

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program  
700 Heinz Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94710

<b>Project Title:</b> Former Swiss Cleaners Removal Action Workplan		
<b>Project Address:</b> 14540 Camden Avenue	<b>City:</b> San Jose	<b>County:</b> Santa Clara
<b>Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC:</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Removal Action Workplan	<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Permit Issuance	<input type="checkbox"/> Permit Re-Issuance
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrective Measure Study/Statement of Basis	<input type="checkbox"/> Permit Modification	<input type="checkbox"/> Closure Plan
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial Action Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Regulations	<input type="checkbox"/> Interim Removal
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Response Plan		
<b>Statutory Authority:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> California H&SC, Chap. 6.5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California H&SC, Chap. 6.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):		

**Project Description:** The project includes construction of a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system for soil vapor that is impacted with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). This removal action would reduce the human health-based risk associated with the potential for soil vapor migrating into indoor air to a value that would protect human health and the environment. Operation of the SVE system will also help contain the soil gas in the short term while eliminating the contamination over the longer term.

**Background:** The Site is approximately 0.8-acres and is bordered to the east by Leigh Avenue; to the north by Camden Avenue; to the west by a commercial property with an office building; and to the south by single family residences. The Site is located in a commercial development comprised of a single-story building and a parking lot. The commercial building is divided into five suites, including the Site. Currently the Site is unoccupied, while the remaining suites are used for the following businesses: liquor store, sandwich shop, cell phone repair shop, and hair salon.

The current building has occupied the property since 1966. Prior to the commercial development, the property was occupied by single-occupancy residences, and an orchard prior to that. The Site has been a dry-cleaning business since the commercial development of the property. Swiss Cleaners ceased operations in 2015, and all dry-cleaning equipment was removed at that time.

Investigations conducted since 2009 have documented the presence of VOCs in soil and soil vapor beneath the Site. Groundwater has not been impacted at the Site, and groundwater is not pumped from the Site for municipal/domestic usage. This project only addresses the soil gas contamination at the Site.

The most frequently reported VOC in soil vapor is tetrachloroethylene (PCE). PCE was detected at concentrations up to 1,500,000 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). The proposed cleanup goals for PCE at the Site are 2,000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for soil vapor, 2.0  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for indoor air, 67  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for sub-slab soil vapor and 2,700 micrograms per kilogram for soil.

The RAW is being implemented with DTSC oversight pursuant to California Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 25356.1 and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 300).

**Project Activities:** The removal action for soil vapor consists of installation of a SVE system at the Site where elevated concentrations of VOCs are reported. The project activities will consist of the following:

1. Installation of four (4) shallow extraction wells to address the need to remediate the upper subsurface zone in the source area;
2. Installation of two (2) deep extraction wells to provide coverage for eastern portion of the deep zone soil vapor plume;
3. Trenching and plumbing for the six additional extraction wells;
4. Installation of an SVE system with a 20-horsepower motor and a 500 standard cubic feet per minute vacuum pump. Once extracted vapors are out of the ground, they are routed through granulated activated carbon containers to remove the VOCs from the vapors. Treated air that meets air quality standards are released to the atmosphere;
5. System operation monitoring and maintenance including daily inspections for the first five (5) days, or the Startup Testing period, weekly thereafter in compliance with Bay Area Air Quality Management District permit requirements; and

6. Site vapor monitoring including baseline sampling of permanent vapor probe points, on-going system influent and effluent monitoring and sampling, vapor probe points monitoring, and confirmation sampling of vapor points.

It is estimated that the SVE system will be in operation from six months to one year to achieve removal goals.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Department of Toxic Substances Control

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Environmental Engineering Consulting & Remediation, Inc. (E2C) on behalf of Mr. Furtado, Mr. Binder, and Mr. Rosenthal.

**Exempt Status:** (check one)

- Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]  
 Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec. 15269(a)]  
 Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec. 15269(b)(c)]  
 Categorical Exemption: [CCR Title 14, Sec. 153##]  
 Statutory Exemptions: [State Code Section Number]  
 Common Sense Exemption [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

**Exemption Title:** Common Sense Exemption - It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** Based on the following reasons, DTSC has determined with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities in question may have a significant effect on the environment because the project would not result in "a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance."

1. Although the site is on the Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List (Cortese List), the activities are designed to remediate the site.
2. The site is in a previously developed area and does not provide habitat value.
3. In addition, the activities will have no potential for a significant impact due to project controls that will be implemented during the project as summarized below.
  - A California-state licensed construction contractor will conduct the drilling activities associated with installation of the SVE system. Fieldwork will be conducted following the safety guidelines provided in a site-specific health and safety plan (SSHSP) prepared specifically for the project. The SSHSP was prepared in accordance with guidelines set forth in Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 5192 and includes but is not limited to project controls for heavy equipment safety operations, air monitoring for on and off-site emissions, personal protective equipment, and controls of open trenches for worker safety as described below.
  - Well drilling activities will be conducted by California-licensed contractors in accordance with permits acquired from the Santa Clara Valley Water District. An Authority-to-Construct permit for the SVE system will be acquired from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Construction permits will be obtained from the City of San Jose Building Department.
  - Site security will be established according to the type of operations, potential for exposure to contaminants, and potential for contact with other safety hazards. Site security measures that will protect the construction area and prevent unauthorized access include the following: Access will be controlled by the existing fencing, rolling gate, and structures. Only the construction crew, contractor staff, and authorized personnel will be on the Site during working hours. No unauthorized personnel will be allowed in the controlled areas of the Site. All visitors must have prior approval from the contractor, E2C, and DTSC before being admitted to the Site. All visitors must read and acknowledge the SSHSP and possess documentation that they have the training necessary to enter the active work zone.
  - The SVE system will be installed at least 50 feet away from the nearest resident.

- All fieldwork will be conducted according to a SSHSP and only properly trained personnel will be employed. Licensed contractors and transporters will also be used. Prior to trenching, the Underground Services Alert (USA) will be contacted for locating specific Pipelines/conduits/electrical/phone/water/sewer, etc.
  - Vapor discharge from the treatment system will comply with emission standards specified in Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Regulation 8, Rule 47.
  - The community surrounding the Site will not be affected because the noise and dust levels will be controlled by engineering controls.
4. The results of a Sacred Lands file search were received from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on October 25, 2018. The NAHC search results did not indicate the presence of Native American resources at the site. DTSC contacted seven tribal contacts identified by the NAHC and received no requests for consultation regarding the project.


Evidence to support the above reasons is documented in the project file record, available for inspection at:

Cambrian Branch Library  
 1780 Hillsdale Avenue  
 San Jose, California 95124  
 (408) 808-3080; call for hours

DTSC – File Room  
 700 Heinz Avenue  
 Berkeley, CA 94710  
 (510) 540-3800; call for an appointment

Or on DTSC’s EnviroStor website: [https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=60001870](https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60001870)

Jayantha Randeni Project Manager	Senior Hazardous Substances Engineer Title	(510) 540-3806 Phone No.
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 Branch Chief's Signature	9/19/2019 Date
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Julie Pettijohn Branch Chief	Branch Chief Title	(510) 540-3843 Phone No.
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**TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY**  
 Governor’s Office of Planning & Research

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