

MEMORANDUM

TO:

John Prall, Environment and Safety Dept., Port of Oakland

FROM:

Lydia Huang, BASELINE July

FILE NO.: Y5306

DATE:

1 August 2005

SUBJECT: Final Disposition Lead-Contaminated Soils from Construction of Berth 30

During construction of Berth 30 in 1992-1993, fill containing lead concentrations that caused the material to be classified as a California hazardous waste ("lead-contaminated fill") was discovered along the Bayfront. The Port undertook an investigation to define the extent of the lead-contaminated fill and implemented a procedure for excavating, stockpiling, and sampling of the material. This memorandum summarizes this procedure and the final disposition of the lead-contaminated fill.

The Port retained Geomatrix Consultants to conduct the investigation to define the extent of the lead-contaminated fill. Geomatrix also prepared a excavation and stockpiling plan for the material. The plan consisted of transporting all suspected lead-contaminated fill to the area that later was constructed as the Berth 30 yard, screening materials that contained a significant portion of large cobbles and boulders to separate the soil from the large-sized fraction, collecting and analyzing samples of the stockpiles of soil, and then determining the appropriate waste classification for each stockpile. Soil stockpiles determined to be a nonhazardous waste were reused; BASELINE has not researched where the nonhazardous waste soil from this effort was ultimately reused within the Port. 1

The Port pursued a two part strategy for the final disposition of the soil that was determined to be a California hazardous waste because of lead. The first part was to apply to the Department of Toxic Substances Control ("DTSC") to reclassify the lead-contaminated fill from a California hazardous waste to a nonhazardous waste. The second part of the strategy was to create a permanent waste management unit in the Berth 30 yard to encapsulate the reclassified nonhazardous waste soils. The Port submitted a Report of Waste Discharge to the Regional Water Quality Control Board ("RWQCB") and prepared construction plans for the waste management unit (provided in Attachment A to this memorandum). If approved and implemented, the Port would have placed up to 4.5 feet of compacted lead-contaminated fill on top of a PVC liner within a prescribed area in the Berth 30 yard, and capping the waste management unit with asphalt.

In the excavation and stockpiling plan, Geomatrix indicated that the soil determined to be a nonhazardous waste would be removed from the site and used as fill elsewhere in the Port. Subsequently, Geomatrix prepared two reports documenting the sampling results for the soil that was determined to be a nonhazardous waste. In one of these reports, Geomatrix stated that it was their understanding that the soil would be used in the Berth 30 yard.

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In a letter dated 10 June 1993, the DTSC approved reclassification of the lead-contaminated fill from a California hazardous waste to a nonhazardous waste and approved the disposal of the fill in the proposed waste management unit in the Berth 30 yard. However, the Port reconsidered the on-site disposal option, and instead of pursuing the on-site waste management unit option, requested permission from the DTSC to dispose of the reclassified lead-contaminated soil at Forward Landfill in Stockton, which is a Class II landfill. The DTSC approved the disposal of the reclassified soil at Forward Landfill in a letter dated 17 August 1993, and the RWQCB concurred with Forward Landfill's assessment that the soil could be accepted at Forward in a letter dated 26 August 1993. The Port chose to implement the off-site disposal option and retained Dillard Trucking to transport 28,610 tons of lead-contaminated fill, reclassified as a nonhazardous waste, to Forward Landfill in 1993. Therefore, the waste management unit in the Berth 30 yard was never constructed.

Attachment A

Plans for Construction of a Waste Management Unit at Berth 30 (not constructed)





