

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 Evaluation and Restoration Program
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Project Title: Removal Action Workplan Pico Union Remediation Project		
Project Address: 1554 West 11th Place	City: Los Angeles	County: Los Angeles
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 <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):		

Project Description: The project involves the approval of the Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for arsenic and lead in soils at the *Pico Union Remediation Project* site (Site). The RAW summarized the evaluation of remedial alternatives and proposed remediation consisting of excavation, removal, and offsite disposal of approximately 625 cubic yards (cy) of arsenic and lead contaminated soil to protect human health and the environment.

Background: The approximately 0.3-acre Site is located at 1554 West 11th Place in the City of Los Angeles. The Site is located in a residential area near the downtown portion of the city. The Site is bounded by residential property to the east, south, and west along with a community center and playfield to the north. The City of Los Angeles plans to redevelop the land for use as a community park.

Historically, the Site was developed as single-family residences. By 1924, commercial facilities emerged on the Site, which included a gasoline and oil service station, an automobile repair facility, and a dry cleaner. The Site is currently closed to the public and was most recently utilized as the Union Avenue-Cesar Chavez Community Garden.

Site assessments conducted between 2015 and 2017 identified arsenic and lead in surface soil at concentrations exceeding residential screening levels (12 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) for arsenic and 80 mg/kg for lead) throughout the Site. A Site Characterization Report prepared in 2020 further indicated that lead concentrations are found at higher levels near the center of the Site.

Project Activities: Excavation of approximately 625 cubic yards of soil with arsenic and lead concentrations above residential screening levels was selected as the removal action. Specific project activities consist of the following:

- Removal of existing fencing, all above-grade features (e.g., raised garden beds, benches, pavers), and existing vegetation (e.g., trees, plants);
- Excavating and stockpiling approximately 625 cubic yards of impacted soil (depth from 1 to 5 feet below ground surface (bgs));
- Conducting confirmation soil sampling to verify the efficacy of the remedial excavation activities and to verify that soils left in place comply with the conditions necessary for case closure;
- Monitoring ambient particulate matter (PM₁₀) on the Site;
- Implementing dust control measures, as needed;
- Placing signage to inform nearby residents of soil removal activities;
- Providing field-based notifications to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), as required;
- Transporting the stockpiled soil to an appropriately licensed facility; and
- Importing clean certified fill for use as backfill in the excavation.

For areas of the Site that will be excavated to a depth of 1-foot bgs, lead and arsenic contaminated soils will be excavated and directly loaded onto trucks for off-Site disposal at a Class 3 facility. Contaminated soils excavated to a depth greater than 1-foot bgs will be stockpiled on-Site and plastic sheeting will be used to separate stockpiles of excavated soil from the ground during excavation activities. Stockpiles will be covered as necessary, but at a minimum, during non-work hours

or overnight to reduce fugitive dust emissions. After receipt of soil stockpile analytical data, the soil stockpiles will be loaded onto trucks for off-Site disposal at an appropriately licensed facility. Odor and dust suppression activities in the form of plastic sheet covering, water application, and/or surfactant products, will be employed as necessary or as required by permit.

Dump trucks will be dispatched to the Site via radio on an as needed frequency (will not be staged nearby) to avoid prolonged idling or unnecessary congestion of local roadways. Once a dump truck arrives at the Site, it will be loaded and secured with approximately 10-15 cubic yards of stockpiled soil. Plastic sheeting will be placed to manage any incidental soil dispersed as a result of loading the trucks. The northbound parking lane of South Union Avenue and the sidewalk adjacent to the Site will be closed as needed and monitored by sub-contracted traffic control during loading activities. All trucks used during excavation and backfilling operations will travel northbound along South Union Avenue, turning right on 11th Street towards the 110 Freeway. Approximately 120 transport trucks operating over ten days are anticipated for the removal of excavated soil and the emplacement of backfill materials.

The anticipated start date for this project has not been specifically determined but excavation is expected to occur during the second quarter of 2021. Project activities will require disturbance of the Site for approximately ten days during which time soil would be excavated and stockpiled. Due to the volume of soil that will be excavated (greater than 50 cubic yards), a *Rule 1466 – Control of Particulate Emissions from Soils with Toxic Air Contaminants* notification will be required. Conditions outlined in the SCAQMD's Rule 1466 (e.g., ambient particulate matter (PM₁₀) monitoring, dust control measures, notification, signage, recordkeeping) will be followed and any field-based required notifications by the City will be made to the SCAQMD.

In the event biological, cultural, or historical resources are discovered during project activities, work will be suspended while a qualified biologist or cultural or historical resource 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 the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 2, Section 7050.5.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Los Angeles

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 Take to Prevent, Minimize, Mitigate or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of a Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substance.

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 is a removal action that 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 project will be consistent with applicable state and local environmental permitting requirements.
5. The exceptions pursuant to Cal. Code Rags., tit. 14, § 15300.2 have been addressed as follows:
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 view of a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

- 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.
- Historical Resources. The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource because none are anticipated.

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

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 9311

www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60002906

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		<u>02/22/2021</u> Date
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TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: