

# COMMUNITY UPDATE

DTSC's Mission is to protect California's people, communities, and environment from toxic substances, to enhance economic vitality by restoring contaminated land, and to compel manufacturers to make safer consumer products.

## Community Update for PG&E Former Bakersfield Manufactured Gas Plant

### Public Comment Period for Remedial Action Plan

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on a proposed cleanup plan, known as a Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP), for a 0.75-acre parcel located at 800 and 820 20th Street in Bakersfield, California (Site). The Site was used for various industrial uses in the past, including manufacturing gas from 1888 to 1910 and autobody repair and servicing from the mid-1940s to 2019. Past Site uses left contamination in the soil and soil vapor (gas between soil particles), including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), naphthalene, total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), benzene and lead in soil, as well as benzene, naphthalene, chloroform, tetrachloroethene (PCE), and trichloroethene (TCE) in soil vapor. This fact sheet provides information on the Draft RAP, which proposes soil removal and off-site disposal as the remedy to clean up contamination.

#### 30-Day Public Comment Period – October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

DTSC encourages you to comment on the Draft RAP. DTSC will consider and respond to all public comments received. Public comments sent by postal mail or received via e-mail must be postmarked by **October 30, 2024** and sent to:

**Ryan Mitchum, Project Manager**  
**Department of Toxic Substances Control**  
1515 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611  
[Ryan.Mitchum@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Ryan.Mitchum@dtsc.ca.gov)

#### PUBLIC MEETING

DTSC will host a virtual public meeting to provide information on the Draft RAP, answer questions, and receive public comments:

**When:** October 16, 2024, at 5:30 PM

**Link:** <https://bit.ly/3MCkZa4>

**Audio dial-in:** (669) 900-6833 **Webinar ID:** 863 8200 2233 **Passcode:** 478326

Contact Crystal Jimenez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 938-8256 or [Crystal.Jimenez@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Crystal.Jimenez@dtsc.ca.gov) for assistance.



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.



### Site History and Environmental Investigations

From approximately 1888 to 1910, Bakersfield Gas & Electric Light Company used the Site as manufactured gas plant (MGP). San Joaquin Power assumed control of the Site in the 1920s and put the gas plant on standby until PG&E acquired the property during the 1940s. The former structures associated with the MGP were dismantled during the mid-1940s and the Site was repurposed for PG&E automobile repair and service. City Body Works purchased the Site during the mid-1970s and continued to use it for automobile repairs. In 2019, PG&E repurchased the Site to allow for environmental investigations and remediation (clean up).

On-Site investigations were conducted between 2017 and 2022 to determine the nature and extent of contamination. Investigations determined that the soil on-Site is contaminated with PAHs, naphthalene, TPH, benzene, and lead and that soil vapor (air in between soil particles) is contaminated with benzene, chloroform, naphthalene, PCE, and TCE. There is no evidence that contamination has moved off-Site nor impacted groundwater.



Figure 1 – A map of the Site showing the proposed excavation areas.



### **Proposed Remedy**

The Draft RAP evaluates alternatives and proposes a method to address contamination. The proposed remedy is expected to take approximately four months to complete and includes:

- Removing approximately 5,832 cubic yards (365 truckloads) of contaminated soil to a depth of up to 10 feet below the surface across most of the Site and up to 15 feet below the surface in the southeastern portion of the Site. This soil would be disposed of at a permitted landfill facility.
- Filling excavated areas of the Site with clean soil to grade.

During peak remediation workdays, an average of 20 trucks would enter and exit the Site to load and haul excavated soil to a permitted landfill facility. Trucks would follow a City-approved truck route that minimizes trips through residential neighborhoods by exiting the Site onto 20<sup>th</sup> Street and turning right onto Q Street, right onto Truxtun Avenue and onto Hwy 58 towards I-5. A work notice would be mailed to the community prior to the start of work.

### **Safety Measures**

Work would be performed under project-specific plans including a Health and Safety Plan, Environmental Management Plan, and Traffic Management Plan. The following safety measures would be used to protect public health and the environment during remediation:

- Active work areas would be fenced off and include signage with contact information to report any concerns.
- Air monitoring for dust and chemicals of concern would occur upwind and downwind of the excavation areas. Excavation work would be temporarily suspended during high winds or if air monitoring shows that the current dust control measures are not effective.
- Noise and vibration monitoring would occur along the Site perimeter.
- Water, spray foam, and plastic sheeting would be used to control dust.
- Water or environmentally safe chemical suppressants / vapor-suppressing foam would be used to control odors.
- Dirt loads in trucks would be covered and trucks inspected before leaving the Site to prevent tracking out soil.
- Flaggers would safely manage vehicle and pedestrian traffic when trucks are entering and exiting the Site.
- Any track-out of dirt onto a paved public road where vehicles exit the Site would be cleaned using street sweepers.

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

As the lead agency under CEQA, DTSC prepared an Initial Study that evaluated the proposed project and determined that the potential environmental effects of the proposed remedy would not result in significant and unavoidable impacts to the environment. DTSC decided a Mitigated Negative Declaration was the appropriate document to prepare under CEQA. DTSC is seeking comments on the adequacy of the analysis contained in the Initial Study and the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration.



### **Next Steps**

DTSC will review and consider all public comments before making a decision on the Draft RAP. At the end of the public comment period, DTSC will evaluate all comments received and make any necessary changes to the document. DTSC will send a Response to Comments document to all those who submitted comments and provided their contact information.

### **Information Repositories**

You can review the Draft RAP and related documents at DTSC's online database:

[https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=15490018&mytab=activities](https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=15490018&mytab=activities)

Hard copies are available at the following locations:

- DTSC Clovis Office at 1515 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611 (Call for an appointment)
- Kern County Library at 701 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301

### **DTSC Contact Information**

For more information on the project, please feel free to contact the following DTSC staff:

- Ryan Mitchum, Project Manager at (559) 297-3958 or [Ryan.Mitchum@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Ryan.Mitchum@dtsc.ca.gov)
- Crystal Jimenez, Public Participation Specialist at (818) 938-8256 or [Crystal.Jimenez@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Crystal.Jimenez@dtsc.ca.gov)

