory Oversight**

The Regional Water Quality Control Board is the lead agency overseeing cleanup activities at this site. The Water Board's oversight and public review process pertains only to site cleanup activities. Contra Costa County will oversee site redevelopment activities and manage the public review process for the redevelopment. If you have specific questions regarding cleanup activities, please contact:

Keith Roberson  
Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 622-2404  
Email: [KRoberson@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:KRoberson@waterboards.ca.gov)

or

Dick Sestero  
West Coast Home Builders  
4021 Port Chicago Highway  
P.O. Box 4113  
Concord, CA 94524  
(925) 602-7235  
Email: [Dsestero@seenohomes.com](mailto:Dsestero@seenohomes.com)