

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

2019100655

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
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

Project Title: City of El Centro Water Treatment Plant Removal Action Workplan		
Project Address: 3010 South 8 th Street 92243	City: El Centro	County: Imperial
Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC:		
<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):		
Statutory Authority:		
<input type="checkbox"/> California H&SC, Chap. 6.5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California H&SC, Chap. 6.8, Section 25300 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):		

Project Description: The project involves the excavation of approximately 1,443 cubic yards of soil impacted with lead, antimony, and arsenic at concentrations exceeding the approved cleanup levels at the City of El Centro Water Treatment Plant (Site). The Cleanup Decision Document, referred to as a Removal Action Workplan, concluded that the former law enforcement firearms training range contaminated soil could be addressed by excavation.

Background: The approximately 1-acre Site is within the confines of the City of El Centro Water Treatment Plant. The Site was used for small firearms training from sometime prior to 1996 to 2004. Approximately 75,000 rounds, consisting primarily of handgun loads, were typically fired at the Site annually. The Site has an approximately 15-foot high earthen impact berm on the west, and approximately 5 to 10-foot-high earthen side berms on the north and south. The Site is surrounded by the Water Treatment Plant to the north and west, residential neighborhood to the south, and South 8th Street on the east. Chain link fencing is present along the property boundaries, which limits access to the Site.

A preliminary investigation was conducted in 2004, which included soil sample analysis for soil properties, and visual assessment of residual bullets/fragments. A Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA) was conducted in June 2018 under a DTSC approved Site Characterization Workplan. The PEA activities included soil sampling and analysis to evaluate metal impact from the firearm training activities. The results indicated onsite soil is impacted with contaminants of concerns (COCs) including lead, antimony, and arsenic. Consequently, DTSC determined that a removal action is required to address impacted soil.

Project Activities: The project activities consist of the following:

- Excavation of approximately 25 feet by 25 feet areas surrounding each of the sample locations with COC concentrations exceeding the target cleanup goals during PEA. Excavation depths vary from 0.5 feet to 3 feet depending on PEA data;
- Excavation of surface soil (top three inches) in the floor of shooting range with metal debris, and sieving to remove metal debris; and
- Off-Site disposal of excavated soil to an appropriately permitted landfill.

The RAW includes air monitoring and dust suppression measures such as spraying the area with water prior to and during excavation and restricting on-site vehicular traffic to 5 miles per hour or less.

The project is expected to commence in late 2019 and take approximately four weeks to complete requiring up to 86 truck trips. Specific environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures that are enforceable, and are included in the RAW, include an approved Health and Safety Plan; Dust Control and Monitoring Plan; and Transportation Plan.

In the event biological, cultural or historical resources are discovered in the course of project activities, work will be suspended while a qualified biologist, cultural or historical specialist assesses the area and arrangements are made to protect or preserve any resources that are discovered. If human remains are discovered, no further disturbance will occur in the location where the remains are found, and the County Coroner will be notified pursuant to Health and Safety Code Chapter 2, Section 7050.5.

An analysis of project activities upon existing environmental conditions indicates that implementation of environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures that are enforceable and made a condition of project approval and will ensure that impacts to the environment will be less than significant.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of El Centro

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. 15330]
 Statutory Exemptions: [State Code Section Number]
 Common Sense Exemption [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

1. The project is a minor action designed to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of hazardous waste or hazardous substances.
2. The project will not exceed \$1 million in cost.
3. The project does not involve the onsite use of a hazardous waste incinerator or thermal treatment unit or the relocation of residences or businesses and does not involve the potential release into the air of volatile organic compounds as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 25123.
4. The exceptions pursuant to California Code Regulations, Title 14 § 15300.2 have been addressed as follows:
 - a. Cumulative Impact. The project will not result in cumulative impacts because it is designed to be a short-term final remedy that would not lead to a succession of projects of the same type in the same place over time.
 - b. Significant Effect. The environmental safeguards and monitoring procedures that are enforceable and made a condition of project approval will prevent unusual circumstances from occurring so that there is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.
 - c. Scenic Highways. The project will not damage scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, because it is not located within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.
 - d. Hazardous Waste Sites. The project is not located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
 - e. Historical Resources. The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource at the Site because there are none at the Site.

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

Department of Toxic Substances Control
 File Room
 Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
 5796 Corporate Avenue
 Cypress, CA 90630

DTSC Website:
https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60002387

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Branch Chief's Signature

10/29/2019
Date

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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