

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
9211 Oakdale Avenue,
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Project Title: Removal Action Work Plan for UPRR Right of Way (UPRR Site Adjacent To Proposed Greenway Trail Extension)

Project Location: Whittier at Leffingwell Creek Crossing east of Scott Avenue, Whittier

County: Los Angeles

Project Applicant: Union Pacific Railroad Company

Approval Action Under Consideration by DTSC: Removal Action Workplan

Statutory Authority: California Health and Safety Code, division 45, part 2

Project Description: The project involves the limited excavation and on-Site containment of arsenic and lead impacted soil at the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) site (Site), adjacent to the proposed Whittier Greenway Trail Extension site. The Removal Action Workplan (RAW) includes an evaluation of remedial alternatives and proposed remediation designed to protect human health and the environment.

Background: The Site is located at the Leffingwell Creek Crossing, east of Scott Avenue, in the City of Whittier. The Site is located in a residential area near the east side of the city. The Site is bounded by the Whittier Greenway Trail to the north, and residential properties to the south.

Historically, the area around the intersection of Leffingwell Creek and Lambert Road in Whittier was agricultural land, primarily orange and lemon groves. The property was developed as a rail line by Pacific Electric Railroad between 1903 and 1908. A 1927 topographic map indicates that the rail line was used by Pacific Electric. The rail line, previously used by Pacific Electric, is currently active and owned and operated by UPRR.

Site assessments conducted between 2017 and 2021 identified arsenic and lead in surface soil at concentrations exceeding residential screening levels (12 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) for arsenic and 320 mg/kg for lead). The extent of arsenic and lead contamination was vertically and laterally delineated in 2021.

Project Activities: The proposed remedial alternative for the Site is targeted, shallow excavation and on-Site containment in the form of a gravel cover. A geotextile demarcation barrier will be placed over native soils prior to being covered with a minimum of 0.5 feet of crushed gravel. A Land Use Covenant will be recorded with the Los Angeles County Recorder to limit uses of the property and to notify future owners of the property of Site conditions to prevent exposure to contaminants remaining in place. Specific project activities consist of the following:

- Placing signage to inform nearby residents of on-Site activities;
- Implementing dust controls measures, as needed;
- Importing stage materials (geotextile and gravel) to the Site;
- Installing temporary construction fencing, as needed

A gravel cover will be placed over approximately 33,000 square feet of the Site. Demarcation geotextile fabric be placed either by hand or by using small equipment. The gravel will then be placed using small construction equipment. Potential equipment to be used is listed below:

- Compact loaders or bulldozer for fill transport, placement and grading;
- Small vibratory compaction equipment for compaction of fill material
- Telescoping forklift or skid steer forklift for transport of demarcation geotextile;
- water buffalo for dust suppression;
- A street sweeper attachment (with a filter to be changed out when necessary) for the compact excavator/loader to keep the project area and access roads clean;
- Trucks for imported gravel (appropriately secured to eliminate dust);

- Other hand-held equipment based on occasional field needs for areas not accessible by equipment.

During remedial activities, Site access will be restricted to authorized personnel only. During non-working hours, access will be controlled via secured temporary orange safety fencing that will be placed, as needed, along the edges of the work area to limit Site access. The work area will be kept clean of any contractor generated waste material. The contractor-generated waste material will be consolidated and removed from the property daily.

Projection of existing railroad ties and ballast will be managed via administrative controls to avoid fouling of the track. Demarcation layer installation will be performed manually to limit equipment in these areas. Cover placement will be performed to within approximately 1 foot of the limit of ballast and then worked by hand to tie the materials together.

During mobilization construction fencing will be installed around all trees at the maximum reach of the tree branches. Where gravel cover is required adjacent to a tree, hand work will be performed to spread material around the trunk area. Along the Greenway Trail fencing and fencing along the LACFCD channel, construction fencing will be installed 4 feet from the fence face to prevent damage during the majority of the remedial action. To finalize the cover placement the construction fencing will be removed in segments and cover material placed to within approximately 2 feet of the limit of the fence or fence posts and then worked by hand to complete installation up to the fencing. Gravel cover will be sloped by hand to tie into the LACFCD channel wall.

Other environmental controls may be required if conditions change at the Site. Remediation will be conducted in a very proactive manner to identify unforeseen conditions and develop appropriate engineered measures to improve those conditions. If unforeseen conditions are identified, work will be transitioned to another portion of the property where these conditions will not affect the ongoing operations, if possible. Work will be halted if unsafe conditions arise.

Although not anticipated, 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 makes an assessment of 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: Union Pacific Railroad Company

Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption: CCR Title 14, Sec. 15330

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. A grading permit from the City of Whittier will be obtained if one is needed apart from the site development permit. No County permits are anticipated for the remediation.
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 is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource because none are anticipated; however, outreach to potentially interested Native American tribes is being conducted and every effort will be made to ensure any expressed concerns are addressed.

The administrative record for this project is available to the public by appointment at the following location:

Department of Toxic Substances Control
 Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
 9211 Oakdale Avenue,
 Chatsworth, CA 91311

Additional project information is available on EnviroStor:

https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60002182

Contact Person
 Jovairia Loan

Contact Title
 Project Manager

Phone Number
 (818) 717-6668

Approver's Signature:

Date:

Click or tap to enter a date.

Approver's Name
 Javier Hinojosa

Approver's Title
 Branch Chief

Approver's Phone Number
 (714) 484-5484

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received for Filing and Posting at OPR: