

# Community Involvement Plan

July 2008

## Community Involvement in Cleanup Decisions

A healthy environment and public safety are important to the Oxnard and Port Hueneme communities. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with other government agencies, environmental and community organizations, and interested residents to protect the environment and public health from contamination at the Halaco **Superfund\*** Site (referred to as "Site"). In 2008 and 2009, EPA will continue its investigation into the nature and extent of contamination at the Site, and begin planning for its cleanup (see Figure 3, Superfund Process on page 11).

When work begins at a Superfund site, EPA develops a **Community Involvement Plan (CIP)** that identifies objectives for involving the community at the Site and proposes community outreach activities to help EPA meet those objectives. One of our goals, as outlined in this CIP, is to involve you, as a member of the community, in each stage of our work. EPA will try to achieve this goal by keeping you informed of plans, activities, and findings. We will provide opportunities for you to express your preferences and concerns, and will consider your input when performing work at the Site.

As a first step toward learning about the community's needs and priorities, EPA interviewed 27 community members in January 2008. What we learned from talking with people in your area forms the basis of this plan.

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\*Definitions of **bolded** words are provided in Appendix A, Glossary, and abbreviations used in this document are included in Appendix B, Acronyms and Abbreviations.



## EPA Contacts for Halaco Superfund Site

Please direct questions, comments, concerns, and requests to:

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The toll-free EPA Community  
Involvement Office message  
line is (800) 231-3075.  
Information is also available on  
EPA's Web site at:  
[www.epa.gov/region09/halaco](http://www.epa.gov/region09/halaco)

## Community Profile

The Site is located in coastal Ventura County, California, in the Ormond Beach neighborhood in the City of Oxnard, not far from the City of Port Hueneme (see Figure 1 on page 3).

To the south of the Site are wetlands and the Pacific Ocean. Immediately to the east and north are additional wetlands owned by The Nature Conservancy. The wetlands adjacent to the Site are part of the larger Ormond Beach Wetlands, which historically extended from Port Hueneme (to the northwest) to Mugu Lagoon (to the southeast). The Ormond Beach Wetlands are home to several endangered or threatened species, and are the focus of federal and state restoration efforts.

The Site is bisected by the **Oxnard Industrial Drain (OID)**— a surface water channel that drains upstream agricultural, commercial, and residential areas of the Oxnard Plain. Within a half mile of the Site is a mix of industrial, commercial, agricultural, and residential areas. The closest residential areas are in Port Hueneme, approximately one-quarter mile northwest of the Site, and Oxnard, approximately one-half mile north of the Site.

The Site lies on the Oxnard Coastal Plain, which includes all or part of the cities of Oxnard, Ventura, Camarillo, Port Hueneme, and Santa Paula. Agriculture continues to be a major land use in the coastal plain, although significant residential, commercial, and industrial development has occurred as the population has increased. The military bases established at Port Hueneme and Point Mugu during World War II— and the electronic, aerospace, and other manufacturing industries— have also contributed to the growth of Oxnard and surrounding areas.



Aerial image © Google Earth, 2007. Annotation by CH2M HILL, 2008.

Figure 1  
Halaco Superfund Site Map

## Oxnard

The City of Oxnard is located 60 miles northwest of Los Angeles and 35 miles southeast of Santa Barbara, along the Pacific coastline. Oxnard is the largest city in Ventura County with a population of 170,858 (U.S. Census, 2006). The population increased 19.4 percent in the 1990s. The percentage of Hispanics and foreign-born is significantly higher than the state average, while the African-American population is lower. Median age, length of stay, and the percentage of the population with a bachelor’s degree or higher are all less than the state average (City of Oxnard, 2006). The City of Oxnard’s demographics are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1 - CITY OF OXNARD DEMOGRAPHICS

Race	Persons	Percentage
One Race	166,946	97.7
White	91,854	53.8
Black or African American	8,158	4.8
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,210	0.7
Asian	15,741	9.2
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	501	0.3
Some other race	49,482	29.0
Two or more races	3,912	2.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	116,641	68.3
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>170,858</b>	<b>100</b>

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey

In Oxnard, the average annual household income is \$48,603, and the per capita annual income is \$15,288. About 15.1 percent of Oxnard’s population lives below the poverty line (U.S. Census, 2000). The unemployment rate for Oxnard is 7.3 percent (City of Oxnard, 2006).

Oxnard is divided into eight neighborhood communities (see Figure 2 on page 5): Del Norte, Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Central, South Central, Southeast. Ormond Beach is located in the South Central and Southeast neighborhood communities, which are closest to the Site.

The City of Oxnard values public participation and hopes to establish a neighborhood council in every neighborhood. Residents are responsible for establishing neighborhood councils and electing a chairperson to represent their neighborhood once a month at the Inter Neighborhood Council Forum (INCF).

Oxnard’s neighborhood councils facilitate communication between residents, businesses, and local government, and keep interested parties up to date on local issues, events, and projects.

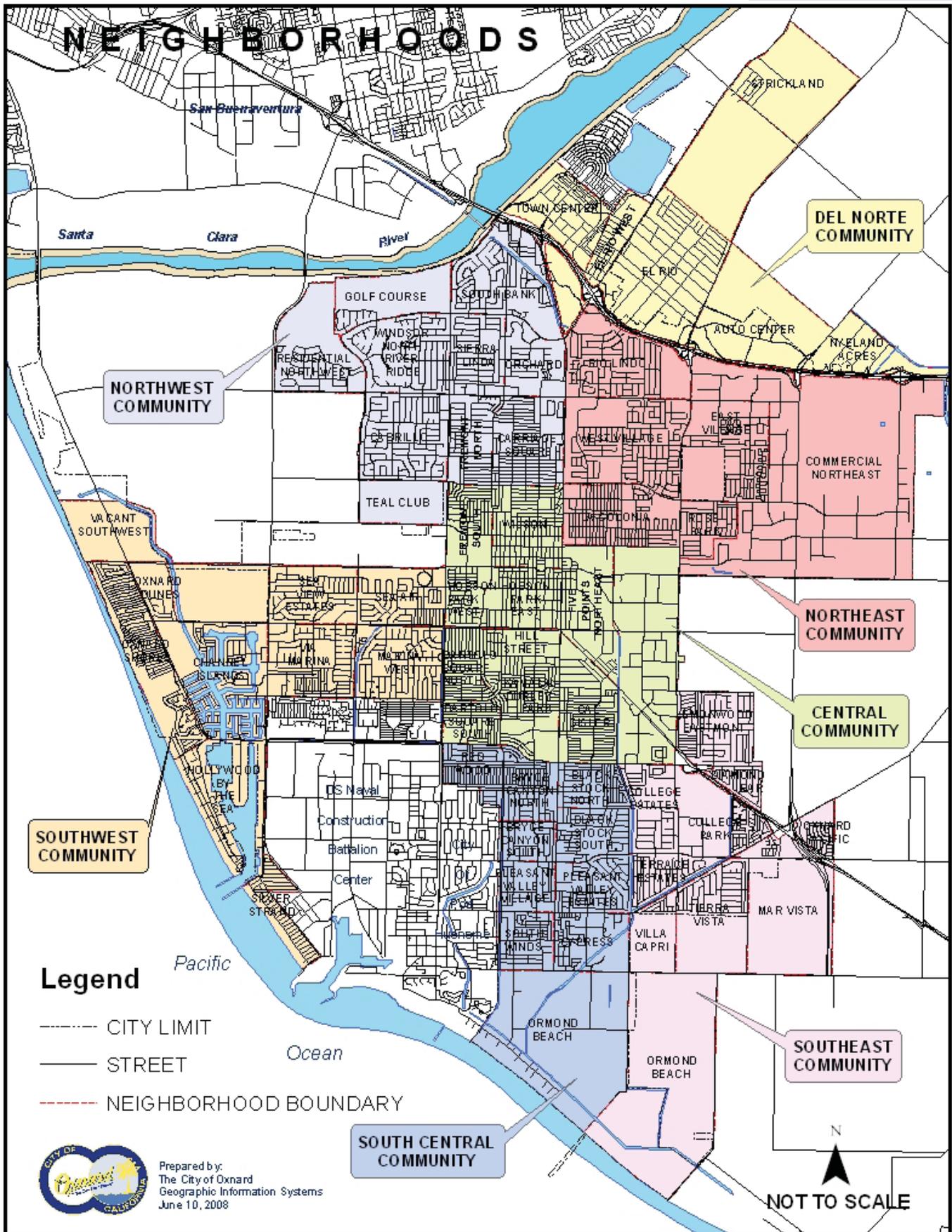


Figure 2  
Oxnard Neighborhoods

## Port Hueneme

Port Hueneme is a small harbor city of about 4.4 square miles, surrounded by the City of Oxnard, 60 miles northwest of Los Angeles and 40 miles southeast of Santa Barbara. Port Hueneme has a population of 21,845 (City of Port Hueneme, 2000). The City’s demographics are detailed in Table 2.

**Table 2 - CITY OF PORT HUENEME DEMOGRAPHICS**

Race	Persons	Percentage
One Race	20,468	93.7
White	12,510	57.3
Black or African American	1,324	6.1
American Indian and Alaska Native	369	1.7
Asian	1,383	6.3
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	110	0.5
Some other race	4,772	21.8
Two or more races	1,377	6.3
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	8,960	41.0
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>21,845</b>	<b>100</b>

SOURCE: US Census Bureau, 2000

In Port Hueneme, the average household annual income is \$42,246, and the per capita annual income is \$17,311. About 12.2 percent of the City’s population lives below the poverty line (U.S. Census, 2000).

## Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors are people who are more susceptible to health problems if exposed to contamination in the soil, water, or air. Sensitive receptors include young children (ages 0-6), senior citizens, people with respiratory problems, and pregnant women.

Locations with sensitive receptors within a 1-mile radius of the Site include:

- Art Haycox Elementary School, 0.70 miles
- Milling’s Family Day Care Center, 0.80 miles
- St. John’s Pleasant Valley Hospital, 0.90 miles
- Assisting Seniors in Need Senior Center, 0.50 miles

As far as EPA knows, the Site does not pose a risk to these locations.

## Community Comments and Concerns

### What We Heard

The Oxnard and Port Hueneme communities are well informed, well organized, and very interested in the Site's environmental cleanup activities, prompting many community members to become involved in the CIP process. Twenty-seven participants – representatives of neighborhood councils, community and environmental organizations, local government, and business groups – enthusiastically shared their opinions and knowledge about the Site during the community interviews conducted in January 2008. EPA representatives interviewed most community members individually. Interview questions are included in Appendix D.

All participants were aware of the Site, and most felt they were familiar with the Site's history, its contamination issues, and recent EPA Site activities. More than one-half of the participants have been long-time area residents (more than 15 years); eight of those have lived in the area for more than 30 years. Many interviewees knew about the Site because of their jobs: They either worked for the county or city government; worked at the neighboring Weyerhaeuser plant; or worked at the former Halaco facility. Newer area residents learned about the Site through local newspaper articles, active community members, and environmental groups. Community members began to suspect that the Site's practices were causing pollution when they saw plumes of smoke, smelled and/or tasted chemicals in the air, and saw ash on their cars while Halaco operated. The community also observed dust blowing off the waste pile. Participants expressed strong opinions about how the Site should be cleaned up.

While EPA was most interested in getting information and feedback during the interviews, we also took the opportunity to clarify, correct, and answer questions about environmental activities at the Site. EPA explained the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)** process, which is commonly known as the Superfund process, including the steps involved in the **Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)** now underway (see Figure 3 on page 11).



### National Priorities Listing

EPA proposed adding the Site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in March 2007. On September 19, 2007, after considering public comments on its proposal, EPA added the Site to the NPL. As of July 2008, the Site is one of 1,255 sites on the NPL.



### Contaminants Found at Halaco Superfund Site

Elevated levels of the following chemicals are present in wastes, soil, sediments, and/or groundwater at the Site. All chemicals are defined in Appendix A, Glossary.

#### Metals

- Aluminum
- Barium
- Beryllium
- Cadmium
- Chromium
- Copper
- Lead
- Magnesium
- Manganese
- Nickel
- Zinc

#### Other Contaminants

- Ammonia
- Thorium

## What Does the Community Know About Contamination at the Halaco Site?

Most participants had a good understanding of Site-related contamination. They knew the facility accepted a variety of scrap metal, some of which was radioactive. Participants said they felt that illegal disposal practices were occurring when Halaco operated, including illegal discharges to the air, based on what they saw or smelled. They knew that the Site was contaminated with large quantities of a variety of chemicals (many mentioned **thorium, beryllium, magnesium, and heavy metals**), and that there was contamination in the waste pile, soil, and potentially **groundwater** (see text box for list of contaminants). Some felt the Site contributed to air pollution, especially **particulate matter (PM)**. Several participants expressed concern about radioactive materials remaining at the Site, and worried that the contamination must be serious if the Site is on EPA's **National Priorities List (NPL)**.

## What Is the Community Most Concerned About?

Participants expressed concerns regarding health, environmental impacts, safety, remaining contamination, cleanup, legal issues, and aesthetics related to the Site. Many expressed concerns about how the Site might be cleaned up. Specific concerns are listed below.

### Health

Participants expressed concerns about people who were or may have been exposed to contamination at the Site, including:

- Former Halaco workers
- Weyerhaeuser workers (when Halaco operated and during cleanup activities)
- School children who visited the area for field trips
- Beach users
- Nature Conservancy members working in the area
- Residents in nearby housing developments
- People on all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) on the waste pile
- Trespassers
- People downwind of the Site
- Nearby schools, daycare centers, and senior centers

EPA explained that the California Department of Public Health (DPH) (formerly the Department of Health Services) is evaluating risks to human health related to the Site and that a report is expected to be issued by the end of 2008.

### Contamination

Participants expressed concern about the types of contamination, particularly radioactive materials. A few interviewees who knew some of the area's history were concerned that previous use of the Site (formerly the City of Oxnard's municipal landfill) may have left additional contamination sources that could be uncovered through EPA's RI.

The amount of contaminated material, particularly the waste pile's enormity, concerned people. Many interviewees would like to see it hauled away, but recognize that removing such a large volume of material might not be feasible. Another concern expressed about the Site is that there are areas contaminated by Halaco's activities that have not been identified, such as the dock area.

Participants also voiced concern about groundwater contamination. EPA explained that more about the extent of groundwater contamination would be known after additional testing at the Site.

### Environmental Impact

Participants consider the surrounding Ormond Beach Wetlands to be an important biological and recreational resource. Multiple groups (The Nature Conservancy, California Coastal Conservancy, Ormond Beach Task Force, Ormond Beach Observers, Ocean Protection Council, Ventura Coast Keepers, and the Environmental Defense Center) are very interested in the parcels east and north of the Site purchased in 2005 by The Nature Conservancy, and the relationship between cleanup of the Site and Ormond Beach restoration efforts.

The movement of contaminants onto neighboring properties and the potential for impacts on agricultural products, plants, animals, and fish are of particular concern. Participants wondered if they should be worried about eating fish caught in the area.

Other environmental concerns were the Site's impact on groundwater and adjacent surface waters, and contamination in the OID that originates upstream of the Site.

### Potential Cleanup Impacts on the Community

Concerns were raised about how environmental cleanup would affect worker health and safety. Many participants commented on the possibility that the waste pile could be hauled away in railway cars. Interviewees worried, however, that if the waste pile is removed, air quality impacts might adversely impact workers at the Weyerhaeuser facility, and the wastewater treatment plant, school children on field trips to the area, contractors, and The Nature Conservancy workers. In addition, interviewees had concerns about the logistics of hauling away such a large amount of waste (i.e., trucking and construction impacts on traffic, dust, noise, exposures to the waste), and the length of time neighboring workers might be impacted.

Concerns were also expressed about the impact of cleanup work on wetland restoration efforts and how quickly and thoroughly the Site would be cleaned up. EPA explained that the **Risk Assessment** and other parts of the RI have begun and that EPA will formally evaluate cleanup options after the RI is completed.

### Legal Issues

Many interviewees knew about the Site's history and felt that government representatives (especially at the City of Oxnard and Air Pollution Control District [APCD]) must have known about the contamination and simply chose to allow it. People wondered why the facility was permitted for so long, and why the owners were allowed to continue operations in another state.

Interviewees had concerns about the costs of the cleanup and who will pay for it. They expressed concerns about people whose health may have been affected by the Site, who will pay for treatment, and possible lawsuits.

## Economic and Aesthetic Impacts

A few City of Oxnard representatives were concerned that the Site could adversely affect development in the area. They felt that property values may decline and new housing may be harder to sell because of proximity to the Site. Concern was also expressed that the area's beach-front beauty is diminished by the Site.

## How Has EPA Addressed Community Concerns?

Most participants provided positive feedback about EPA's actions to date. Several expressed relief that EPA had added the Site to the NPL and felt that the cleanup is in good hands. Many said EPA had completed helpful temporary actions, such as securing the Site from trespassers, and grading and covering the waste pile. Some said they believe that EPA's intent is comprehensive treatment of the property, but a few were skeptical. A couple of interviewees were not aware of the RI studies underway.

## Does the Community Trust EPA?

Most interviewees understood that EPA is the lead agency for environmental issues at the Site, and that the other entities involved include the DPH, which is conducting a health risk investigation; Ventura County APCD; California Coastal Commission; California Coastal Conservancy; Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Santa Barbara Channel Keeper; and the Cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

All interviewees expressed confidence in EPA's ability to clean up the Site. People said things like, "EPA brings clout to Site mobilization," and "EPA came and listened." However, a couple of interviewees said they know that the Superfund process can be long and slow.

Participants said it was refreshing to have a direct line to EPA to get answers to questions. They were impressed with EPA staff accessibility – they can easily contact the Project Manager and Community Involvement Coordinator. They were impressed with the "door to door" effort that EPA conducted in the neighborhood adjacent to the Site, and hoped that EPA will continue to keep the lines of communication open.

## How Has EPA Community Involvement and Outreach Been So Far?

Participants expressed positive feedback about the level of community outreach EPA has directed toward residences and businesses affected by the Site. Participants emphasized the need to have bilingual materials and to keep in contact with the neighborhood councils, schools, employers, and workers in the area.

Most people received EPA information about the Site through EPA's Web site, factsheets, and community meetings. Other methods were through presentations made at city council, Mixteco/Indigena Community Organization Project, and Ormond Beach Task Force meetings, the neighborhood council network, and e-mail. Many interviewees also learned about the Site through the Ventura County Star newspaper's extensive coverage.

Many said they had not received new information recently, but understood there was nothing new for EPA to report. Almost all said they felt the information was clear enough for most people to understand.

Overall, participants felt they have been kept adequately informed. During cleanup activities, however, EPA could have communicated better with Weyerhaeuser and other neighboring businesses, and others who go near the Site. One participant commented that “free-flowing” forthcoming information is good; otherwise people tend to speculate.

### When Should EPA Hold Public Meetings?

EPA held a public meeting on September 24, 2007, at the South Oxnard Community Center (200 East Bard Road). Most participants felt it was an appropriate location and that the meeting was useful to the community. Some expressed disappointment that a Spanish interpreter was not available and suggested having an interpreter at all future meetings.

Starting public meetings anytime between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. on weekday evenings was suggested, as they wouldn’t conflict with neighborhood council, city council, planning commission, and county supervisor meetings. Avoiding Mondays and Fridays was also stressed by most interviewees. Some suggested having one meeting during the lunch hour and one in the evening on the same day to encourage higher attendance.

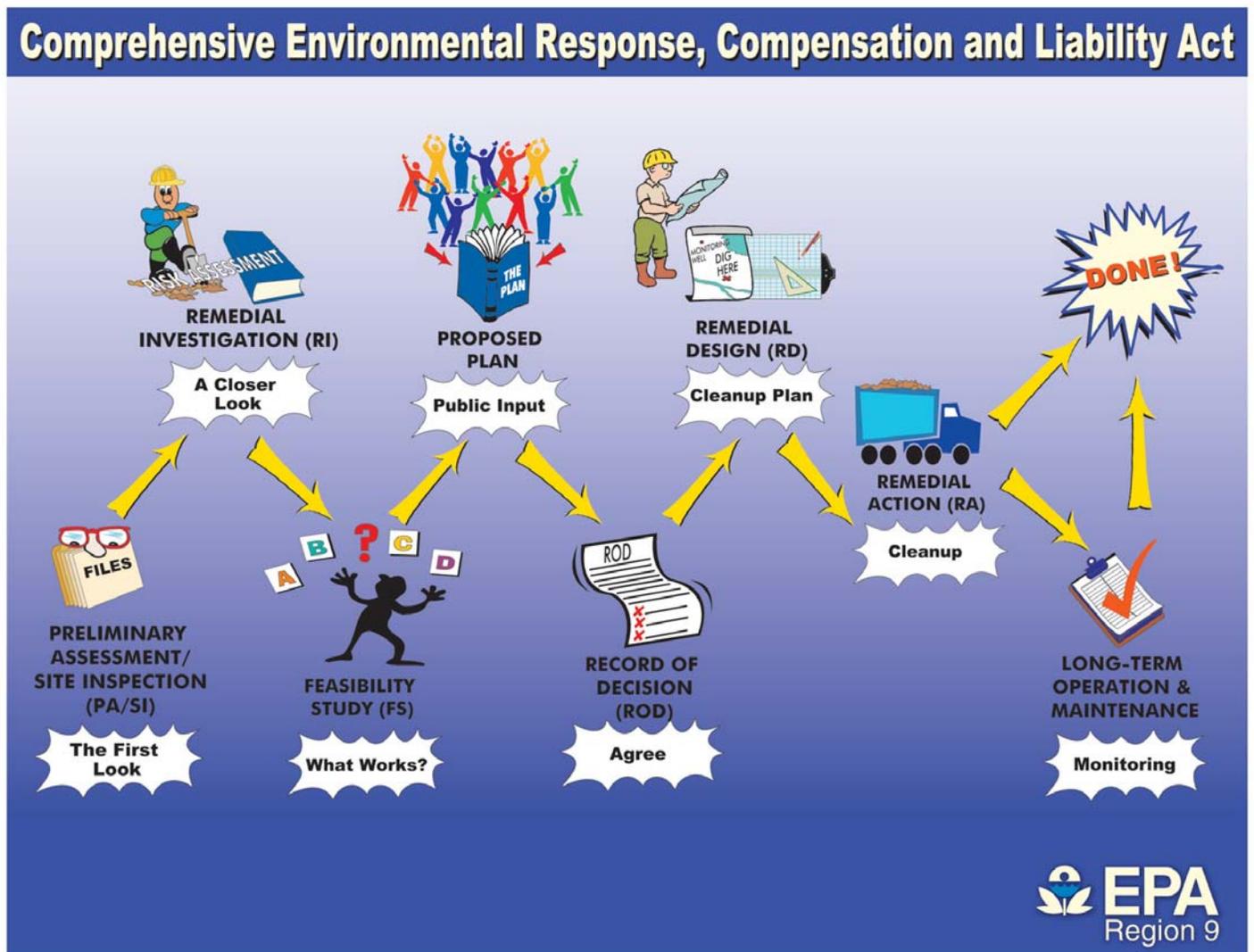


Figure 3  
Superfund Cleanup Process

## Community Involvement Objectives

This CIP is a living document that will be adapted to meet the community's needs as EPA's work on the Site progresses. The CIP identifies objectives for involving the community at the Site and proposes community outreach activities to help EPA meet these objectives. We encourage the public to identify specific activities or tools that will enhance community awareness of Site issues and ensure effective communication with EPA and other responsible agencies. EPA will make additional services available to persons with special needs. EPA representatives for this Site are listed in Appendix C, Section 1.

EPA's community involvement objectives and proposed community involvement activities for the Site are:

### ▶ Establish Regular and Open Dialogue to Respond to Questions, Concerns, and Conflicts as They Arise

#### Community Interviews

In January 2008, EPA conducted 27 interviews with a cross-section of community representatives from environmental and public interest groups, local government, neighborhood councils, and various ethnic populations. EPA may conduct additional interviews as the RI/FS continues.

#### Outreach to Targeted Populations

To reach Spanish speakers, EPA will translate public outreach documents into Spanish, provide Spanish translation at community meetings, and ensure that materials are in plain language and easily understood.

#### Fulfillment of Statutory Requirements Regarding Public Notice and Public Involvement Opportunities

EPA will ensure that all legal requirements are met for public involvement during the investigation and cleanup. During and after the investigation, requirements include: public notice when the RI and FS report and Proposed Plan are available, a public meeting about the RI/FS and Proposed Plan, preparation of a written transcript of the public meeting, a period for public comment on the RI/FS and Proposed Plan, preparation of responses to significant public comments, and public notice of the availability of the **Record of Decision (ROD)**.

#### Evaluation of CIP Effectiveness

EPA will continue to evaluate its public outreach efforts through comments received by e-mail and phone, and at meetings, presentations, and the Site. EPA will incorporate the feedback into the CIP as needed.

### ▶ Provide Opportunities for Public Participation in Site Decision-making

To promote public participation, EPA will:

- Offer presentations to interested community organizations and local governmental agencies at their regularly scheduled meetings.

- Provide EPA contact information (see Appendix C, Section 1). EPA Site personnel are available to answer questions and address comments by phone, mail, and e-mail.
- Provide funding for active community participation through a **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)**. The TAG program funds the services of an independent technical advisor for a community-based nonprofit organization. The technical advisor explains EPA documents and data to organization members, and relays community concerns to EPA.

## Provide Consistent, Regular, and Timely Information about the Investigation, Cleanup Plans, and Activities

### Site-related Documents

EPA will make work plans, sampling results, and reports available for public review after the EPA Site team has reviewed them for accuracy. Documents will be available at the information repositories (see Appendix C, Section 2), on the EPA Web site, and upon request from the Region 9 Superfund Records Center.

### Interactive Meetings

Upon request, as scheduling allows, EPA will attend regularly scheduled meetings of community groups, agencies, city councils, and neighborhood associations.

EPA is available to make presentations to elected officials, Site neighbors, and interested community groups, including:

- Oxnard City Council
- Port Hueneme City Council
- Ventura County Board of Supervisors
- Inter Neighborhood Council Forum (INCF)
- Ormond Beach Task Force
- Weyerhaeuser Hueneme Paper Mill
- Centro Mujer/Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)

### Factsheets and Newsletters

EPA will distribute factsheets and newsletters, via traditional and e-mail mailing lists, and make them available at the information repositories and other public locations. Factsheets will describe Site activities and issues, announce public meetings, and provide a toll-free phone number for further information. Four factsheets have been produced in English and Spanish since June 2006. Factsheets are available at [www.epa.gov/region09/halaco](http://www.epa.gov/region09/halaco), and in the information repositories. A list of factsheets is provided on page 14.

### E-mail Updates

EPA will provide periodic updates on Site activities via e-mail to those parties who expressed willingness to distribute this information to their constituent mailing lists. EPA will develop and maintain an e-mail group list for this purpose.



## Information Repositories

### South Oxnard Library Branch

4300 Saviers Road  
Oxnard, CA 93033  
(805) 385-8129  
*Monday - Thursday*  
*9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.*  
*Saturday*  
*9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.*  
Contact: Renata Hundley

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9 Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne Street,  
Room 403  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 536-2000  
*Monday – Friday*  
*8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

### Internet

EPA will maintain a Site Web site where documents will be available for viewing or downloading. Web addresses can be found in Appendix C, Section 1. Web pages and technical documents are in English only, but some Site information, such as factsheets, will continue to be posted in English and Spanish.

### News Media

EPA will share timely and accurate Site news through mass media outlets, including non-English-language media. To the extent feasible, EPA may distribute information through cable television and radio stations, and if appropriate, print media (see Appendix C, Section 6 for local media contacts).

### Site Mailing List

EPA will continue to maintain and update the Site mailing list. The list has been developed from meeting sign-in sheets, community interviews, and e-mail and phone inquiries. To get on the mailing list, please make a request by e-mail, phone, or mail to EPA Region 9 (see Appendix C, Section 1 for contact information). The Site mailing list currently includes approximately 200 contacts.

### Information Repositories

EPA has established two information repositories (one within the community) where you can review Site documents at the South Oxnard Library and at the EPA Region 9 office (see Appendix C, Section 2).

### Public Comments

EPA welcomes public input at any time. CERCLA requires EPA to seek formal public comments at certain stages of the Superfund process, such as when EPA issues a **Proposed Plan**. EPA responds to public comments on a Proposed Plan in the ROD.

## Community Involvement History

Since 2006, EPA has distributed four factsheets for the Site listed below. They can be found in the information repositories (see Appendix C, Section 2) and on the Site Web site: [www.epa.gov/region09/halaco](http://www.epa.gov/region09/halaco).

### June 2006 Factsheet

Removal Action Planned to Address Immediate Environmental Concerns

### February 2007 Factsheet

U.S. EPA Issues Integrated Assessment Report for the Halaco Engineering Company Site

### March 2007 Factsheet

Halaco Engineering Company Removal Action

### June 2007 Factsheet

Elevated Levels of Radiation Found at Site - Public Must Not Enter the Site

Table 3 provides a chronology of EPA community outreach efforts.

Table 3 - EPA COMMUNITY OUTREACH CHRONOLOGY

Period	Activity
May 2006	Developed initial Site mailing list.
June 2006	Distributed factsheet: Removal Action Planned to Address Immediate Environmental Concerns.
February 2007	Presentation at a Mixteco/Indigena Community Organization Project meeting.
	Distributed factsheet: U.S. EPA Issues Integrated Assessment Report for the Halaco Engineering Company Site.
March 2007	Distributed factsheet: Halaco Engineering Company Removal Action.
	Presentation to the Ormond Beach Task Force.
June 2007	Conducted door-to-door canvassing.
	Distributed factsheet: Elevated Levels of Radiation Found at Site – Public Must Not Enter the Site.
September 2007	Listed Site on the NPL.
	Held community meeting.
	Distributed flyers announcing community meeting with coupon to join Halaco mailing list.
October 2007	Presentation to the Port Hueneme City Council.
	Presentation to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.
January 2008	Performed community interviews in preparation for the CIP.
	Presentation to the Ormond Beach Task Force.
	Presentation at a Mixteco/Indigena Community Organization Project meeting.
June 2008	Presentation to the Ormond Beach Task Force.
July 2008	Distribute CIP.

Selected documents related to the Site are available at the information repositories and on the Internet at: [www.epa.gov/region09/halaco](http://www.epa.gov/region09/halaco).

## Community Involvement Action Plan

Community members have suggested ways in which EPA can effectively keep them informed or involved in the cleanup process and achieve this CIP's objectives. Table 4 shows the initial action plan, which will change as we learn more about the Site through our continuing investigations.

Table 4 - TENTATIVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

Site Status	Action	Period
Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS)	Conduct community interviews.	Winter 2008
	Develop CIP.	Winter - Summer 2008
	Publish public notice of TAG availability.	Summer 2008
Mid-investigation reporting and development of cleanup alternatives	Distribute one or more factsheets.	Late 2008 and 2009
	Hold community meetings and/or open house.	Late 2008 or 2009
Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study complete	Make RI/FS Report and Proposed Plan available. Publish public notice of Proposed Plan.	To Be Determined (TBD)
	Release news to media.	TBD
	Hold Proposed Plan public hearing.	TBD
	Seek formal public comment on Proposed Plan.	TBD
Record of Decision (ROD) signed	Make ROD (including responses to comments) available.	TBD
	Release news to media.	TBD
	Distribute factsheet.	TBD
Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA)	Hold one or more community meetings and/or open house.	TBD
	Distribute factsheet.	TBD
	Release news to media.	TBD

Each phase of the Superfund cleanup process is described further in Appendix A Glossary.

## Site History

### Halaco Facility Operations

Halaco Engineering Company operated a secondary metal smelter at the Site from 1965 to 2004, processing **aluminum** and magnesium-bearing materials, including radioactive magnesium-thorium alloy. The Site includes an 11-acre parcel containing the former smelter and an adjacent 26-acre area where wastes were deposited and managed.

During its 40 years of operation, Halaco produced large quantities of solid and liquid wastes, which consisted of salts added during the smelting process, metal waste and other materials. From 1965 to about 1970, Halaco discharged much or all of its waste to a settling pond adjacent to the OID (see Figure 2 on page 5). From about 1970 to 2002, Halaco deposited its wastes in unlined earthen settling ponds east of the smelter. More than 700,000 cubic yards of solids remain onsite. The bulk of the solids are in a waste pile that covers about 15 acres and rises up to 40 feet.

Numerous federal, state, and local agencies attempted to regulate Halaco's operations over the past 40 years. These agencies include the Los Angeles RWQCB, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, DPH Radiologic Health Branch, Ventura County APCD, EPA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In 2002, Halaco filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Halaco ceased operations in 2004; then, in 2006, the bankruptcy was converted to a Chapter 7 (liquidation) bankruptcy. As of July 2008, Clarence, John, and Robert Haack own the 11-acre parcel. The 26-acre area is owned by Alpha and Omega Development LLC. Future use of the property is uncertain.

## Site Contamination

Over the years, various agencies have sampled soil, sediment, groundwater, surface water, and/or air at or near the Site. In 2006, to support assessment and removal activities at the Site, EPA completed a multimedia sampling effort that included lab analysis of approximately 129 soil, sediment, and waste samples; 10 surface water samples; 14 groundwater samples; and 35 air samples. The results are summarized in the **Integrated Assessment Report**, which is available on the Site Web site: [www.epa.gov/region09/halaco](http://www.epa.gov/region09/halaco) (Weston, 2007). The results show that elevated levels of various metals are present in onsite soils, offsite soils and sediments, underlying groundwater, and surface water downstream of the Site. The metals include aluminum, **barium**, beryllium, **cadmium**, **chromium**, **copper**, **lead**, magnesium, **manganese**, **nickel**, and **zinc**. Elevated levels of radioactive thorium are also present. In addition to the metals and thorium, elevated levels of **ammonia** exist in some areas.

## EPA Removal Actions

In July 2006, EPA reached an agreement with the Site owners to complete a limited Removal Action at the Site. The Removal Action included the removal of drums and other hazardous substances, and the installation of fencing and erosion controls.

A second Removal Action, funded by EPA, began in February 2007 to further stabilize and secure the Site and limit offsite movement of contaminated wastes. The second Removal Action included regrading the waste pile to reduce slope steepness, placing matting on the slopes to reduce erosion, stabilizing the bank along the lower portion of the OID, removing waste from the smelter area, and removing some of Halaco's waste materials located in the Ormond Beach Wetlands area adjacent to the Halaco property. To prevent exposure to residents and their pets during removal of waste material from that area, EPA closed access to Ormond Beach Wetlands from March 2, 2007, to March 26, 2007.



### What Is a Removal Action?

A Removal Action is defined as a short-term immediate action taken to address hazardous substances. EPA has completed two Removal Actions at the Site, and will complete additional actions if threats to human health or the environment are identified requiring immediate action.

## Appendix A Glossary

**Aluminum:** A naturally occurring metal in most soils, and one of the metals that Halaco recovered and sold.

**Ammonia:** An inorganic chemical created by the decomposition of animal waste and other means. Ammonia was a byproduct of Halaco's smelting operation and used by Halaco in its air pollution control system.

**Barium:** A naturally occurring metal present in some of the scrap metal processed by Halaco.

**Beryllium:** A naturally occurring metal present in some of the scrap metal processed by Halaco. At times, beryllium was added by Halaco to produce metal for resale.

**Cadmium:** A naturally occurring metal present in some of the scrap metal processed by Halaco.

**Chromium:** A naturally occurring metal present in some of the scrap metal processed by Halaco.

**Community Involvement Plan (CIP):** A site-specific plan prepared by EPA that identifies community involvement objectives at a site and proposes community outreach activities to help EPA meet its objectives.

**Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA):** A federal law adopted in 1980 and subsequently amended (Public Law 96-510, as amended) that provides for liability, cleanup, and emergency response for hazardous substances released into the environment.

**Copper:** A naturally occurring metal present in some of the scrap metal processed by Halaco.

**Feasibility Study (FS):** A part of the Superfund process in which EPA or others identify cleanup options at a site (including taking no action); evaluate the options based on their cost, effectiveness, and other criteria; and compare their relative strengths and weaknesses.

**Groundwater:** Water beneath the earth's surface. EPA is investigating the extent to which the groundwater beneath the Halaco Site is contaminated.

**Heavy Metals:** A term used to refer to a variety of metals, including but not limited to cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, and zinc.

**Integrated Assessment Report:** A comprehensive assessment made to provide data for the evaluation of the Site under the Hazard Ranking System for determining whether a site is eligible for placement on the National Priorities List; and to evaluate the need for short-term response actions to stabilize the Site.

**Lead:** A naturally occurring metal present in some of the scrap metal processed by Halaco.

**Magnesium:** A naturally occurring metal in most soils, and one of three metals that Halaco recovered and sold.

**Manganese:** A naturally occurring metal present in some of the scrap metal processed by Halaco.

**National Priorities List (NPL):** EPA's list of the most serious, uncontrolled, or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for possible long-term remedial action under the Superfund program.

**Nickel:** A naturally occurring metal present in some of the scrap metal processed by Halaco.

**Oxnard Industrial Drain (OID):** A former stream channel that bisects the Site (see Figure 1 on page 3).

**Particulate Matter (PM):** Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes, or smog that contribute to air pollution.

**Preliminary Assessment (PA):** An evaluation using readily available information to distinguish between sites that pose little or no threat to human health and the environment, and sites that may pose a threat and require further investigation.

**Proposed Plan:** A plan developed by EPA or another agency proposing cleanup at a Superfund site.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** A document, adopted by EPA or another agency after public input, that specifies the cleanup plan for a site or a portion of a site.

**Remedial Action (RA):** The actual construction or implementation phase of a Superfund site cleanup that follows remedial design.

**Remedial Design (RD):** A phase of remedial action that follows the RI/FS and includes development of engineering drawings and specifications.

**Remedial Investigation (RI):** Actions undertaken to characterize the full nature and extent of contamination at a site, including the evaluation of human health and ecological risks.

**Removal Action:** Short-term immediate actions taken to address releases of hazardous substances that require expedited response.

**Risk Assessment:** Quantitative evaluation of the risk posed to human health and the environment by chemical and radiologic contamination.

**Site Inspection (SI):** The collection of information from a site to determine whether it is eligible for the Superfund National Priorities List and to determine if a site presents an immediate threat requiring prompt removal.

**Superfund:** The common name of the program established by CERCLA. Also refers to government funds used to investigate or clean up a site.

**Technical Assistant Grant (TAG):** Funds provided by EPA for communities affected by Superfund sites to hire an independent technical advisor to help interpret and comment on site-related information.

**Thorium:** A naturally occurring radioactive element present in some of the scrap metal processed by Halaco.

**Zinc:** A naturally occurring metal in most soils, and one of three metals that Halaco recovered and sold.

## Appendix B Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>APCD</b>	Air Pollution Control District
<b>ATV</b>	All-Terrain Vehicle
<b>CERCLA</b>	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
<b>CIP</b>	Community Involvement Plan
<b>DPH</b>	California Department of Public Health
<b>EPA</b>	United States Environmental Protection Agency
<b>FS</b>	Feasibility Study
<b>INCF</b>	Inter Neighborhood Council Forum
<b>NPL</b>	National Priorities List
<b>OID</b>	Oxnard Industrial Drain
<b>PA</b>	Preliminary Assessment
<b>PM</b>	Particulate Matter
<b>RA</b>	Remedial Action
<b>RD</b>	Remedial Design
<b>RI</b>	Remedial Investigation
<b>ROD</b>	Record of Decision
<b>RWQCB</b>	Regional Water Quality Control Board
<b>SI</b>	Site Inspection
<b>TAG</b>	Technical Assistant Grant
<b>TBD</b>	To Be Determined

## Appendix C Community Resources

### C.1 U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

This CIP reflects our current understanding of community concerns. The CIP is designed to be a flexible working document, changing as community concerns change and as more information becomes available.

Please direct questions, comments, concerns, and requests to:

**Jose Garcia**

Community Involvement Coordinator  
US EPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 972-3331  
garcia.jose@epa.gov

**Wayne Praskins**

Site Manager  
US EPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 972-3181  
praskins.wayne@epa.gov

The toll-free EPA Community Involvement Office message line is (800) 231-3075.

To ensure effective communication with interested individuals or groups, EPA will make additional services available to persons with special needs. Please contact one of the representatives listed above.

Information is also available on EPA's Web site at:

**EPA Web site**

[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)

**Halaco Superfund Site Web site**

[www.epa.gov/region09/halaco](http://www.epa.gov/region09/halaco)

## C.2 Site Information Repositories

Information repositories contain Site information, documents regarding Site activities, and general information about the cleanup program. The information provides citizens, local officials, and the media with easy access to accurate, detailed, and current data about specific sites or issues related to the Site. The information repositories for the Site are listed below.

### South Oxnard Library Branch

4300 Saviers Road

Oxnard, CA 93033

(805) 385-8129

*Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.*

*Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.*

**Contact:** Renata Hundley

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 9 Superfund Records Center

95 Hawthorne Street, Room 403

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 536-2000

*Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.*

## C.3 Local Community Groups

The following local community groups are on the Site’s mailing list. Some of these groups have agreed to help EPA communicate information to the communities in Oxnard and Port Hueneme.

### Cypress Neighborhood Council

Manuel Navarro, Chair

311 Howell Road

Oxnard, CA 93033

(805) 488-9232

### Earth Alert

Janet Bridgers, Executive Director

P.O. Box 1210

Port Hueneme, CA 93041

(805) 487-2999

[janetmbridgers@yahoo.com](mailto:janetmbridgers@yahoo.com)

[www.earthalert.org](http://www.earthalert.org)

**Environmental Defense Center**

Linda Krop/Nathan Alley, Chief Counsel  
906 Garden Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 963-1622  
lkrop@edcnet.org  
[www.edcnet.org](http://www.edcnet.org)

**Mixteco/Indigena Community Organization Project**

Susan Haverland, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 20543  
Oxnard, CA 93034  
(805) 320-0839  
susan.haverland@mixteco.org

**Ormond Beach Observers**

Alan Sanders, President  
232 North 3rd Street  
Port Hueneme, CA 93041  
(805) 488-7988  
alancatdaddy@aol.com

**Ormond Beach Task Force**

Pat Brown  
205 East Driffill Boulevard, #11  
Oxnard, CA 93030

**Oxnard City Corps**

Efren Gorre, Management Analyst  
555 S. A Street  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805) 385-8081  
efren.gorre@ci.oxnard.ca.us

**Santa Barbara Channel Keeper**

Kira Redmond, Executive Director  
714 Bond Avenue  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
(805) 563-3377  
kira@sbck.org  
[www.sbck.org](http://www.sbck.org)

**South Shore Hearthside Homes**

Penny Boehm, Community Affairs Coordinator  
P.O. Box 1958  
Oxnard, CA 93032  
(805) 984-3371  
SouthShore@vcoms.net

**Southwinds Neighborhood Council**

Juan Cervantes, Chair  
5487 Saviers Road  
Oxnard, CA 93033  
(805) 986-0145

**The Beacon Foundation**

Jean Rountree  
215 Ocean Drive  
Oxnard, CA 93035

**The Nature Conservancy**

E.J. Remson, Senior Program Manager  
3639 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 201  
Ventura, CA 93001  
(626) 403-9755  
[www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)  
eremsen@tnc.org

**Tierra Vista Neighborhood Council**

Donna Johnson, Chair  
215 Ocean Drive  
Oxnard, CA 93035

**C.4 Elected Officials****Oxnard****Oxnard City Council**

300 West 3rd Street, 4th Floor  
Oxnard, CA 93030

**For general information:** (805) 385-7430

Tom Holden, Mayor  
drtomholden@aol.com

Dean Maulhardt, Mayor Pro Tem  
deancity@yahoo.com

**Edmund Sotelo, City Manager**  
edmund.sotelo@ci.oxnard.ca.us

**John Zaragoza, Councilmember**  
john.zaragoza@verizon.net

**Andres Herrera, Councilmember**  
andres.herrera@ci.oxnard.ca.us

**Timothy Flynn, Councilmember**  
timothy.flynn@ci.oxnard.ca.us

## Port Hueneme

### Port Hueneme City Council

250 N. Ventura Road  
Port Hueneme, CA 93041  
**For general information:** (805) 986-6501

**Toni Young, Mayor**  
ottoandtoni@roadrunner.com

**Jon Sharkey, Mayor Pro Tem**  
jon@sharkey.com

**David Norman, City Manager**  
dnorman@ci.port-hueneme.ca.us

**Norman E. Griffaw, Councilmember**  
normangriffaw@hotmail.com

**Maricela P. Morales, Councilmember**  
maricela93041@live.com

**Murray Rosenbluth, Councilmember**  
mrosenbluth@earthlink.net

## Ventura County

**Steve Bennett, 1st District**  
800 South Victoria Avenue, L#1900  
Ventura, CA 93009  
(805) 654-2703  
steve.bennett@ventura.org

**Linda Parks, 2nd District**

2967 Thousand Oaks Boulevard  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362  
(805) 373-2564  
linda.parks@ventura.org

**Kathy Long, 3rd District**

800 South Victoria Avenue, L#1880  
Ventura, CA 93009  
(805) 654-2276  
kathy.long@ventura.org

**Peter C. Foy, 4th District**

980 Enchanted Way, Suite 203  
Simi Valley, CA 93065  
(805) 955-2300  
supervisor.foy@ventura.org

**John K. Flynn, 5th District**

2900 Saviers Road, 2nd Floor  
Oxnard, CA 93033  
(805) 487-6331  
john.flynn@ventura.org

**State Senate and Assembly Representatives****Sheila Kuehl, Senator 23rd District**

300 West Third Street  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805) 486-3776  
senator.kuehl@sen.ca.gov

**Julia Brownley, 41st District**

6355 Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Suite 205  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
(805) 644-4141  
assemblymember.brownley@assembly.ca.gov

**United States Congress****Senator Barbara Boxer**

312 North Spring Street, Suite 1748  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 894-5000  
[www.boxer.senate.gov](http://www.boxer.senate.gov)

**Senator Dianne Feinstein**

11111 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 915  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
(310) 914-7300  
[www.feinstein.senate.gov](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov)

**Congresswoman Lois Capps, 23rd District**

2675 N. Ventura Road, Suite #105  
Port Hueneme, CA 93041  
(805) 985-6807  
[www.house.gov/capps](http://www.house.gov/capps)

**C.5 California Government Agencies****California Coastal Commission**

Barbara Carey, Supervisor Planning and Regulation  
89 South California Street, Suite 200  
Ventura, CA 93001  
(805) 585-1800  
[bcarey@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:bcarey@coastal.ca.gov)  
[www.coastal.ca.gov](http://www.coastal.ca.gov)

**California Coastal Conservancy**

Peter Brand, Project Manager  
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 286-1015  
[brand@scc.ca.gov](mailto:brand@scc.ca.gov)  
[www.scc.ca.gov](http://www.scc.ca.gov)

**C.6 Local Media Contacts****Ventura County Star**

Scott Hadly, Reporter  
P.O. Box 6006  
Camarillo, CA 93011  
(805) 437-0268  
[shadly@venturacountystar.com](mailto:shadly@venturacountystar.com)  
[www.venturacountystar.com/](http://www.venturacountystar.com/)

**Vida Newspaper**

Manuel Munoz, Director  
130 Palm Drive  
Oxnard, CA 93030  
(805) 483-1008

**KCLU News**

Lance Orozco, News Director  
60 W. Olson Road, #4400  
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360  
(805) 493-3900  
kclunews@aol.com  
[kclu.callutheran.edu](http://kclu.callutheran.edu)

## Appendix D Interview Questions

### History

1. How long have you lived/worked in this area?
2. Are you familiar with the Halaco Superfund Site? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
  - a. How would you rate your familiarity on a scale of 1 to 10?
3. How did you first become aware of problems at the Site?
4. What is your understanding of the contamination related to the Site?

### Concerns

5. What are your major concerns about this Site? Please rank them in order of importance (such as health, property values, environmental impact).
6. Do you know if anything has been done to address these concerns?

### Level of Confidence

7. Are you familiar with the agencies involved in the environmental work at the Site?
8. What is your understanding about the role the agencies play?
9. What has your past experience been with EPA and any other government agencies or officials?

### Community Communication and Involvement

10. How are you currently receiving information about the Site?
11. Is the information clear and easy to understand?
12. How do you feel about the level of community involvement and outreach from EPA to the residents and businesses affected by the Site?
13. Do you feel you have been kept adequately informed?
14. What is the best way to provide information to you about Site-related activities (newsletters, factsheets, community meetings, workshops, e-mail, other)?
  - a. How frequently?
15. Have you participated in any public meetings for the Site? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
  - a. If no, why not?
  - b. If yes, do you have any suggestions for improvement?
16. To avoid schedule conflicts, what days of the week and times are best for community meetings?
17. Are you aware of the information repository at the South Oxnard Branch Public Library? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
  - a. Is this location appropriate for the community?
18. Are you interested in being on the mailing list to receive information updates on environmental cleanup activities at the Site? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No
  - a. If so, can we confirm your mailing and e-mail addresses?
19. Can you suggest any other individuals or groups that should be contacted for additional information or to be added to the mailing list?