



# LORENTZ BARREL & DRUM SUPERFUND SITE



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA • JUNE 1998

## EPA ANNOUNCES FINAL PHASE OF CLEANUP

San Jose, California  
Fact Sheet #8

### Introduction

The EPA is releasing this fact sheet to inform the public that construction will be starting on the final cleanup of the Lorentz Barrel & Drum (LB&D) Superfund site, which is located at the intersection of Alma Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Street in San Jose (Figure 1).

The facility accepted 55-gallon drums containing chemical residues, including solvents, acids and oils, for more than 40 years. When the drums were cleaned and repainted for subsequent resale, chemical residues were improperly disposed of at the site, resulting in soil and groundwater contamination.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Health Services closed the facility in 1987, due to numerous hazardous waste violations.

### What are the site contaminants?

Shallow groundwater at the site was found to be contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including solvents such as TCE and PCE, which are used in dry cleaning and the metals finishing industries. Soil onsite was found to be contaminated with PCBs (fluids from electrical transformers) and heavy metals (lead), in addition to VOCs. The site included numerous sumps containing hazardous waste, and thousands of drums containing residual hazardous and other wastes (such as lubricating oils, DDT, and other pesticides and herbicides).

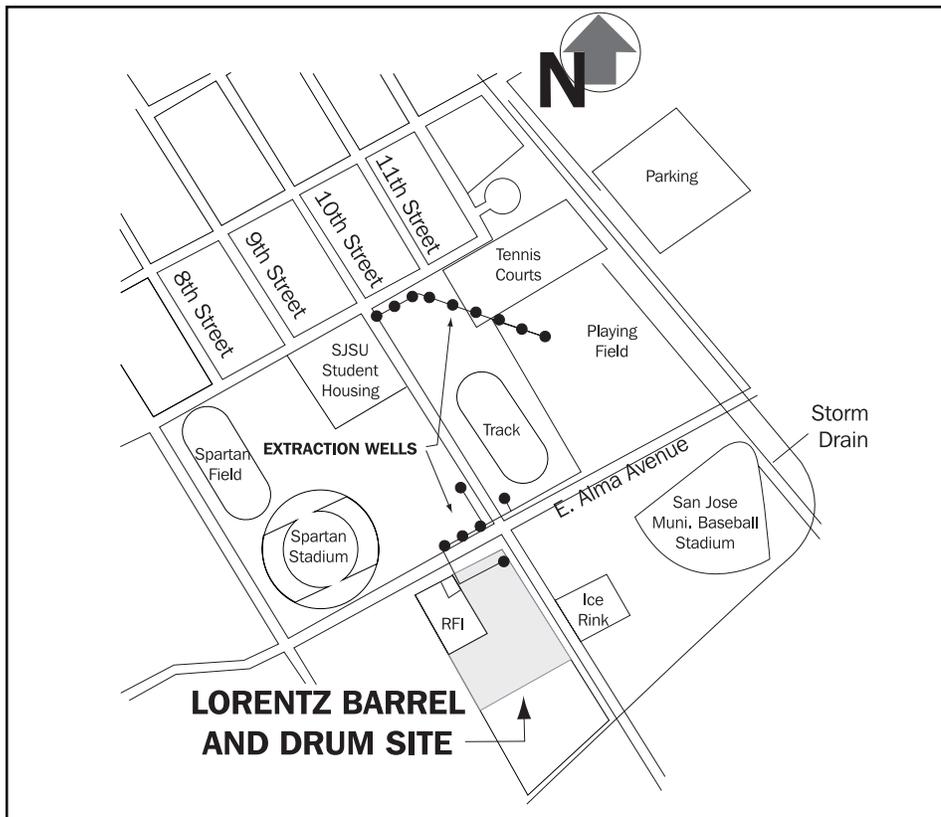


Figure 1: Location of the Lorentz Barrel & Drum Site

## What has been done?

In 1988, the U.S. EPA and California Department of Health Services (DHS) completed a removal of 3,000 cubic yards of the most highly contaminated soil, and over 26,000 drums of waste, thus removing the primary sources of contamination, and the immediate threat to the surrounding community. Subsequently, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was conducted at the site to fully characterize the remaining contamination and develop a cleanup strategy. Also in 1988, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) recommending that shallow groundwater be extracted and treated to prevent potential contamination of the deeper drinking water aquifer. A groundwater treatment system was built in 1992. EPA also instigated a groundwater monitoring program to monitor contamination in the shallow groundwater, and to ensure that the drinking water supply was not threatened prior to the completion of the groundwater treatment plant in 1992. EPA placed a temporary cap over the most contaminated areas of the site to prevent further leaching of contaminants from the soil into the groundwater, and to prevent contaminated dust from being blown off-site.

## The Final Remedy

EPA issued the final remedy for the site soils in 1993, selecting an asphalt cap to prevent any further leaching of soil contamination into the shallow groundwater, and to prevent migration of contaminated soil off-site. A soil vapor extraction system (SVE) was selected to remove the remaining VOCs from the subsurface soil (Figure 2). The asphalt cap will ensure that remaining contamination in the subsurface soil is not carried to the shallow groundwater by rainfall percolating down through the surface; it will also ensure that contaminated surface soils are not blown off-site. The SVE system will pump volatile organic vapors (solvents) from the soil, treat them by passing them through activated carbon (as is used to filter fish aquarium water), and then discharge the clean air to the atmosphere. The cap, SVE system, and existing shallow groundwater treatment systems are shown in Figure 2. Together, these

three components comprise a complete remedy for the site, ensuring that the local residents, environment, and drinking water aquifer are effectively protected from residual contamination at the site.

## Construction

Construction of the cap and SVE system is scheduled to start in June 1998, and to be completed by September 1998. As part of the cap construction, the site will be graded in preparation for paving with asphalt. This grading will necessarily generate some dust, and the EPA will operate a water truck continuously during grading operations to suppress dust production during earth moving. In addition, plastic sheeting will be used to minimize any dust transport across the fence line to the two facilities bordering the site. The sidewalks along Alma Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Street bordering the site will be closed to pedestrians, again to minimize the potential exposure to any dust generated during the earth-moving activities. Finally, dust monitoring using hand-held dust meters will be conducted by the EPA at the down-wind perimeter, and during all earth-moving work. If dust levels are above the health-protective action levels set by EPA, then operations will be discontinued until either the water truck applies more water, or the wind speed decreases.

After grading, trenching, and installing soil vapor extraction wells, the site will be paved. The SVE equipment will then be installed, consisting of a blower that will pull contaminated vapors from the soil via the specially constructed extraction wells. This vapor will be piped through to the treatment system, where it will be treated by activated carbon to remove the contaminants. Finally, clean air will be discharged to the atmosphere. Sampling will be conducted to determine when the carbon units need to be replaced; sampling of the discharged air will also be conducted to ensure that the system is operating correctly. The used carbon will be taken off-site to be recycled. In the event of any failure in the treatment system, the system will automatically shut down until it can be inspected and repaired, without any release of contaminants.

## Who Pays for the Cleanup?

Throughout the history of the site, the EPA has made great efforts to locate and negotiate with the companies responsible for sending wastes to the LB&D facility (commonly referred to as Potentially Responsible Parties, or PRPs). The Superfund program attempts to recover all Federal and State funds expended for site cleanup from the PRPs. In this case, the EPA has been in negotiation with the PRP groups since 1988. In 1990, EPA entered into a legal agreement with one group of PRPs, resulting in their building the shallow groundwater treatment system (which started operation in 1992).

EPA is currently in negotiation with other PRPs to recover construction costs for the cap and SVE system and other costs associated with the initial site cleanup and ongoing maintenance.

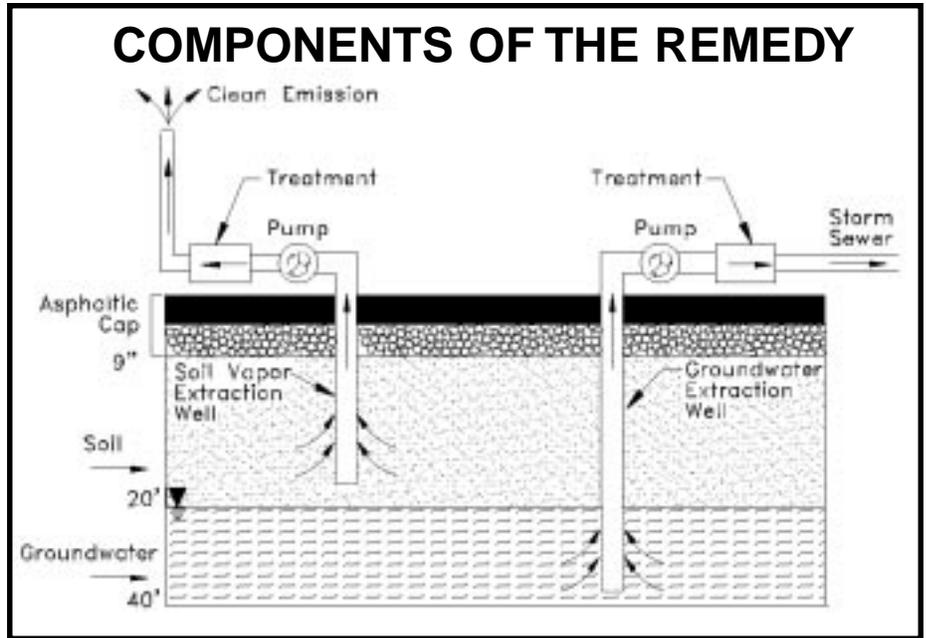


Figure 2: *The Remedy*

## What will be the Site's Final Use?

Ultimately, the site will be a 5.26-acre paved landfill cap. It is possible that the site will be used as a parking lot for cars and small trucks or for other development that maintains the integrity of the cap (such as structures with a slab-on-grade foundation that do not allow direct access to the on-site soils).

# MAILING LIST COUPON



If you did not receive this notice in the mail and would like to be included on the mailing list to receive future mailings about the LB&D Superfund site, please fill out the coupon below and return to:

**Andrew Bain**, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, 75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3), San Francisco, CA 94105

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Si Usted desea una copia de este folleto o tiene alguna pregunta acerca del sitio, por favor pongase en contacto con: **Andy Bain**, (415) 744-2186 o (800) 231-3075



Neu muon biet them chi tiet ve LB&D Site va no co anh huong den ban nhu the nao xin lien lac voi: **Xuan-Mai Tran**, (415) 744-2386 o (800) 231-3075.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

**A key part of the Superfund process is active community involvement. If you have questions or concerns regarding the final phase of the cleanup activities at the Lorentz Barrel and Drum site, please contact the following individuals:**

**Andy Bain**

Community Involvement Coordinator  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 744-2186 or (800) 231-3075  
bain.andrew@epamail.epa.gov

**Diane Strassmaier**

Remedial Project Manager  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-4)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 744-2157  
strassmaier.diane@epamail.epa.gov

Visit our website: [www.epa.gov/region09](http://www.epa.gov/region09)

## Information Repositories

Copies of the site investigation reports and other Superfund technical documents for the LB&D Superfund site are available for review at:

**U.S. EPA Superfund Records Center**  
95 Hawthorne Street, Suite 403S  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
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