

Memorandum

To: Kenny Mah
Project Landscape Architect
Landscape Architecture South

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KP R1.0/T4.3
EA 11-235901

From: Steve Threlkeld
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Environmental Engineering

Subject: Initial Site Assessment for 15/94 Highway Planting and Irrigation Project

An Initial Site Assessment (ISA) for the above referenced highway planting and irrigation project has been completed. This project will include planting, placement of irrigation conduits, and construction of maintenance pullout pads and gore area paving.

Soil test results from other projects near the Route 15/94 interchange indicate that hazardous levels of aerially deposited lead exist along both Route 15 and Route 94. The lead contaminated soil has been found to occur primarily within the upper 0.6 meters of undisturbed, unpaved soil and within 6 meters of the edge of shoulder.

The lead concentrations in the contaminated soil along these sections of freeway average between 98 – 331 mg/kg for total lead, and between 9 – 28 mg/l for soluble lead. This is above the regulatory hazardous waste definition of 5.0 mg/l for the soluble lead.

Construction contractors working within the above mentioned areas must address the issue of working with lead-containing soils in their Health and Safety Plan (HSP). Additionally, any material from the 'contaminated zone' which would otherwise be relinquished to the contractor as export from the state right of way (i.e., from gore paving and maintenance pullouts) should instead be handled under the terms of a Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) hazardous waste handling variance. This variance allows Caltrans to re-bury lead contaminated soil at least 5.0' above groundwater and below 0.3 m of clean fill or pavement within the state right of way, at locations specified by the Project Engineer. This is typically less expensive than disposing of the soil at a Class 1 landfill, which can cost up to \$300/CM or more.

Standard Special Provisions for projects dealing with aerially deposited lead are available with the District Office Engineer. These SSP's may be modified to meet the requirements of individual District 11 construction or landscaping projects. Additionally, the OE can help determine cost estimates for the HSP and any extra soil handling requirements.

If any material is to be handled under the terms of the DTSC variance, the DTSC must be notified in writing by the Resident Engineer at least 5 days before excavation takes place. A sample copy of this notification is enclosed, and should be included in the RE Book. Additionally, relocated lead-contaminated soils must be shown on the project as-built plans.

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at 619-688-3681.



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cc: Jayne Dowda
Kelly Dunlap
David Nagy
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