

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Department of Toxic Substances Control - Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

November 2020

PureGro Brawley Soil Stockpile Removal On Track for Completion in December 2020

By community request, the stockpile of soil at the former PureGro property at 1025 River Drive in Brawley, California is currently being removed for out-of-state disposal. Removal is approximately 60% complete and is expected to be 100% complete by the end of the year. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing the project.

Stockpile removal is the first step in completing the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) approved by DTSC in June 2020. The remaining cleanup activities in the RAP are planned for 2021 and are still undergoing engineering and design.

Public safety is important during stockpile removal, with an emphasis on dust control, dust monitoring, truck safety, and adherence to COVID-19 protocols. DTSC is on the property regularly, and the California Air Resources Board and Imperial County Air Pollution Control District are involved to help assure that the work is completed safely and within regulatory requirements.



Stockpile Removal

An excavator is used to pick up soil from the stockpile and place it carefully into large dump trucks waiting nearby. A worker uses a water hose to control dust during the process. Another worker, specially trained to spot dust, keeps close watch and records information that is reported frequently to DTSC.



Truck Wheel Wash

Before trucks leave the property, each load is inspected and covered. A transport log is completed to help track each load. Then trucks drive slowly through a special wash station to remove soil from the wheels before driving out onto River Drive. Water from the wheel wash is captured under this structure for reuse or disposal.



Dust Control

Spraying water on the work areas and truck path is just one of many things the project team does every day to control dust. When needed, this water truck can spray water to its front, back, and sides. DTSC oversees all aspects of the project, including dust control and monitoring in compliance with the RAP and approved work plans.



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





Dust Monitoring

Technicians are specially trained to visually monitor dust in the air. Scientific instruments are also used to monitor noise, wind direction, and weather. DTSC and the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District are involved to provide oversight.



Designated Truck Route

As project trucks turn onto River Drive, all drivers stay on a designated truck route as they haul their loads to the landfill. The route helps the drivers focus on safety and avoid residential neighborhoods, parks, and schools.



Compliance Check

California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff perform an inspection of a project truck as it leaves the former PureGro property. CARB is involved in the project to help assure public safety and regulatory compliance. CARB is also performing air monitoring nearby.

At about 60% complete, the project is on track and in compliance with DTSC requirements:

- ✓ **Health & Safety Plan** – Worker and public safety are high priorities during all project activities
- ✓ **COVID-19 Protocols** – Workers adhere to county and state guidance on prevention measures
- ✓ **Remedial Action Plan** – Stockpile removal is compliant with the DTSC-approved RAP
- ✓ **Stockpile Removal Work Plan** – Project methods comply with the DTSC-approved work plan
- ✓ **Dust Control Plan** – Dust control and monitoring methods comply with DTSC requirements
- ✓ **Noise Control** – Noise blankets on the fence and other methods are used to reduce noise
- ✓ **Street Cleaning** – River Drive is periodically swept to keep the pavement clean
- ✓ **Community Information** – Websites and a community call-line help keep you informed

For updates and more information:

- Updates are provided by DTSC at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/smrp-projects/puregro-company>
- Updates are provided by Chevron at: <http://www.puregrobrawley.com>
- You are encouraged to call the dedicated community information line with questions about stockpile removal, dust, noise, truck traffic, or other concerns; the number is 760-602-3830

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