



## Pemaco Superfund Site Question and Answer Fact Sheet Maywood Riverfront Park and the Pemaco Superfund Site

### Where is the Maywood Riverfront Park?

The park was completed in 2006 and is located at the corner of Slauson and Alamo, close to Heliotrope Elementary School and the 710 freeway overpass. See picture below.



### Who built the park?

The City of Maywood began planning the Riverfront Park in 2000 and worked with EPA and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB, in charge of the cleanup at W.W. Henry) for many years to coordinate cleanups so that the properties could be safely incorporated into the park. The Maywood City Council approved development of the park. The City was made aware that the cleanup would be a long process – the remediation of the site would occur before, during and after construction of the park. After the EPA and RWQCB declared the Pemaco and the W.W. Henry portions of the park safe, the City of Maywood began construction of the Maywood Riverfront Park in August 2005 and completed the main portions in 2006. The Riverfront Park is now part of the Los Angeles River Greenway Project.

### Who paid for the park?

The park construction was funded by federal and state grants and by a grant from the Trust for Public Land (TPL). The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places,

ensuring livable communities for generations to come. For more information on TPL, check their website at [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org).

### **What businesses were there before the park was built?**

The park is comprised of several different parcels, including the former Pemaco Chemical Company, W. W. Henry, Precision Arrow, Lubricating Oil and the LA Junction Railroad. **See Figure..?** The fenced off area where the treatment systems are currently operating, cleaning up deep soil contamination and groundwater, will eventually be part of the future park. After the cleanup is complete, this area will be opened and will become part of the park.

### **Is the park safe?**

The EPA was responsible for the cleanup on the Pemaco portion of the park and this part of the park has been declared safe to use and can be incorporated into the Riverfront Park. The RWQCB has also cleaned up the site so that it can be used safely by park visitors. Both the EPA and the RWQCB continue to clean up the contamination in the deep soil and groundwater. This cleanup will take a long time to complete, but because no one is exposed to this deep soil and groundwater contamination, the properties can still be used safely even while this takes place.

### **What was done to make the park safe?**

During construction of the park, contaminated soil was removed from the former Pemaco, W. W. Henry, and other properties. Extensive sampling was done to make sure that the remaining soil was safe. In addition, a geo-textile liner was placed on the Pemaco property and one foot of certified clean soil was brought in and used to cover the whole site. The "source area" with the highest contamination has been fenced off while it is being remediated. When cleanup levels are reached the EPA will release this portion of the property to the City of Maywood to incorporate into the existing Riverfront Park.

### **Why are there piles of dirt in the park?**

The piles of dirt belong to the City of Maywood. The EPA was informed that one pile was generated when the city was creating the small hills and landscaping in the park. The grading took place after the soils were cleaned and determined to be safe. The second pile of dirt is certified clean dirt that was brought in. Both piles are covered to avoid dirt from flying around when it's windy.

### **Are the piles of dirt contaminated?**

As far as the EPA knows, neither pile of dirt is contaminated. For more information about the dirt piles call Maywood City Hall at 323-562-5701.

### **Who determines if the park is safe for public use?**

Many environmental studies have been done to determine whether the property could be safely used as a park. The City of Maywood had consultants do Environmental Impact Report which includes a health risk assessment. The Risk Assessment showed that the site could be used safely as a park. The EPA also did a baseline risk assessment which showed that the site could be cleaned up and used safely as a park. TPL did

another risk assessment and came to the same conclusion. The EPA and RWQCB have advised the City that the former Pemaco and W.W. Henry sites are safe for public use.

**When will the park be open to the public?**

The EPA and the RWQCB have determined that the Pemaco and W.W. Henry sites can be used safely, even while the cleanup systems are running and remediating the deep soil and groundwater. The Maywood City Council will decide when the park can be open to the public.

**Concerns were raised about some dying trees, plants and grass in the park. Who is responsible for maintaining the park?**

Once the land was deemed safe for public use, EPA and the RWQCB released the properties to the City to build the park. The City is responsible for landscaping and maintenance of the park.

**For More Information about the Maywood Riverfront Park call Maywood City Hall:**  
323-562-5701

**For questions about the Pemaco Site contact EPA:**  
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Or leave a toll-free message: English Line: (866) 537-8992, Spanish Line (866) 537-8991.

**EPA Pemaco Website:** [www.epaosc.gov/pemaco](http://www.epaosc.gov/pemaco) or [www.epa.gov/region09/pemaco](http://www.epa.gov/region09/pemaco)

**Information Repository**  
Cesar Chavez Public Library  
4323 E. Slauson Avenue  
Maywood, CA 90270  
(323) 771-8600