

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

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
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Subject: FILING OF NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 21108 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

Project Title: Remedial Design for the El Capitan Former Waste Disposal Area

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022050242

Project Location: Yosemite National Park

County: Mariposa

Project Applicant: Yosemite National Park

Project Description: The project activities involve the removal of contaminated soils and debris that pose a threat to human health and the environment. Removal of contaminated soils and debris will also facilitate remediation of groundwater contamination. The removal action provides protection of human health and the environment through excavation and disposal of contaminated soil exceeding recommended removal goals (RGs). In addition, the removal action provides protection of human health and the environment by directly injecting an amendment or amendments to actively treat contaminated groundwater in the target groundwater treatment zone. The excavation addresses the Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) by removing and disposing of contaminated soils at existing licensed disposal facilities outside the boundaries of the Site, whereas the groundwater action addresses RAOs through a combination of in situ treatment and monitored natural attenuation (MNA) of contaminated groundwater and sediment porewater through physical mechanisms.

An estimated total of approximately 9,490 cubic yards of soil will be excavated and removed from the Site. The excavated soil will be stockpiled in a lined area at the staging area along Northside Drive or loaded directly into lined roll-off bins prior to hauling off-site. The stockpile/bins will be kept covered while onsite to control fugitive dust. Soil will be loaded into bins and trucks with a backhoe or front-end loader or similar equipment, employing dust control and dust monitoring, erosion control, and stormwater pollution prevention measures. Clean soil will be used to backfill excavation areas to match the surface conditions that previously existed.

Institutional Controls (ICs) include the prohibition of the use of Site groundwater other than for collection of groundwater samples from groundwater monitoring wells. A groundwater monitoring program will be implemented to track and evaluate progression of natural attenuation of metal contaminants of concern along with the in situ chemical treatment of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Groundwater samples will be collected from monitoring wells on a quarterly basis after the in situ groundwater injections (in Year 0) and annually thereafter. Monitoring data will be evaluated and used to assess migration and attenuation of the groundwater contamination and effectiveness of the groundwater injections, to confirm that contaminated groundwater in the area of attainment will achieve the recommended RGs for COCs in a reasonable time frame and achieve the RGs for sediment porewater.

Work should be planned to occur at dry times of the year to minimize the potential for soil run-off and erosion. Implementation in the dry season is also the best time to avoid impacts to the California Red-Legged Frog and nesting birds, which may use the area as habitat. The best time to complete work is late summer/early fall. If work must occur from November to March, a survey for federally listed amphibians will be needed prior to construction and a park biologist may need to be on-site during construction. No work will occur during flood conditions.

NPS will conduct revegetation in-house with native seeds, plugs and willow stakes they have prepared. They will mulch and duff the site to restore the site. The site will continue to be monitored and treated for invasive species. Plantings will be watered for 1-2 years post-restoration. Post-construction riverbank stabilization measures, if needed, may include planting willow stakes, using engineered log structures to stabilize the bank and deflect flow while vegetation reestablishes, etc. The portion of the access road that is the Valley Loop Trail will be restored to current conditions. NPS will conduct post-construction vegetation monitoring.

Temporary subsurface injection points will be installed within the target groundwater treatment zone to deliver a specific amendment or amendments into the contaminated groundwater to chemically remediate elevated concentrations of PAHs. It is assumed that zero-valent iron (ZVI) will be used as the injection amendment for the in-situ treatment of PAHs. Injection of the substrates will be implemented through the use of the temporary injection points. It is assumed one round of injections will occur in the first year (Year 0). The groundwater/sediment porewater monitoring program will be implemented to track and evaluate progression of natural attenuation of metal COCs along with the in situ chemical treatment of PAHs. Groundwater/sediment porewater monitoring will include quarterly collection of groundwater/sediment porewater samples after the in-situ groundwater injections (in Year 0) and annually thereafter.

While there are roads that lead directly to the Site, traffic in the YNP can be congested especially during dry season, when the implementation is expected to commence. Therefore, in order to satisfy the enjoyment of park resources RAO, the implementation of this remedy must occur during weeks when tourist traffic is relatively low.

As Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC approved the above-described project on September 16, 2022, and has made the following determinations:

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of project approval.
4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project.
5. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA by DTSC.

This is to certify that the final environmental document and the record of project approval are available to the public at the following locations:

DTSC File Room

1515 Tollhouse Road
 Clovis, California 93611
 (559) 297-3901; call for appointment

DTSC website:

www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=80001261

Lynne Baumgras	Senior Engineering Geologist	559-297-3978
Contact Person Name	Contact Person Title	Phone #

<i>Ed Walker</i>	09/16/2022
Branch Chief Signature	Date

Ed Walker, P.E.	Supervising Hazardous Substances Engineer II	916-255-3676
Branch Chief Name	Branch Chief Title	Phone #

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: