

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
RICHMOND BAY CAMPUS
RICHMOND FIELD STATION SITE
MONTHLY SUMMARY REPORT
October 15, 2020

This monthly summary report (MSR) summarizes environmental site investigation and remediation activities conducted on behalf of The Regents of the University of California (UC) at the University of California, Berkeley's Richmond Field Station Site in accordance with Section 6.3 of the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Site Investigation and Remediation Order (Order), Docket No. I/SE-RAO 06/07-004, effective on September 20, 2006.

a. Specific actions taken by or on behalf of Respondents during the previous calendar month (September 2020).

- On September 10, 2020 UC Berkeley staff conducted its monthly meeting with DTSC to provide project updates and to coordinate anticipated activities.
- The Mercury Fulminate Area removal action described in the July 2014 RAW, and updated in the October 21, 2019 Excavation Update Summary, began on January 7, 2020 and was completed on January 28, 2020. Approximately 1,900 cubic yards of mercury contaminated soil and 4,125 gallons of waste water were disposed of offsite. Final site finishing activities, including placement of woodchips over disturbed areas and graveling of a dirt ramp, were completed in April 2020. A permanent fence replacing 100 ft of temporary fencing along the external boundary of the MFA was installed on May 8, 2020. UC Berkeley and DTSC conducted a virtual site walk of the MFA on August 6, 2020. During the site walk, DTSC concurred that the piezometer MFA removed during the removal action would be replaced within 10 feet of the original location. The electronic draft removal action summary report was submitted to DTSC on September 30, 2020; the hard copies delivered on October 8, 2020.
- Piezometer MFA was properly abandoned on December 24, 2019, in order to allow for the excavation of the mercury-impacted soils adjacent to the piezometer in January 2020. A letter describing the deconstruction was submitted to DTSC on November 26, 2019. The deconstruction activities consisted of drilling out the piezometer with a hollow-stem auger drill rig. The permitted event was conducted under the oversight of the Contra Costa County Environmental Health Department. The replacement well was installed on September 18, 2020, approximately 10 feet north of the original piezometer MFA. MFA-R will be developed during the same driller mobilization with newly installed piezometers B278-R and CTPS-R.
- Piezometers B278 and CTPS were properly abandoned on September 18, 2020, in preparation of the soil excavation activities at the EPA North Meadow, to be conducted in October 2020. A letter describing the deconstruction and replacement piezometers was submitted to DTSC on August 27, 2020. Questions received from DTSC via email the same day were addressed in a revised letter submitted on September 1, 2020. The replacement piezometers B278-R and CTPS-R will be installed following completion of the soil removal action, and the piezometers will be developed along with MFA-R at least 2 days following installation.

b. Actions expected to be undertaken during the current calendar month (October 2020).

- On October 8, 2020 UC Berkeley staff conducted its monthly meeting with DTSC to provide project updates and to coordinate anticipated activities.
- A TSCA PCB risk-based disposal approval for the EPA North Meadow soil pile excavation areas was submitted to EPA on August 15, 2018, with additional certification language submitted on August 29, 2018. EPA sent an approval letter on September 6, 2018. UC Berkeley collected the perimeter confirmation samples on May 15 and 16, 2019 to ensure the proper volumes are included in the draft plans and specifications. Lab results from the perimeter decision unit sampling, indicated step outs were necessary. New perimeter decision units were proposed to DTSC and EPA on June 3. Concurrence was received on June 4, and sampling was completed on June 12, 2019. Lab results from the step-out perimeter decision unit sampling indicated further step outs were necessary. Additional perimeter decision units were proposed to DTSC and EPA on July 8. Concurrence was received on July 9, and sampling was completed on July 19. Draft plans and sheets were submitted to DTSC and EPA for review and approval on June 9, 2020. Comments were received from EPA and DTSC on June 9 and June 17, 2020, respectively. On June 24, 2020 a meeting was held with EPA and DTSC to discuss the confirmation sampling strategy for this removal action. A Notice to Proceed has been issued to the successful contractor (ACT Enviro); work is scheduled to begin on October 19 and is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete. UC Berkeley provided technical information and a map of activities to DTSC for the DTSC-issued Work Notice.
- Round 12 of RFS groundwater sampling began with groundwater elevation measurements in October 2019. The April groundwater elevations and sampling event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Bay Area Shelter-In-Place orders. Groundwater levels were taken on Oct 5, 2020, for the 2021 groundwater report. A summary letter describing the 2020 events and rationale for cancelling the April 2020 sampling event was provided to DTSC on October 6, 2020.
- UC Berkeley issued the Final Phase V Sampling Results Technical Memorandum, Western Stege Marsh to DTSC on October 15, 2018 and held a multi-agency meeting on November 28, 2018 to review and discuss the report findings. In response to questions regarding the rail population in Western Stege Marsh, UC Berkeley completed three active rail surveys in winter and early spring 2020 to better understand the stability and viability of the rail population. Additional passive surveys were conducted April through July, 2020. A draft report was prepared for UC's review in September 2020, and the report will be provided to the agencies in October 2020.
- On July 31, 2020, UC Berkeley submitted to DTSC sample results for a trenching project to place fiber optic cable near Building 280. Results indicated that no screening criteria were exceeded. DTSC reviewed the report and on September 28, 2020, provided UC Berkeley a letter indicating that DTSC had no comments.

c. All planned activities for the next month (November 2020)

- The next monthly meeting with DTSC to provide project updates and to coordinate anticipated activities will be held November 12, 2020.
- An application for a risk-based PCB cleanup for the Corporation Yard and B150 Transformer Area Removal Action Workplan excavation areas was submitted to EPA August 8, 2017. The application was approved by EPA on September 1, 2017. The Corporation Yard removal action was completed from October 10, 2017 to November 1, 2017 after which the excavation areas were lined with filter fabric and filled with clean soil. Step-out soil sampling in portions of the Corporation Yard was completed during the week of January 16, 2018. On September 11, 2018, B120 concrete floor was sampled in order to determine if it can be re-released for use by the RFS Facilities Management or whether remediation of the floor is needed. Additional data gap sampling for residual PCBs was completed September 25-30, 2019. The data gap sampling results letter was submitted to DTSC and EPA on November 22, 2019. Following meetings with DTSC and EPA to discuss the data gap sampling results on May 8 and 22, 2020, UC Berkeley submitted a Corporation Yard Triplicate Sampling Approach letter to both agencies on June 3, 2020. DTSC and HERO comments were provided on the sampling approach on June 18, 2020. A revised letter was submitted to DTSC on July 16, 2020. Following receipt of DTSC and HERO comments, UC Berkeley expects to submit a final letter in November 2020.
- Phase V Field Sampling Plan investigations for the Western Transition Area, and EPA South Meadow were completed November 6 - 13, 2019. Thirty-eight potholes were excavated, sampled, and backfilled throughout the areas, per the final sampling plan. PCB sampling results were received in January. A draft analysis of the results, and a proposal of archived samples to analyze was provided to EPA and DTSC via email on February 7, 2020. A meeting with EPA and DTSC to review proposed archived samples was held on April 14, 2020, and DTSC provided additional archive samples to be analyzed via email on April 15, 2020. Archived samples were sent to the lab to be analyzed in accordance with the field sampling plan and consistent with comments received from EPA and DTSC. Results will be compiled into a summary letter, which will also include a workplan for additional direct-push explorations to define the extent of an oily product layer identified in the November 2019 pothole investigation. The direct-push investigation is scheduled for November 2020 outside of the Ridgway's Rail breeding season.
- Waste profile samples were collected on July 9 from five existing soil piles, generated from maintenance and other on-site projects. Based on the analytical results, levels for all soil piles are below SMP Category 1 screening criteria. Once on-site re-use locations are determined, UC Berkeley will provide DTSC a summary letter providing sample results and identifying these locations.
- On December 31, 2019 a Five-Year Review report of the 2014 Final Removal Action Workplan, Richmond Bay Campus, Research, Education, and Support Area within the Former Richmond Field Station Site was submitted to DTSC on December 31, 2019. On March 30, 2020, EPA provided comments. It is anticipated all comments on the Five-Year Review will reviewed and addressed in November 2020 following receipt of DTSC comments.

d. Any requirements under the Order that were not completed.

- None

e. Any problems or anticipated problems in complying with this Order.

- Completion of the RAW removal actions, continued efforts under the Field Sampling Workplan, and other tasks is dependent on the ability to meet with DTSC staff on a timely basis and may require adjusting schedules and extensions of deadlines.