

COMMUNITY UPDATE

Department of Toxic Substances Control - Our mission is to protect the people, communities, and environment of California from harmful chemicals by cleaning up contaminated sites, enforcing hazardous waste laws, and compelling the development of safer products.

January 2021

PureGro Brawley Soil Stockpile Removal is Complete and Next Steps are Underway

Removal of the soil stockpile from the former PureGro property at 1025 River Drive in Brawley, California is complete. This progress marks a major milestone in completing the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) approved by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) in June 2020.

Beginning in September 2020, more than 1,000 trucks were loaded and safely driven to an out-of-state landfill. By December, about 25,000 tons of soil had been removed. Crews then removed all equipment and secured the property until the remaining work is ready to begin later this year.

Public safety, COVID-19 protocols, and dust control and monitoring were very important during each day of soil removal. With DTSC oversight, dust monitoring and air opacity observations showed that the project generated no increase in dust above limits set by DTSC and the Imperial County Air Pollution Control District.



Water trucks were busy during the project to control dust during soil preparation and loading. Once loaded, each truck was inspected, covered, and passed through a wheel-wash station. DTSC provided oversight of soil removal, trucking, and dust control and monitoring.



Hearing impaired individuals may use the California Relay Service at 711 or 800-735-2929 TTY/VCO/HCO to voice.





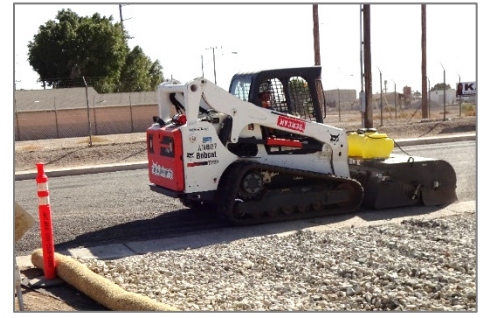
Dust Control and Monitoring

A worker uses a water hose to control dust as soil is prepared for loading into trucks for disposal. Other workers specially trained to spot dust keep close watch and record information that was reported frequently to DTSC.



Focus on Safety

Workers gather each morning to focus on safety and plan the day's work. Shown here is the team wearing safety gear, face coverings, and gathering with a safe distance between each other.



Attention to Details

A street sweeper works along River Drive to keep the street clean during the project. Plus, each truck passed through a wheel wash before entering River Drive and onto the designated truck route.

Planning is already underway to complete remaining work required by the RAP, including:

- ✓ **Engineering design** – DTSC requires additional detailed planning for remaining parts of the RAP, including on-site soil sampling to help define the areas targeted for soil excavation. Other design work includes planning for placement of an engineered cover across the entire property and replacement of groundwater monitoring wells.
- ✓ **Implementation** – After design approval, RAP implementation is anticipated to continue later this year. Based on soil sampling results in the areas targeted for removal, soil will be safely excavated, loaded onto trucks, and transported out of state for disposal. Workers will then bring in clean soil material for placement of the site-wide engineered cover.
- ✓ **Buffer zone and landscaping** – As requested by the City of Brawley and community members, 50-foot-wide residential buffer zones will be created on the eastern and southern side of the property. Fencing will be replaced, and landscaping installed along River Drive.
- ✓ **Operations and maintenance** – The final requirements include groundwater monitoring, a land-use covenant governing potential future use or construction on the property in compliance with current zoning (i.e., light manufacturing), and periodic reporting to DTSC.

For updates and more information:

- Updates are provided by DTSC at: <https://dtsc.ca.gov/smrp-projects/puregro-company>
- Updates are provided by Chevron at: <http://www.puregrobrawley.com>
- Call the community information line at 760-602-3830 with questions or concerns, or contact:

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