

# 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.

## PureGro Brawley Soil Stockpile Removal Expected to Begin in September 2020

On June 1, 2020, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) approved the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Mitigated Negative Declaration for the former PureGro property located at 1025 River Drive in Brawley, California.

### What work is planned?

Removal of the soil stockpile is scheduled to start in September and end in December 2020. Total duration is expected to be about 15 weeks. Baseline measurements of dust, noise, and other conditions will be done first. Other initial tasks include bringing in equipment such as water tanks and a water truck, setting up a temporary office trailer, and building a temporary access road.

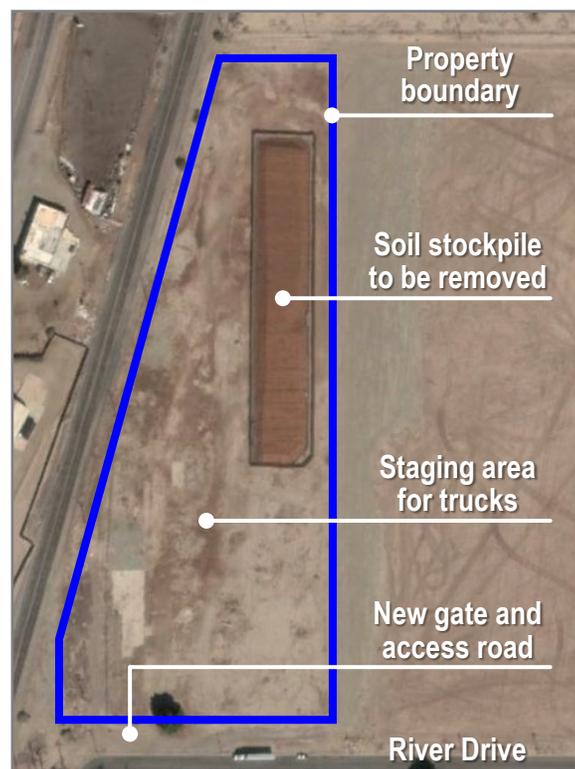
The stockpile contains about 15,000 cubic yards of soil stored on the property (see map below). The soil is fenced and covered by several layers of dust control material. To remove the soil, sections of the covering will be pulled back daily to allow the soil to be picked up and loaded into trucks.

For transport to an out-of-state landfill, trucks will use the new access road and stay on a designated truck route along North Cesar Chavez Street, B Street, North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and Highway 78/111. With a focus on safety, truck drivers will use this route to avoid nearby neighborhoods as much as possible on their way to and from the landfill. Stockpile removal will require about 850 truckloads, and each load will be covered before leaving the property.

### What safety measures will be taken?

DTSC will oversee all aspects of the work to ensure it is done safely and protects nearby neighborhoods. Specific safety measures include:

- Dust control and dust monitoring
- Reduced speed limits for trucks and project vehicles
- Health & Safety Plan, including worker protocols to comply with Imperial County COVID-19 requirements



### How will dust be monitored and controlled?

The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District, DTSC, and the California Air Resources Board have reviewed the plan for dust control and will monitor effectiveness of dust control measures during the project. Dust control measures will include:

- Comparing conditions upwind and downwind of each day's work location during work hours
- Spraying water to limit creating dust during work
- Pausing during times of high winds



Water will be sprayed on stockpile soil and other areas as needed to control dust.

### Who will do the work?

Chevron Environmental Management Company and its contractors will be doing the stockpile removal. Where possible, local businesses will be used for materials and worker accommodations. When a start date is known, DTSC will send a Work Notice to nearby residents, businesses, and schools. Typically, work will occur between 6:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Some work on Saturdays may be needed to keep the project on schedule.

### What about other cleanup activities in the RAP?

The remaining cleanup activities in the RAP are planned for 2021 and are still undergoing engineering and design. Those activities include excavation of soil in targeted areas, 50-foot wide residential buffer zones on the eastern and southern sides of the property, an engineered cover over the remainder of the property, and new fencing and landscaping along River Drive.

#### For updates and more information:

- A work notice will be sent a few days before construction equipment begins to arrive
- 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
- Updates will be provided by DTSC at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/smrp-projects/puregro-company>
- Updates will also be provided by Chevron at: <http://www.puregrobrawley.com>
- Additional community update mailings and notices will be sent as needed, including an update before the start of remaining work expected in 2021

### Who are the DTSC contacts for the project?

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