



Port Seeks Public Comment on Oil Field Cleanup Pier A West Project Proposes to Decontaminate Soil, Groundwater

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With the release of public documents by state officials this week, the Port of Long Beach is seeking public input for an Environmental Impact Report that will address a soil and groundwater cleanup project at a 123-acre Port-owned oil field.

The site, "Pier A West," is located outside of Long Beach in Wilmington, and northwest of the Terminal Island Freeway and the Cerritos Channel. The property was purchased by the Long Beach Harbor Department in 1994 from a subsidiary of Union Pacific Railroad. Soil and groundwater at the property had been contaminated by decades of oil production and industrial disposal.

The Port is proposing the Pier A West Remediation Project to "remediate," stabilize, treat or remove contaminated soil and groundwater, increase most of the land elevation by about 16 feet, and pave the area with asphalt. The state Department of Toxic Substance Control is the lead agency for preparation of the environmental review document.

"The Port inherited a real environmental mess when it acquired this land as part of a larger purchase about 12 years ago," said Robert Kanter, the Port's director of Planning and Environmental Affairs. "Through our voluntary agreement with the DTSC, we've been able to develop a coordinated plan to clean up the environmental pollutants and hazardous wastes and return the land to productive use."

The area surrounding Pier A West includes marine terminals, industrial facilities, and other uses such as marinas within the Port of Los Angeles.

The Port and DTSC are inviting public participation by hosting a "scoping" meeting to gather public input on the content of the Environmental Impact Report. The 7 p.m. meeting will be held February 8, 2006, at Banning Landing Community Center, 100 E. Water St., Wilmington. Further opportunities for public comment will also be available upon release of the draft EIR, and before any decisions are made by the Port's governing body, the Board of Harbor Commissioners.

The official Pier A West Remediation Project Notice of Preparation and Initial Study are available on the DTSC web site, http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Projects/Port-of-Long-Beach-Pier-A-West_Area-2.cfm; and also the Port of Long Beach web site, www.polb.com, or at the Port Administration Building, 925 Harbor Plaza, Long Beach, CA 90802.

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