



Pemaco Superfund Site Update

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION IX • SAN FRANCISCO

Maywood, CA

June/July 2007

This factsheet was prepared by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to update the community on the progress at the Pemaco Superfund Site* located at 5050 E. Slauson Blvd. (close to Alamo and Slauson) in Maywood, CA (see map).

History of Pemaco and Community Involvement Activities

The Pemaco Superfund Site is a former chemical blending facility that was contaminated by past industrial practices. For several years, the U.S. EPA studied the extent of the contamination at Pemaco and in March 2004, opened up a comment period and released a report to the community called the Pemaco Proposed Plan describing the results of the studies and suggesting a way to clean up the contamination. In April and May of 2004, EPA held two community meetings to share the findings and cleanup suggestions and to hear from the community. When community members expressed concerns about the proposed cleanup systems, EPA had additional meetings to discuss these concerns and extended the comment period. After reviewing these additional comments, EPA chose the cleanup it had proposed as the preferred cleanup option and added additional safety measures to the

Quick Facts

- Pemaco surface soils are clean and can be used safely by park visitors
- The treatment system that will clean the groundwater and soil vapors below the surface is built and portions have been operating successfully (for more go to page 3 and 4).
- *Next Community Meeting is taking place July 19th 2007 (see page 2 for more details). We request your participation.*
- Community Information Lines have been established: Spanish 866-537-8991, English 866-537-8992.
- Bulletin Board is up next to treatment building. Site updates will be posted there.



Location of the Maywood Riverfront Park and Pemaco Superfund Site

remedy to address community concerns. A Record of Decision (ROD) was signed January 13, 2005 making the cleanup decision formal. EPA held another community meeting in July of 2005 to update the community and began working on the site in August of 2005 installing wells and pipelines that would be used as part of the remediation system. EPA had another community meeting in January of 2006 to update the community and in August of 2006 and March of 2007 worked with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to meet with community and agency representatives

*If you are just learning about the Pemaco Superfund Site and/or would like additional information, please visit the Maywood Cesar Chavez Public Library, visit our websites, or contact U.S. EPA at the telephone numbers listed in this fact sheet.

to answer additional questions from community representatives. In May of 2007 EPA had another community meeting with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Stakeholder group and other agency representatives.

Opportunities for Community Participation

The EPA is developing a series of activities to ensure that the community members and other interested parties are receiving regular information about the ongoing activities at the Pemaco site. Most importantly the EPA wants to keep the community informed about the progress being made by the cleanup systems and to maintain open lines of communication to ensure that comments are heard and concerns are addressed promptly and throughout the process. EPA encourages members of the community to participate in community meetings and ask questions. We welcome telephone calls and will try to accommodate requests for individual or group meetings.

Community Information Telephone Lines

Two toll-free numbers have been set up for community members to call and obtain information on the Pemaco Site. The Community Info Lines will be updated regularly and set up to receive messages from the community as well as serve as an information resource with updates, emergency contact numbers, and emergency information (if needed).

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| <p>English Info Line: (866) 537-8992</p> |  | <p>Spanish Info Line: (866) 537-8991</p> |
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Community Meetings

Every 4-8 weeks during the operation of the Flameless Thermal Oxidation (FTO) Unit and the Electrical Resistive Heating (ERH), the EPA will host short meetings to update the community on the progress being made at the site and to share sampling results. The community meetings will also serve as a forum for community members to ask questions and express concerns. After the first few months that the system is in operation, we will discuss whether switching to a different meeting schedule is appropriate. A meeting location will be secured and may change depending on the availability of a location. Meetings will be scheduled in the evenings, 7 pm to 9 pm, to accommodate daytime work schedules. The following meeting schedule is being suggested:

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| <p>Thursday June 14</p> <p>7-9 PM</p> <p>Heliotrope Elementary School Cafeteria</p> | <p>Thursday July 19</p> <p>7-9 PM</p> <p>Heliotrope Elementary School Auditorium</p> | <p>Thursday August 23</p> <p>7-9 PM</p> <p>Location TBA Call info line for location closer to the meeting date</p> | <p>Wednesday October 3</p> <p>7-9 PM</p> <p>Location TBA Call info line for location closer to the meeting date</p> |
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Pemaco Information Websites

To keep the public informed EPA is currently updating two websites.

Superfund Website:
www.epa.gov/region09/pemaco

On-Scene Coordinator/Emergency Response Office Website:
www.epaosc.net/Pemaco

Both EPA websites will be updated regularly. The following information will be posted:

- Sampling results
- Fact sheets
- Meeting announcements, reminders and schedule changes
- Notes from previous meetings

Update Flyers

Short update flyers will be written every 4-6 weeks summarizing important information. A summary of the sampling results may be attached and/or included in this update. *This fact sheet, which will be mailed to the whole City of Maywood, includes a mail-back form for those who are interested in receiving the shorter updates. Please make sure you contact the EPA or fill out the form on page 5 and mail it to EPA if you would like to be on this list.* In addition to these requests, the short update flyers will be mailed to the Stakeholder group whose members have been participating in previous meetings and have listed their contact information on our attendance sheets.

E-mail contact list to Save Paper

To conserve paper, we encourage those who have access to e-mail to opt out of receiving paper copies whenever possible. To receive e-mail updates, please send an e-mail to banos.alheli@epa.gov and ask to be placed on the e-mail distribution list.

Bulletin Board

A bulletin board has been placed outside of the site for posting of site information. A document holder will be placed here holding the most recent fact sheets and/or update flyers.

Information Repository and City Hall

Documents and other information will be placed in the local Information Repository at the Cesar Chavez Public Library on Slauson, next to City Hall and copies of the flyer will be left at City Hall.

Community Emergency Response and Action Plan

EPA heard from several members of the community about concerns over what to do in case of an emergency at the Pemaco treatment building. Although such emergency situations are not anticipated, EPA obtained input from the community and drafted a plan that will address needs in case of emergencies and will share it with the community for comments before it is finalized. The plan will then be made available to those living close to the site, at community meetings and at the information repository.

Protocol for the Resolution of Complaints and/or Concerns

At a recent meeting, a request was made that a plan be developed to address and respond to comments or concerns from the public. A plan has been drafted by EPA with input from the community. The final plan will be made available to those living close to the site, at community meetings and at the information repository.

Additional activities and communication needs will be discussed at upcoming community meetings. We encourage members of the community to attend these meetings whenever possible.

Updates on the Cleanup at the Pemaco Site

For the past several years, the EPA and the City of Maywood worked closely to plan the cleanup at the Pemaco Site to ensure that the property was cleaned up and safely incorporated into the Maywood Riverfront Park. Knowing that the contamination in the groundwater below the Pemaco property

Summary of the Chosen Cleanup for Pemaco Described in the ROD

- For the surface and near-surface soils, a soil cover and revegetation;
- For the upper vadose soils and perched groundwater, high-vacuum dual-phase extraction [HVDPE] (This process will use granular activated carbon [GAC] for water treatment, and flameless thermal oxidation [FTO] and GAC for treatment of vapors); and
- For the lower vadose soils and exposition groundwater, electrical resistance heating [ERH] with vapor extraction [VE], vacuum-enhanced groundwater extraction, groundwater pump and treat [Groundwater P&T] and monitored natural attenuation (MNA). (This process will use GAC for water treatment, and FTO and GAC for treatment of vapors.)

EPA added the following safety measures based on community concerns:

- EPA will conduct indoor air sampling and additional vapor monitoring on Walker Avenue and 59th Street during FTO operations;
- EPA has designed the FTO unit so that a heat exchanger and a vapor-phase GAC adsorption unit will be installed to the post-exhaust side of the FTO unit to reduce the possibility of dioxin being released to the environment; and
- Thorough emission monitoring of the FTO unit will be performed and vapor samples will be tested for dioxins and furans along with other analytes.

would take years to remediate, project managers worked together to carefully design a treatment system and choose a location so that the Pemaco parcel could be incorporated into the rest of the Maywood Riverfront Park and opened safely while the cleanup of the deeper contamination took place. In 2005 additional soil sampling was done and portions of soil removed. As an extra precaution, a layer of geo-textile liner was placed over the site and a foot of certified clean soil was used to cover the entire property. At this point the Pemaco site was declared safe to incorporate into the Maywood Riverfront Park.

Currently, EPA is preparing to treat the “source area” which is the area with the highest levels of contamination at Pemaco, by using Electrical Resistive Heating (ERH). Approximately fifty-eight electrodes have been inserted into this area, and will heat the soil and groundwater to approximately the boiling point of water (212 degrees Fahrenheit), causing contaminants to turn into vapors that will be suctioned by vacuum pipes that will take them to the treatment center to be destroyed in the Flameless Thermal Oxidation Unit (FTO) and carbon systems.

The contaminated groundwater (found 25-100 feet below surface and not affecting drinking water) is being drawn into pipelines to the treatment system and filtered through carbon until acceptable cleanup levels are achieved.

The ERH and FTO systems are state of the art equipment that national experts have helped design. Both systems as well and other equipment have been housed in a metal treatment building that was completed in November 2006. The EPA has installed a fence to prevent the public from having access to this area of the park during operation of the ERH and FTO systems. Again, the public can use the rest of the park, including the northern (unfenced) portion of the Pemaco parcel safely during the treatment of groundwater and soil vapors.

Maywood Riverfront Park

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 W. W. Henry Site and 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.

Summary of Construction Activities Completed since 2005

- Fall, 2005: Additional testing and removal of soil; (slightly high levels of lead and PAH's found) installation of a geo-textile liner and a 1-foot layer of certified clean soil added over Pemaco. This same type of clean soil cover was also placed over the entire park by the City of Maywood.
- Fall 2005: Approximately 3,500 feet of trenches dug and approximately 10,000 feet of pipelines were laid within those trenches connecting Pemaco to the treatment building.
- Fall, 2005: 55 new groundwater and soil vapor extraction wells were created as part of the groundwater and soil treatment system.
- Fall, 2005: Excavation and removal of 340 cubic yards (about 550 tons) of soil from Pemaco and the adjacent rail property.
- July, 2006: Installation of subsurface utility infrastructure for the Pemaco Treatment System and Building.
- November, 2006: Construction of Treatment System Building near District Blvd. and 60th Place.
- December, 2006: Installation of Approx. 58 electrode wells, 30 thermocouples wells (to measure temperature) and 89 extraction wells in the ERH area.
- March, 2007: Installation of all pumping and treatment equipment in the Treatment System Building.
- April, 2007: Groundwater treatment system was turned on.
- May, 2007: Vapor treatment system was turned on.

To make the properties safe for the construction of the park, contaminated soil was removed from the former Pemaco, W. W. Henry, and other properties and 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.

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

please read the Q&A Fact Sheet "Maywood Riverfront Park and the Pemaco Superfund Site" or call Maywood City Hall at 323-562-5701.

For More Information

You can look at U.S. EPA's website at www.epa.gov/region09/pemaco and choose Pemaco. For other information go to: <http://www.epa.gov/region9/waste/sfund/superfundsites.html> or visit www.epaosc.org/pemaco



Also, there is an information repository at The Cesar Chavez Public Library
4323 E. Slauson Avenue
Maywood, CA 90270
(323) 771-8600



What are those dirt mountains doing in the park?

There are two dirt piles that are on the park property. They belong to the City of Maywood. EPA has been informed by the City that the soil is clean. One pile was generated during park construction while City workers were forming the rolling hill landscaping and the other pile is certified clean fill that was imported from another location.



Mailing List Coupon

If you would like to receive the short Pemaco cleanup updates, please call 213-244-1808 or send an e-mail to banos.alheli@epa.gov with your name, address (or e-mail), telephone number, or fill out and mail this to: Alheli Banos, US EPA Los Angeles Field Office, 600 Wilshire, Suite 1460, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (optional) _____

E-mail (optional) _____

Affiliation (optional) _____

I would like to save paper, please only send an e-mail.



Pemaco Superfund Site Update

Who to contact at U.S. EPA

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Or call the toll-free community information lines: English (866) 537-8992, Spanish (866) 537-8991.



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Region 9

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