

Fax Transmittal Sheet

State of California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control, Region 2
Public Participation
700 Heinz Avenue, Berkeley, California 94710-2737

Date: May 6, 1996

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Deliver To:

From:

Name: [REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Phone: 510-540-3928 (CalNet 571)

FAX: [REDACTED]

FAX: 510-540-3927

Subject: Bobo's Junkyard Site

Comments: Here's the info I promised to get to you all, in the form of letter with enclosures, based on the letter that we sent to Mayor Harris. We gave out copies of the vinyl chloride summary and table at the Cypress Advisory Committee meeting, mostly because it was the best we had at the time. It's not particularly reader-friendly (unless the reader is a toxicologist). We certainly don't object to you giving copies of any of this out, but advise that you gauge how useful it will be. The Bobo's RAW fact sheet that we're working on now should be better. Finally, the last two pages outline the requirements of the I&SE order -- I'm sure you get questions about how long things will take all the time. Given the early stage and uncertainties of the DC Metals project, however, I'm sure that it's subject to change.

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any problem with

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

REGION 2
700 HEINZ AVE., SUITE 200
BERKELEY, CA 94710-2737
(510) 840-3843



May 6, 1996

Ms. Kathy Goforth
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street (A-1-2)
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Kathy:

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE SITE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CYPRESS FREEWAY RECONSTRUCTION

This letter describes a very serious toxics problem near the former Bobo's Junkyard (1401 Third Street), along the path of the new Cypress Freeway Corridor. Although the site presents no risk to human health under current conditions, the levels of below-surface contamination are sufficiently high to require redesign of a section of the freeway. Feel free to relay any of the information in this letter to community members during the course of your interviews and focus groups.

First, some background. Our office, Region 2 of the Cal/EPA Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with Caltrans and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company to investigate and remediate sites contaminated with hazardous substances located within the new Cypress Freeway Corridor. During a site investigation of the former Bobo's Junkyard, we found elevated levels of volatile chlorinated solvents in the groundwater at the site and under Third Street.

The chemical of greatest concern is vinyl chloride, an air contaminant that is a known human carcinogen and is listed as such under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65). I have enclosed a more detailed description of the chemical and its toxic effects. The levels of vinyl chloride in the groundwater are among the highest recorded by this office. A separate enclosure summarizes sampling results. We have confirmed that the chemical is currently trapped below the surface by conducting air monitoring around the site and, since no one is exposed to the groundwater, we have concluded that there is no potential for health risk from the site under its current condition. However, Caltrans and DTSC calculated that, if soil were excavated to below the existing groundwater table to install freeway footings as originally designed, workers and residents could be exposed to concentrations of vinyl chloride in air that would exceed the regulatory "no significant risk" level.

Since discovering the problem, we have met with Caltrans on several occasions to assess the situation, discuss possible remedies and to encourage Caltrans to redesign the footings or freeway so that the soil and groundwater will not be disturbed. Recently, Caltrans

determined that the most feasible approach was to redesign the footing, making it an at-grade footing reinforced by driven-from-grade piles.

As for remediating the site, DTSC staff have identified the source of the contamination as the DC Metals property. DTSC issued an Imminent or Substantial Endangerment Determination and Remedial Action Order to the responsible parties (RPs) on April 26, 1996. I have enclosed a summary of the requirements of the order.

We anticipate releasing draft Removal Action Workplans (RAWs) from Caltrans and Southern Pacific within the next several weeks. Those RAWs will address Caltrans' construction-related remediation of the footing areas only, and Southern Pacific's plans for remediating the Bobo's site in the long term.

Additionally, appropriate Oakland City and Alameda County staff are aware that other, off-site sampling in this area has found high levels of lead in the surface soils of residences, a not-uncommon occurrence in areas near freeways or industrial zones. DTSC has no regulatory authority to rectify lead-contaminated soils on individuals' properties. We understand that both the Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development have released a total of \$16 million to California counties, including Alameda, for lead abatement in moderate and low-income homes and for protection of children in high-risk areas.

We are committed to working with City and County staff, and with the community directly, to address the very serious vinyl chloride contamination near Bobo's site. Please don't hesitate to contact any of the following individuals:

Lynn Nakashima, project manager, 540-3839
Dr. Calvin Willhite, staff toxicologist, 540-3766

My telephone number is 540-3928. If we can prepare any additional information on the site for you or your staff, let me know.

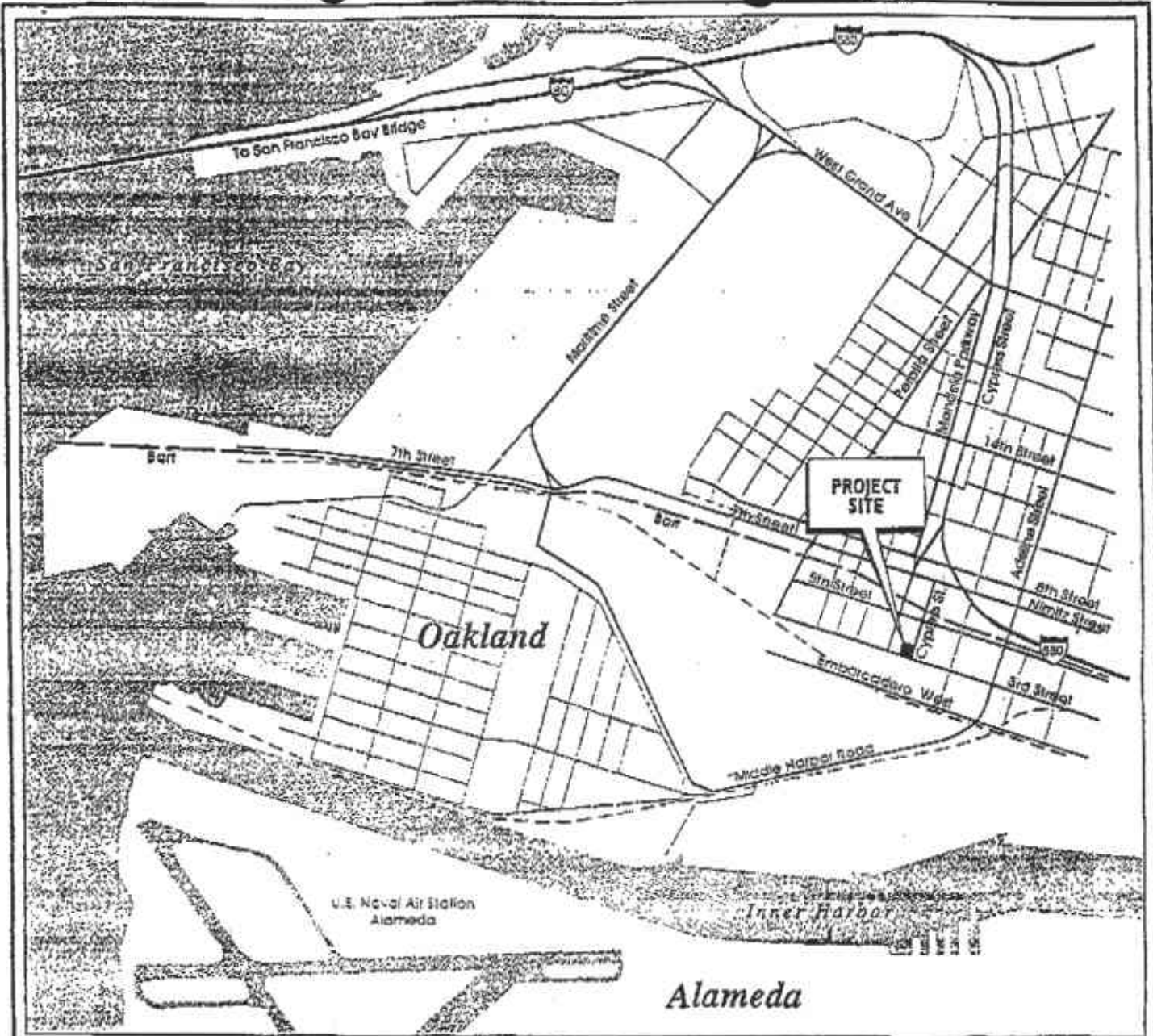
Sincerely,



Carol L. Northrup
Public Participation Coordinator

Enclosures

Lynn Nakashima
Cal/EPA DTSC Region 2
700 Heinz Ave., Suite 200
Berkeley, CA 94710-2737



North
No Scale


	Client: California Department of Transportation District 4 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, Calif.	
	SITE LOCATION MAP Bobo's Junkyard Oakland, California	

Figure 1

Contract No. 33X263	Work Order No. 04199a-36	APEX No. 31507-1
Drawn By: H. Lee	Checked By: L. Simmons	Approved By: A. Greenfield
Date: 12/21/73		Revision No: 1

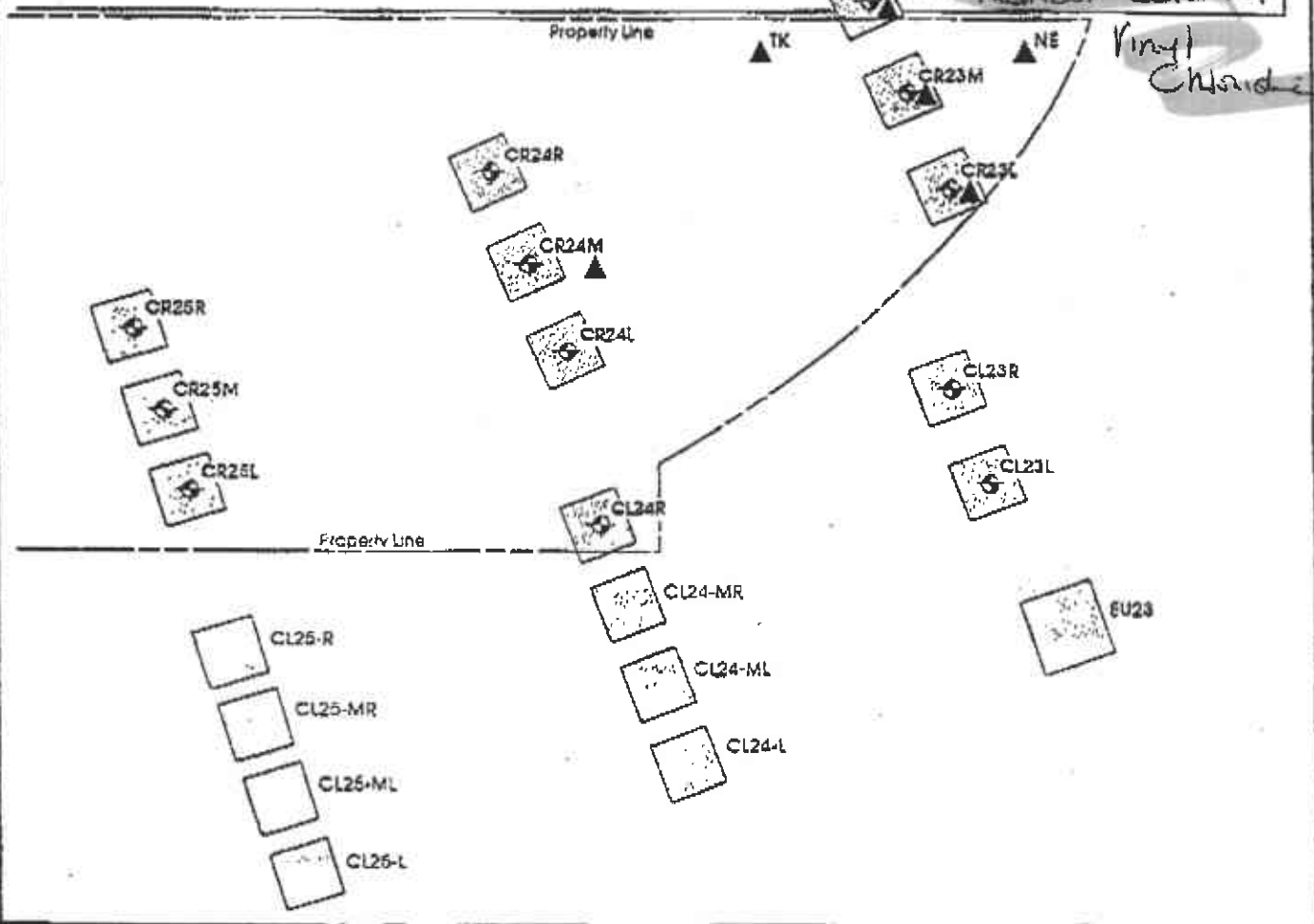


Cypress Street




Third Street

THIS IS THE SPOT WITH THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF

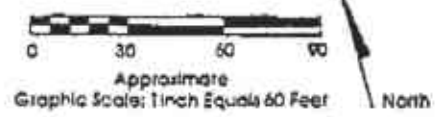
Vinyl Chloride



EXPLANATION

-  Location and Designation of Soil Borings Drilled By Apex, November 1995.
-  Proposed Location and Designation of Concrete Footing.
-  Location and Designation of Soil Gas Samples Collected By Apex, November 1995.

Note:
1. All Locations Are Approximate



	Client: California Department of Transportation District 4 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, Calif.	
	SITE MAP SHOWING SOIL BORING AND SOIL GAS SAMPLE LOCATIONS Bobo's Junkyard Oakland, California	
Corrosion No.: 43X250 Drawn By: H. Lee Date: 12/23/95	Work Order No.: 021009-30 Checked by: L. Simmons	APEX No.: 21007-2 Approved By: S. Greenfelder Revision No.: 1

Figure 2

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

REGION 2
700 HEINZ AVE., SUITE 200
BERKELEY, CA 94710-2737
(510) 540-3928



VINYL CHLORIDE

Vinyl chloride is a colorless, highly-flammable gas at temperatures greater than -13°C . It is handled in industry as a liquid under pressure. It is an ingredient in plastics, and is commonly found as a degradation product of metal degreaser solvents. Vinyl chloride is relatively dense as a gas and, being heavier than air, it will tend to collect in low-lying areas. The ether-like odor of vinyl chloride in air can be detected only at very high concentrations (3,000 parts per million [ppm]). It is a common air contaminant, present at less than 0.3 parts per billion (ppb) in Bay Area air.

Acute exposures to very high concentrations of vinyl chloride (more than 100,000 ppm) have caused the deaths of humans and animals due to cardiac irregularities and central nervous system arrest. A single 3- to 5-minute exposure to about 8,000 ppm is sufficient to cause nausea, dizziness and headache. Hazards posed by direct vinyl chloride exposure are not limited to the cardiac and central nervous effects. In addition, the potential to cause acroosteolysis (loss of bone calcium leading to destruction of the bones of the fingers and toes) and Raynaud's syndrome (a disease characterized by hypertrophy of cells in the arteries of the fingers, leading to local inflammation and impaired circulation) is well established.

Of greatest concern, however, is the confirmed carcinogenic hazard. Exposure to vinyl chloride is known to cause a unique form of liver cancer (hepatic angiosarcoma) in human beings. While less well-established than liver cancers, vinyl chloride exposures have also been linked to cancers of the human central nervous system, lymphomas, mouth and upper respiratory tract. It is the carcinogenic potential which forms the basis of:

The Proposition 65 no-significant-risk level (3 micrograms per day; 22 CCR 12711)

And the Cal/EPA Toxic Air Contaminant Unit Risk Value of $7.8 \times 10^{-5} (\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3)^{-1}$, corresponding to a 10^{-6} cancer risk at an ambient air concentration of 3.8×10^{-6} parts per million, or 0.01 microgram/ m^3 .

By way of comparison, the Cal OSHA Permissible Exposure Limit is 1 part per million, or 2,600 microgram/ m^3 (8 CCR 5155).

Groundwater and Soil Vapor Sampling Results at Selected Footing Excavation Locations

Freeway Footing	CR23 Left		CR23 Mid		CR23 Right		TK3	NE1
	GW in	SV in ppb	GW in	SV in ppb	GW in	SV in ppb	SV in ppb	SV in ppb
	ppb	at 3' & 6'	ppb	at 3' & 6'	ppb	at 3' & 6'	at 3' & 6'	at 3' & 6'
Vinyl chloride	14	0.305 @ 3'	50	4.17 & 2.79	11-50*	508 & 889		0.206 @ 6'
Acetone								
Benzene		0.089 @ 6'	6	217 & 0.51	9		0.108 @ 3'	0.077 @ 6'
MEK						24.2 & 13.4		
1,1-DCA	44		250		240	34 & 35.6		
1,2-DCA			3					
1,1-DCE		0.187 @ 3'	17	2.06 & 0.437	18	246 & 222	.033 @ 3'	0.234 @ 6'
cis-1,2-DCE	51	2.74 @ 3'	150	47.6 & 7.94	140	5955 & 4367	17.468 & 0.1905	6.749 @ 6'
trans 1,2-DCE		0.389 @ 3'		1.19 & 0.191		143 & 95.3	0.31 @ 3'	0.123 @ 6'
Ethylbenzene		0.087 @ 6'	3	14.7 & 0.65	40	52 & 13	0.909 & .0117	0.32 @ 6'
Methylene chloride		0.327 & 0.334		0.550 & 0.447		16.9 & 14.1	0.344 & 0.206	0.213 & 0.234
4-methyl-2-pentanone								
Toluene		0.274 @ 6'		327 & 30.1	1000	4136 & 1767	48.9 & 0.987	0.677 & 9.02
TCE			4	0.92 @ 3'	4	23.3 & 2.71	0.13 @ 3'	0.209 @ 3'
Xylene			2					
m,p xylene		0.325 @ 6'		47.6 & 2.12	190	42.4 & 7.8	3.33 & 0.433	0.156 & 1.17
o xylene		0.117 @ 6'		16.5 & 0.736	63		6.5 & 0.169	0.396 @ 6'
2-hexanone								
4-methyl-2 pentanone								
1,1,2,2-tetrachlorethane								
PCE				0.639 @ 3'	1	4.08 @ 3'		0.585 @ 3'
Chlorobenzene				1.61 @ 3'	1			

* 11 ppb in 2/96 SP sampling; 50 ppb in later Caltrans sample

MAY 06 '96 04:54PM TOX SUBSTANCE CONT

DC Metals**- Imminent or Substantial Endangerment Determination and Remedial Action Order**The highlights of the Order:

- o Issued on April 26, 1996 to: DC Metals, Inc. (current operator); Cypress Street Investments (current property owner); and AMCO Chemical Corp. (former property owner and operator).
- o Order uses the following H&S Code sections:
 - a. 25358.3(a) - authorizes us to issue an Order when we determine that there may be an imminent or substantial endangerment because of a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance.
 - b. 25355.5(a)(1)(B) - authorizes us to issue an order establishing a schedule for removing or remedying a release of a hazardous substance at a site, or for correcting the conditions that threaten the release of a hazardous substance.
 - c. 25359.2 - allows the imposition of administrative penalties for failure to comply with an order.
 - d. 58009 and 58010 - authorizes us to abate a public nuisance.
- o Order requires the following:
 1. Work must be consistent with NCP and H&SC.
 2. RP is to develop a Site Remediation Strategy whose purpose is to identify immediate or potential risks and prioritize and implement response actions.
 3. RP to identify Project Coordinator (within 10 days)
 4. RP to submit name and qualifications of project engineer/geologist (Within 15 days)
 5. RP, project coordinator, project engineer/geologist and DTSC to meet within 20 days to discuss site remediation strategy.
 - * 6. Public Participation Plan (within 30 days)
 7. Monthly Summary Reports - within 30 days and on a monthly basis thereafter.
 8. Submit RI/FS Workplan within 60 days of signing of the Order. (This document also is to include a schedule of activities)
 9. Submit RI Report (per approved schedule)
 10. Submit FS Report (within 45 from submittal of RI Report)
 11. Baseline Risk Assessment. (within 30 days from submittal of RI Report)
 12. Remedial Action Plan (30 days after FS report is approved)
 13. Remedial Design (Within 40 days after approval of RAP).
 14. Deed Restriction (Within 90 days of approval of final RAP - if applicable)
 15. Implementation of Final RAP (Within 30 days of completion of field activities, RP must submit Implementation Report).
 16. Operation and Maintenance Agreements (Prior to Site Certification - if applicable).

Responsible Party

17. **Interim Screening and Evaluation of Remedial Technologies and Treatability Studies (DTSC can request these be done).**
18. **RP to conduct removal actions if necessary to mitigate a release.**