

How Can I Contact EPA and Get Involved?

EPA encourages community involvement at all its cleanup Sites. For the Yosemite Slough site, EPA has begun this process by establishing a Site Information Repository and website dedicated to site information, and developing a Community Involvement Plan and a mailing/email list to keep the public informed of future site activities. Below is EPA's contact information for the Slough. If you want to be added to the EPA's mailing list, please contact EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator listed below. If you have questions about the Site, contact the Remedial Project Manager and also review the information stored on EPA's web site on Yosemite Slough.

EPA Contacts

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Community Involvement
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Site Information Repository

Arc Ecology Inc.
1331 Evans Avenue
San Francisco CA
Phone: (415) 643-1190
Fax: (415) 643-1142
Please Call for an Appointment



EPA Website on Yosemite Slough

www.epa.gov/region9/YosemiteSlough

Links to Site Overview for Reports

- 6/2/1999** Sediment Investigation at Yosemite Creek -
Draft Report by S.F. Public Utilities Commission
- 5/7/2004** Sediment Investigation at Yosemite Creek -
Draft Report by S.F. Public Utilities Commission
- 5/23/2011** Final Removal Assessment Report

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United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-6-3)
San Francisco, CA 94105
Attn: Jackie Lane (Yosemite 2/12)

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Penalty for Private Use, \$300
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Yosemite Slough Site

February 2012

EPA Explores Options to Cleanup Yosemite Slough

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investigating and evaluating cleanup actions for contaminated sediment at the Yosemite Slough Sediment Site located in the Bayview District of San Francisco, CA. This general fact sheet explains EPA's cleanup process and how the public can get involved. For more specific information and to review various reference documents go to www.epa.gov/region9/YosemiteSlough.

Why is Yosemite Slough Contaminated?

The Yosemite Slough (Slough) is an inlet channel connected to central San Francisco Bay located between the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard to the north and the Candlestick Point State Recreational Area to the south (See Site Map). At low tide, the majority of the sediments in the inlet channel are exposed creating a mudflat. Yosemite Slough once consisted of a large network of natural marine habitat. Between 1900 and 1970, Yosemite Slough underwent significant narrowing by placement of fill soils and debris in wetlands and along the original edges of the slough. Until 1962, combined sanitary sewer and storm water flows discharged directly to the Slough through three separate outfall pipes. EPA believes the Slough became contaminated in the past due to discharges from these three pipes and impacts from contaminated properties adjacent to and nearby the Slough. Between 1963 to 1991, City sewers were upgraded in stages. These improvements to the City sewers reduced the number of sewage overflows to the Slough from approximately 46 per year to an average of one per year.

What is the Risk and How Does it Affect Me?

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission prepared two sediment studies at Yosemite Slough and published reports in 1999 and 2004. EPA conducted an additional assessment of the Slough and published its report in 2011. EPA's study analyzed numerous sediment (i.e. mud) samples throughout the Slough. The hazardous substances found in Slough sediments include Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, diesel fuel, motor oil, lead and mercury. PCBs are the most significant and widespread contaminant in Slough sediment.

Primary Contaminants In Yosemite Slough Sediments

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Petroleum

Pesticides

Heavy Metals such as Mercury and Lead

In 1979, a federal ban was imposed on the sale and production of PCBs in the United States. The federal ban was due to PCBs strong tendency to accumulate in the food chain, and its known toxicity to humans and wildlife. Although no longer commercially produced in the United States, PCBs may be present in products and materials produced before the 1979 ban (e.g. old electrical transformers, hydraulic oils, oil based paint, and caulking). For more information on PCBs, please check this EPA website: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/hazard/tsd/pcbs/index.htm>.

Exposure to unsafe levels of PCBs can in the long term cause toxic symptoms including developmental abnormalities and growth suppression, disruption of the endocrine system, impairment of immune function, and cancer. EPA classifies PCBs as a probable human carcinogen. People are NOT exposed to contaminants in the Slough unless you touch the contaminated Slough sediment mud or eat contaminated fish in or near the Slough. Site contaminants also pose a risk to marine organisms, including plant and animals (especially fish, shellfish, and birds) that live in, near or periodically visit Yosemite Slough.

What is EPA Doing Now?

EPA's 2011 assessment report recommended that a cleanup action be taken at Yosemite Slough. To date, there has not been any chemical contaminant cleanup work in the Slough. EPA is currently investigating the Slough to protect human health and the environment by developing a cleanup planning document called an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA). The EE/CA report analyzes various cleanup options to address the contamination.

EPA is using the federal Superfund law also known as the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund law) to guide the cleanup of the Site. EPA has formed an advisory Technical Stakeholder Committee (TSC) for the development of the EE/CA document. The TSC consists of technical representatives of federal, state, and local government agencies, environmental groups, and potentially responsible parties (i.e. parties with potential legal liability for Site contamination).

In late 2011, EPA conducted interviews with community stakeholders to gather concerns about the Site and how to best communicate on Site issues. This information along with activities geared to address concerns will be placed in a Community Involvement Plan (CIP).

What Are the Next Steps in 2012?

EPA plans to carry out the following actions:

- Complete and share a CIP that addresses how EPA plans to keep people informed and involved in the cleanup process;
- Complete and issue a draft EE/CA report which explains the cleanup alternatives evaluated and recommends the preferred alternative;

- Issue a fact sheet to explain cleanup alternatives, conduct a 30-day public comment period and hold a public meeting to obtain both formal written and verbal comments from the public;
- Finalize the EE/CA report and issue an Action Memorandum which selects the final cleanup action for Yosemite Slough Site. The final EE/CA report will address all public comments received during the public comment period.
- Commence negotiations with parties legally responsible for the site contamination to agree on the terms for the design and implementation the cleanup action selected in the final EE/CA report and Action Memorandum. EPA currently anticipates that cleanup work at Yosemite Slough will commence in 2014.

