

AR0060

BROWN AND BRYANT SUPERFUND SITE  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN  
ARVIN, CALIFORNIA

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Region IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105

January, 1991



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	pg 1
<b>SITE BACKGROUND</b>	
Site Location and Map	pg 4
Site History	pg 4
Health Threats	pg 5
<b>COMMUNITY BACKGROUND</b>	
Community Profile	pg 6
History of Community Involvement	pg 7
EPA Community Relations Activities in Arvin	pg 7
Key Community Concerns	pg 8
<b>HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM</b>	
Strategies to Address Community Concerns	pg 10
Required Community Relations Activities During RI/FS	pg 11
Recommended Community Relations Activities prior to the Record of Decision	pg 13
Recommended Community Relations Activities following the Record of Decision	pg 15
<b>PROJECT SCHEDULE</b>	pg 16
<b>APPENDIX A</b>	
List of Contacts and Interested Parties	pg 17
<b>APPENDIX B</b>	
EPA Contacts	pg 24
Location of Information Repositories	pg 24
Suggested Locations for Community Meetings	pg 25



Brown and Bryant Superfund Site  
Community Relations Plan  
Arvin, California

**INTRODUCTION**

This Community Relations Plan describes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) community relations program to be implemented during the Superfund remedial investigation and feasibility studies at the Brown and Bryant Superfund site in Arvin, California. The purpose of EPA's community relations program is to involve the community and other interested persons in the federal clean-up process by: (1) establishing procedures for the accurate and timely release of information to interested citizens and public officials, and (2) encouraging two-way communication between the community and EPA Region 9.

The Community Relations Plan (CRP) describes community concerns and interests related to the sites, as they are presently understood by the Agency. In addition, the CRP presents methods by which EPA will inform the potentially affected communities and concerned public about studies and findings at the site, while encouraging community involvement in and throughout the Superfund process.

The level of community concern about the site appears to be mixed at this time. The community of Arvin relies on large scale agriculture as an economic base. Pesticide use has long been associated with agriculture activities in the region. Members of the community are familiar with pesticide issues and worker safety though have voiced only minor concern about potential adverse health effects. Several people expressed frustration that the B&B facility closed and blame regulatory intervention as the reason for this action. City officials and community members in the area are definitely interested in being kept informed about the results of EPA's investigation and cleanup progress. In particular, several individuals are interested in a rapid cleanup of the property so that commercial development can proceed at this site.

An effective community relations program for this site, therefore should provide a means for the timely and accurate release of information to the community while actively monitoring the level of community interest. Communications with the community should involve not only local elected officials but should also target the general public. The use of fact sheets and the local media, in addition to regular phone contact with local officials, are probably the most efficient means of disseminating information at this time. If a higher level of community concern develops in the future, it may be necessary to revise or supplement these methods.

Members of the public who are potentially affected by the contamination at the sites include:

- o children attending one of the nearby schools or playing near the site,
- o neighbors of the site,
- o employees of neighboring businesses,
- o drinking water supply users.

The information on this plan is based on discussions conducted in Arvin in September 1990, with local officials and members of the community. A list of agency people who were interviewed is provided in Appendix A. Other information has come from the California Department of Health Services Brown and Bryant Superfund site Draft Community Relations Plan (March 1988), and documents and technical reports prepared by government agencies and their contractors since preremedial investigations began at the site.

EPA's Hazardous Waste Management Division in Region 9 has lead responsibility for managing site cleanup, and its Office of Community Relations is responsible for developing and implementing an effective community relations program for this site.

## **SITE BACKGROUND**

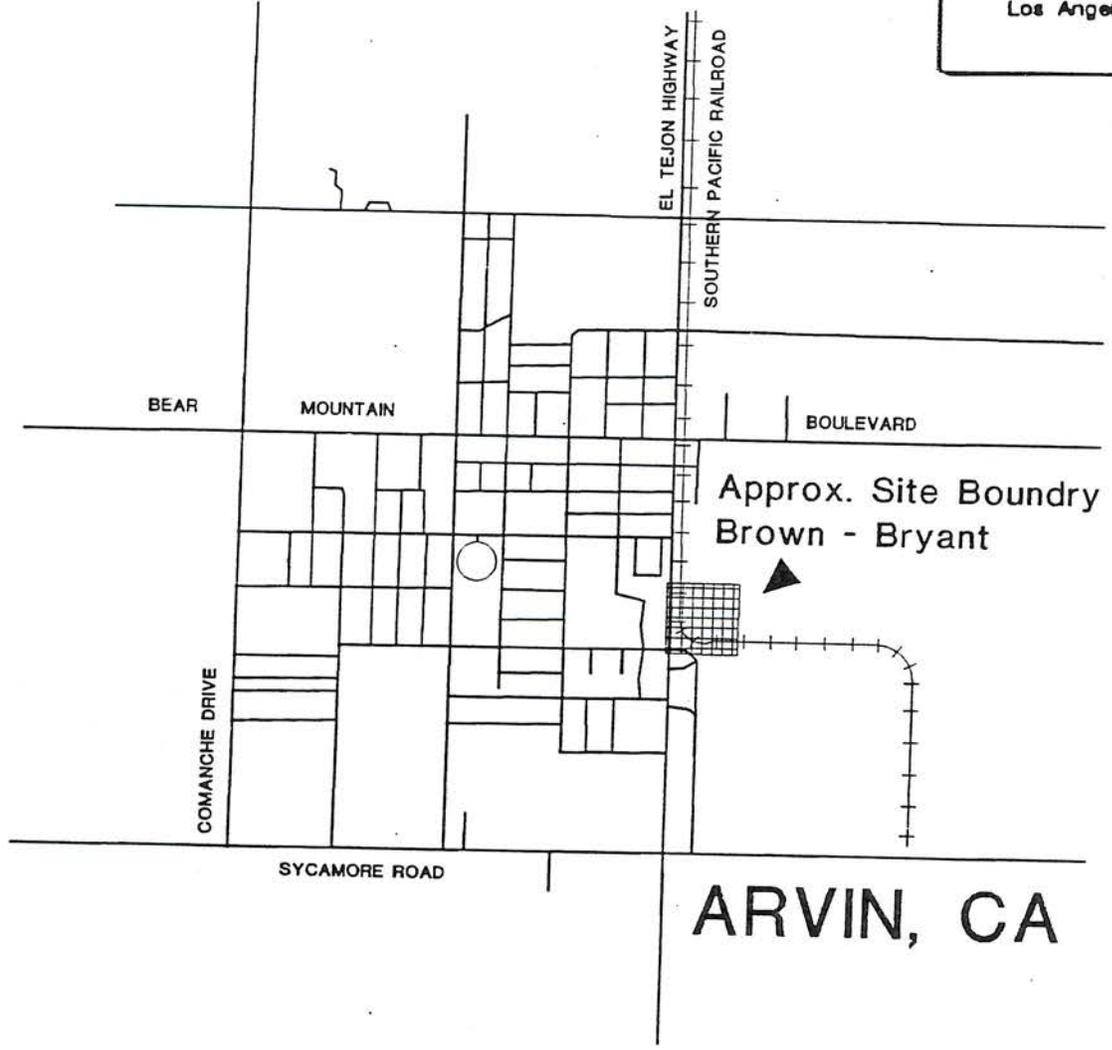
### Site Location and Description

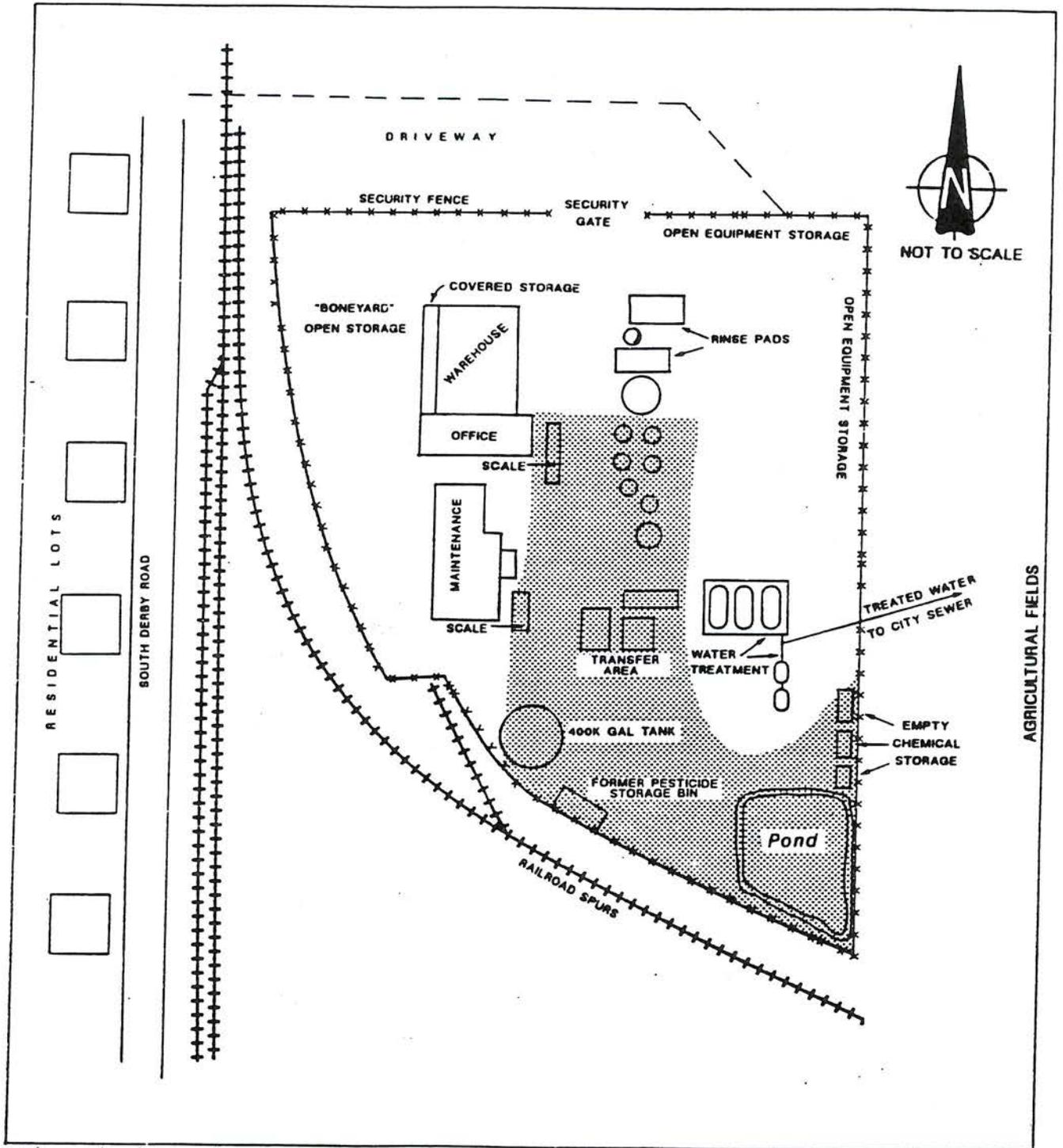
The Brown and Bryant site is listed on EPA's National Priorities List (NPL) as an uncontained hazardous waste site, designated for cleanup under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, otherwise known as CERCLA, or Superfund. Superfund, a federal law enacted in 1980 and amended in 1986, enables EPA to respond to hazardous waste sites that threaten public health and the environment.

The Brown and Bryant (B&B) site served as a pesticide reformulation and distribution facility located in Arvin, 15 miles southeast of Bakersfield. B&B also owned and operated a similar facility in Shafter, northeast of Bakersfield. The Arvin facility is on a 5-acre parcel of land at 600 South Derby Road in Arvin and has been fenced and locked with signs posted to prevent trespassing. The adjacent land is agricultural, light industrial and residential. The site is located within one-half mile of Sierra Vista School, Haven Drive School and Di Giorgio County Park.

### Site History

The facility formulated agricultural chemicals, including pesticides, herbicides, fumigants and fertilizers from 1960 to 1989. Prior to this time, the site was used as farmland. In July 1980, B&B notified the EPA, in compliance with the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) requirements, that it generated, transported, treated, stored and disposed of hazardous wastes at





ecology and environment, inc.

SITE MAP  
 BROWN AND BRYANT  
 ARVIN, CA

the Arvin facility. In April 1981, B&B notified EPA that all hazardous wastes were transferred to the B&B Shafter facility. The California Department of Health Services (DHS) inspected the Arvin site to determine compliance with hazardous waste laws. At the time of the inspection, several violations involving storage, disposal and transportation of hazardous waste were noted. Following the inspection, the DHS directed B&B to correct the violations and to conduct a site assessment. Between 1983 and 1988, B&B conducted site investigations under the supervision of the DHS. The site was listed on the National Priorities List in October 1989. B&B chose to cease operations at the Arvin facility in 1989.

#### Health Threats and Potential Exposure Pathways

There are two principal health threats that triggered EPA involvement at B&B: 1) presence of groundwater contaminants (agricultural chemicals) and their potential migration to Arvin drinking water wells; 2) highly contaminated soils on-site and the potential for human exposure to these soils. In March 1990, EPA's Office of Emergency Response conducted a site investigation and is in the process of planning a removal action to be done in February 1990.

The chemicals of greatest concerns are Dinoseb, 1,2 - di

chloropropene, 1,3 - dichloropropane, ethylene dibromide (EDB), dibromochloropropane and trichloropropane. These chemicals are either highly toxic, move rapidly through the type of soil found at Brown and Bryant or are found in high concentrations. Dinoseb has been banned from all use by the EPA because of its toxicity. zone beneath the site, though the deeper regional groundwater where the drinking water is drawn, has never shown evidence of such contamination. EPA is concerned that contaminants could travel down into the deeper regional groundwater from which Arvin municipal wells draw water for domestic and agricultural use if no long-term measures are taken.

Thus the Superfund process is underway.

## COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

### Community Profile

Arvin, has a population of approximately 8,500 people of which a majority are hispanic. The community depends economically upon agriculture, and the food packaging industry. The population is growing slowly, mainly in the school age group.

The community has a large Spanish-speaking population, though many people are bilingual. The Arvin Tiller is the only local newspaper, published weekly, while the Bakersfield Californian is delivered daily. Residents are described as independent, possessing moderate community spirit, and aware of their political isolation from Bakersfield. If townspeople are concerned

about an issue, local, county and state officials will probably hear about it. Conversely, citizens appear to be apathetic towards issues of no apparent concern to them.

### History of Community Involvement

In preparing this Community Relations Plan, background information about the potentially affected community and groups was gathered from a variety of documents as well as from interviews with members of the potentially affected community, agency staff, and city officials. Bulleted items in the sections below contain comments and concerns of the public as expressed directly by individuals in interviews. These individuals are identified on the list of contacts in Appendix A (internal versions only).

### EPA Community Relations Activities

Most Arvin community members initially learned of site contamination following DHS and EPA's preliminary investigations of improper chemical handling 1988.

An EPA fact sheet, including a Spanish translation, was distributed to community members in February 1990 describing removal actions to sample soils and groundwater. The EPA Community Relations Coordinator conducted door-to-door canvassing of the neighborhood to ensure they received fact sheets and to explain the use of protective clothing and masks worn by on-site workers.

### Key Community Concerns

A cross-section of local residents, public officials and business people were interviewed by EPA Remedial Project Manager-Cynthia Wetmore and Community Relations Coordinator-Andy Bain on September 27 and 28, 1990 in order to update the DHS Draft Community Relations Plan (March 1988). The original CRP contains comments and strategies addressing the early phases of site investigation, but lacks specific concerns such as the Spanish speaking population, and proximity of the site to several schools and public drinking water wells.

### City officials made the following points in interviews:

- o Business interests would like to commercially develop the site as quickly as possible, and the City hopes EPA can proceed quickly with clean-up plans.
- o The majority of the community is aware of the contamination at the B&B site. Minimal concern has been expressed about site work because people are under the impression that they are not immediately at risk.
- o The City is frequently contacted with questions about the site and expects to be kept informed with timely updates from EPA as issues develop.
- o EPA should consult with City Manager to decide whether a public meeting should be scheduled. Generally, the City has found that people don't attend meetings unless a crisis has arisen, in which case the meetings become emotional and unproductive.
- o EPA should avoid alarming people in fact sheets and meetings. Flyers sent home with school children are an effective means to announce meetings. Extra copies of fact sheets should be left at City Hall, Arvin Library Water Department Office and Vons Supermarket.

- o Small neighborhood workgroup meetings probably wouldn't be attended by residents.
- o In terms of general environmental issues, the City and several residents expressed concern about regional air quality and commented on the strong negative community reaction to locating an incinerator in Arvin several years ago.

Arvin community members made these additional points:

- o The general feeling towards EPA efforts is a positive one, that the Agency is responsive to community concerns.
- o Several individuals were upset at what they perceived was a case of the regulators shutting down a productive, tax generating business as a scapegoat of the environmental movement.
- o Spanish translations of site information help EPA to communicate with a large number of non-English speakers.
- o There appears to be little interest in community meetings. Thorough advance notice in the Arvin Tiller, and El Popular (Spanish) would attract some public involvement. The Catholic Church is a good resource for communicating information to people.
- o The Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall or the High School gymnasium would be good locations for evening meetings (7:00pm). EPA should provide a Spanish translator.
- o Fact sheets should contain more detailed information, in layman's terms. Simple figures and diagrams are needed.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAM

### Strategies to Address Community Concerns

- o Neighboring residents and interested community members should be provided with timely information about the status of cleanup and health risks associated with the site;
- o EPA should begin to educate the community about the relative health hazards associated with pesticides in groundwater versus occupational pesticide hazards. As soon as treatability information is available, EPA should provide the public with a summary of the different technologies to be considered in the Feasibility Study.
- o EPA should provide an opportunity for ongoing two-way communication with the public regarding issues and proposed activities specific to the site;
- o EPA should monitor public concerns and informational needs so that planned Community Relations activities can be modified if necessary;
- o EPA should include the RI/FS progress in all fact sheets and at public meetings.

## Required Community Relations Activities During RI/FS:

The required community relations activities to be conducted during the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study phase of the cleanup are outlined below. These requirements are from CERCLA (Superfund Act), the SARA legislation (Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act) and the NCP (National Oil and Hazardous Materials Contingency Plan). EPA's Region IX Office of Community Relations will be responsible for the implementation of community relations activities and this CRP. The timing of these activities is given in Table 1.

### **Information Contact**

- o An EPA Community Relations Coordinator is the designated contact person who will answer, or refer all inquiries regarding B&B clean-up activities. His/her name, address and phone number will be listed in every fact sheet distributed for this site and is also listed on page 24 of this document.

### **Information Repository**

- o This repository includes copies of relevant laws and regulations, fact sheets, the CRP, and major reports for review and consideration in deciding on a remedial action. Information repositories have been established in Arvin and in Bakersfield and their locations are listed on page 24. In addition, the Arvin Branch Library will house the Administrative Record, which includes copies of all relevant documents that are the basis for the removal and remedial action alternative yet to be determined. This is the only document file considered in judicial proceedings.

### **Comment Period on EPA's Preferred Alternative**

- o A minimum 30-day comment is required upon completion of the Feasibility Study - this may be formally extended an extra 30-days based on the community's need for more review time. Community members will be notified by mail, and paid notices in local newspapers to participate in the review process. The notification will inform members of the public that their comments will be considered before a decision on the final Preferred Alternative is made;

The FS and Preferred Alternative to be placed in the information repository will include a cover sheet with a report summary as well as information on where comments should be sent.

### **Public Meetings and Open Houses**

- o A formal meeting is required during the 30-day comment period on EPA's Preferred Alternative of the Proposed Plan. Suggestions for meeting locations are listed on page 25. A formal transcript of this meeting will be prepared and made available at the information repositories;

### **Public Notices**

- o Advertisements announcing the public comment period on the proposed plan and when the Record of Decision (ROD) has been approved will be placed in the main news section in two local newspapers. These notices will include information on the location of the Public Meeting, information repositories and the Administrative Record. They will be placed one week prior to the beginning of the public comment period and after the ROD has been signed.

### **Community Relations Plan Revisions**

- o After the ROD is signed, the CRP will be revised at the beginning of the remedial design phase. Information gathered from the public meetings, public comment period and new interviews pertaining to the remedial design/ remedial action phase of the cleanup will be used to revise the CRP.

## Technical Assistance Grant

- o The purpose of this grant is to assist citizens' groups in understanding technical information that assesses potential hazards and the selection and design of appropriate response actions at Superfund sites.

The Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program is administered and funded through EPA and provides grants of up to \$50,000 to citizens' groups to obtain assistance in interpreting information related to cleanups at Superfund sites on or proposed of the National Priorities List.

The Citizens' Guidance Manual for the Technical Assistance Grant Program, June 1988, provides detailed information on the TAG Program, its requirements and application process. To request a copy of this document, call 800/424-9346. Jack Lockwood of EPA Region IX Hazardous Waste Management Division is the TAG Coordinator and can be reached at 800/231-3075.

### Recommended Community Relations Activities prior to the Record of Decision:

In addition to the required community relations activities, EPA Region IX has a policy of implementing the following activities throughout the Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study process up to the Record of Decision process.

#### Briefings

- o Community Leaders should receive personal updates on site progress at least once during the remedial investigation/feasibility study process. Use of graphics and written handouts should be considered;

#### Mailing List

- o To be updated on a continuous basis through the use of fact sheet coupons or carrier sorting. The Office of Community Relations maintains these records and prints the labels;

### **Fact Sheets**

- o Distribute a Risk Assessment summary, and a RI/FS Proposed Plan fact sheet to the public immediately upon their finalization. Site activities updates will be released as needed between these milestones;

### **News Releases**

- o All major site-specific events will be reported to the local media through EPA Region IX's Office of Public Affairs Press Officer - Terry Wilson 415/744-1578;

### **Informal Community Meetings**

- o These meetings should be considered based on community needs for more information about the site;

### **Door-to-Door Canvassing**

- o EPA may choose to provide urgent information to or solicit comment from immediate neighbors. An EPA representative who is fluent in Spanish or a Spanish translator must be used with this community;

### **Information Repository Update**

- o New documents and information will be submitted to the repositories and their contents should be reorganized periodically.

Community Relations Activities following ROD:

**Briefings on Site Activities**

- o Local officials, elected representatives and key community leaders should be briefed on site status following negotiations and prior to the Remedial Design stage;

**News Releases**

- o Released by EPA's Press Officer according to new developments;

**Informal Community Meetings**

- o As needed;

**Door-to-Door Canvassing**

- o As needed.



**APPENDIX A**

**List of Contacts and Interested Parties**

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In the list below, individuals interviewed on September 27 and 28, 1990 are identified by an asterisk (\*). Otherwise, these individuals have not been interviewed, but receive periodic fact sheets, and invitations to meetings and briefings.

**A. Federal Elected Officials**

Honorable William M. Thomas  
Representative, 20th District  
4100 Truxtun Ave., Rm 220  
Bakersfield, CA 93309  
(805) 961-4226

Capitol Office

2402 Rayburn Building  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2915

Senator Alan Cranston  
5757 W. Century Blvd., Suite 620  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

(213) 215-2186

Senator John Seymore  
11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

(213) 209-6765

**B. State Elected Officials**

Assemblyman Trice Harvey, 33rd District  
\*Field Representative - Eric Skaggs  
1800 30th St., Suite 101  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(805) 324-3300

Capitol Office

State Capitol  
Room 4015  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-8498

Senator Don Rogers, 16th District

1326 "H" St. #15  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(805) 395-2927

Capitol Office

State Capitol  
Room 2068  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-6637

### **C. Local Elected Officials**

#### Arvin City Officials

City Hall - 200 Campus Dr.  
Arvin, CA 93203  
(805) 854-3134

Mayor: Tom Woodruff  
City Manager: Orval Wooner  
\*City Planner: Howard Phillips  
Council Members:

Donald Burkett, Mayor Pro Tem  
Hilda Dameron  
Steve Alderete  
Charley Parlier

#### Kern County Supervisors

1415 Truxtun Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(805) 861-2171

Roy Ashburn (District 1)  
Ben Austin (District 2, including Arvin)  
Pauline Larwood (District 3)  
Karl Hettinger (District 4)  
Mary K. Shell (District 5)

### **D. Environmental Agency Officials**

#### California Department of Health Services

Toxic Substances Control Division, Region 1  
10151 Croydon Way  
Sacramento, CA 95827

Frank Lopez, Project Manager (916) 855-7855  
Dan Diebert, Section Chief  
Jim Marxen, Public Participation Specialist  
Ron Baker, Public Information Officer  
Rick Birdsall, Attorney

#### Kern County Health Department

1700 Flower St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Amy Greene, Project Manager (805) 861-3636  
Daphne Washington, Chief of Special Programs

#### Kern County Air Pollution Control District

2500 "M" St., Suite 275  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(805) 861-3682  
Bill Roddy, Chief

Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
3614 East Ashlan Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93726  
Larry Lowe  
(209) 488-4384

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
75 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Andy Bain, Community Relations Coord. (H-1-1) (415) 744-2184  
(800) 231-3075  
Cynthia Wetmore, Remedial Project Manager (H-6-2) (415) 744-2218  
Greg Baker, Chief, Northern Calif. Section (H-6-2)  
Bob Mandel, On-Scene Coordinator (H-8-3)  
Terry Wilson, Press Officer (E-2) (415) 744-1578

**E. Community Organizations**

Arvin Union Elementary School District  
737 Bear Mountain Blvd.  
Arvin, CA 93203  
John Davis, Superintendent  
(805) 854-3146

Sierra Vista School  
300 Franklin  
Arvin, CA 93203  
Don Olague, Principal  
(805) 854-6560

Arvin High School  
900 Varsity Road  
Arvin, CA 93203  
Jack Schulze, Principal  
(805) 854-5561

St. Thomas Catholic Church  
350 Bear Mountain Blvd.  
Arvin, CA 93203  
\*Father Garcia  
(805) 854-3220

Senior Citizens Center  
800 Walnut Dr.  
Arvin, CA 93203  
Sandra Brown, Director  
(805) 854-3139

Arvin Community Service District  
333 Bear Mountain Blvd.  
Arvin, Ca 93203  
\*Raymond Kincy, Manager  
(805) 854-2127

Arvin Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 192  
Arvin, CA 93203  
Raymond Kincy, President  
(805) 854-2265

Valley Action Network  
P.O. Box 358  
Bakersfield, CA 93302  
John Means  
(805) 395-1000

**F. Interested Arvin Community Members (Internal version)**

- \*Alan Palm
- \*John Meyer
- \*Opal Owens
- \*Joycene and Bill Traver
- \*Toni Picardo
- \*Juanita Dominguez
- \*Wilma Bratton
- \*Nelda Bradley

## **G. Contiguous Property Owners**

Billy Bannister  
581 S. Derby St.  
(805) 854-5021

Guadalupe Cardoso  
601 S. Derby St.

\*Kern Valley Industries  
580 S. Derby St.  
(805) 854-5512

Florentino Ramirez  
703 S. Derby  
(805) 854-3070

Carl Oblinger  
1701 Manning St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93309

Adela Cruz  
525 S. Derby  
(805) 854-3497

Gene Davis  
565 S. Derby  
(805) 854-2221

Cal-Cool  
P.O. 191  
(805) 854-5062

Green Valley Packers  
844 S. Derby St.  
(805) 854-4436

Lawrence Scarbrough  
733 S. Derby  
(805) 854-2239

## **G. Local Media Contacts**

### **Newspaper**

Arvin Tiller  
P.O. Box 548  
Lamont, CA 93241  
(805) 845-3704

Bakersfield Californian  
P.O. Box 440  
Bakersfield, CA 93302  
Tom Mauer, Environmental Writer (805) 395-7384  
Lois Henry, County Correspondent (805) 395-7495

El Popular  
1206 California Ave  
Bakersfield, CA 93304  
(805) 325-7725

El Mexicalo  
931 Niles St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93305  
(805) 323-9334

### **Radio**

KAFY-AM (Spanish)  
1527 19th St., Suite 300  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(805) 324-4411

KWAC-AM (Spanish)  
5200 Standard St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93308  
(805) 327-9711

KBCC-FM  
1810 Panorama Dr.  
Bakersfield, CA 93305  
(805) 395-4575

KERN-AM and KOXR-FM  
P.O. Box 2700  
Bakersfield, CA 93303  
(805) 328-1410

KGEO-AM and KGFM-FM  
P.O. Box 260  
Bakersfield, CA 93302  
(805) 842-5436

KHIS-AM and FM  
521 "H" St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93304  
(805) 327-0631

KIWI-FM  
5252 Standard St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93308  
(805) 325-5494

KLLY-FM  
P.O. Box 80658  
Bakersfield, CA 93308  
(805) 393-1900

KPMC-AM  
P.O. Box 1736  
Bakersfield, CA 93302  
(805) 327-5121

KLYD-AM and FM  
924 Truxtun Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
(805) 327-5772

KUZZ-AM and FM  
3223 Sillect Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA  
(805) 326-1011

KKXX  
1100 Mohawk, Suite 280  
Bakersfield, CA 93309  
(805) 322-9929  
Carol Furgeson

**Television**

KBAK (Channel 29)  
P.O. Box 2929  
Bakersfield, CA 93303  
(805) 325-6397 (News)

KERO (Channel 23)  
P.O. Box 2367  
Bakersfield, CA 93303  
(805) 325-9107 (News)

KGET (Channel 17)  
2831 Eye St.  
Bakersfield, CA 93302  
(805) 327-1761 (News)

Warner Cable (Channel 2)  
201 Union Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93304

**APPENDIX B**

**EPA Contacts,  
Location of Information Repositories,  
Suggested Locations for Community Meetings**

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**EPA CONTACTS**

Two EPA staff member have been designated as agency contacts for the Brown & Bryant Superfund site. All questions and comments about the clean-up actions should be directed to:

Cynthia Wetmore  
Remedial Project Manager  
(415) 744-2218

Andy Bain  
Community Relations  
(415) 744-2184  
(800) 231-3075

Correspondence should be sent to:  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
75 Hawthorne St. (H-1-1)  
San Francisco, CA 94105

**INFORMATION REPOSITORIES (where draft documents and past fact sheets are available for public review.)**

Kern County Library		(805) 854-5934
123 "A" St.	Hrs.	Mon-Thur 10am - 7pm
Arvin, CA 93203		Fri 10am - 5pm
Nelda Bradley, Librarian		

Beale Memorial Library		(805) 861-2136 x572
701 Truxtun Ave.	Hrs.	Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm
Bakersfield, CA 93301		Sat 10am - 6pm
John Walden, History Room		

**SUGGESTED LOCATION FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS**

Location

Contact

Arvin Veterans' Hall

414 4th St.  
Arvin, CA 93203

Carmen Gomez  
(805) 861-2491

Two Rooms - Capacities:

Large: 466 people

Small: 143 people

Sierra Vista School

300 Franklin

Laura Scott  
737 Bear Mountain Blvd.  
(805) 854-6500

or

Haven Drive Jr. High School

341 Haven Dr.

Each w/ Capacity: 230

Arvin City Hall

200 Campus Dr.  
Arvin, CA 93203

Orval Wooner  
(805) 854-3134

Capacity: 100 people

