



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

July 19, 2018

Mr. Ken Domer
City of Fullerton
303 W. Commonwealth Avenue
Fullerton, CA 92832

RE: Public Health Assessment Activities around the Orange County North Basin Site.

Dear Mr. Domer,

As you may be aware, the Orange County North Basin Site was proposed to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Priority List (NPL).

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is undertaking public health assessment activities at this site through a Cooperative Agreement with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Under federal law, ATSDR is required to conduct public health assessments at sites proposed to the NPL.

We will begin activities for the Orange County North Basin Site (the Site) over the next few months and want to ensure that you are aware of what our process entails. CDPH will evaluate environmental data and conduct community outreach to assess community concerns and investigate if contamination from the Site poses a risk to public health. This letter presents an overview of our process, and provides contact information, should you and your constituents need additional information.

The Public Health Assessment Process

A Public Health Assessment (PHA) is a report that evaluates past, present, and future health risks from exposure to contaminants released from the Site. CDPH will evaluate available environmental data provided by the regulatory agencies overseeing the Site. In addition, CDPH will collect and document community health and exposure concerns related to the Site in order to better understand potential exposures and determine additional community needs. The report (a Public Health Assessment or a Health Consultation) concludes with recommendations aimed at protecting public health.

Evaluation of Environmental Data

CDPH will analyze available environmental data to determine if there is a risk of exposure to contaminants, what levels of contaminants people may be exposed to, and whether such exposure might represent a public health hazard. Based on the available data, CDPH will evaluate past, present, and future risks from exposure.

Collection of Community Concerns

CDPH will work with individuals and community-based organizations to collect and document community health and exposure concerns. Based on the community's preferences, outreach methods may include telephone interviews, in-person interviews, group interviews, mailings, e-mails, and public notices in a newspaper.

Normally, CDPH will interview community members around the Site. The purpose of the community interviews is to:

- Identify potentially overlooked exposure pathways by reviewing data alone (for example, we may hear that people in the community have access to the Site through means we were not aware of).
- Compile community health concerns. We will respond to these concerns in a section of the PHA by investigating if these concerns are associated with contamination from the Site.
- Assess what organizations exist in the community and the best method of outreach for each.

Community interviews are an important piece of the PHA. CDPH takes into consideration the community's input when determining recommendations to protect public health. CDPH will qualitatively report this information (e.g., "Some people reported X..."), but the identities of community members who share their concerns will remain confidential. CDPH will not conduct health surveys, follow the health history of community members over time, or conduct statistical analyses.

Results of the Public Health Assessment

The report will conclude with a series of recommendations aimed at protecting public health. Recommendations can be aimed towards regulatory agencies (for example: the agency in charge of the cleanup process), and other involved agencies or individuals with jurisdiction over particular issues (for example: posting a warning sign, putting up a fence, etc.).

We expect the PHA to be released for public comment in 2019. During the public comment period, we will conduct a public meeting to inform the community of the results of the public health assessment and our recommendations. CDPH will respond to all comments we receive in the final Department of Public Health/Environmental Health Investigations Branch/Division of Environmental and Occupational

Disease Control

850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, Third Floor, Richmond, CA, 94804

(510) 620-3620

Internet Address: www.cdph.ca.gov

document, which will be published by ATSDR. CDPH will follow up to determine if our recommendations have been implemented after the public health assessment has been released.

Who to Contact

Community members who have health or exposure concerns related to the Orange County North Basin Site can contact Nancy Villaseñor at (510) 620-5845 (nancy.villasenor@cdph.ca.gov) or Danny Kwon at (510) 620-3670 (danny.kwon@cdph.ca.gov), or by writing to us at:

Nancy Villaseñor, Community Health Educator
California Department of Public Health
Environmental Health Investigations Branch
850 Marina Bay Parkway, Building P, 3rd Floor
Richmond, CA 94804-6403

We look forward to working with this community, local government agencies and community based organizations to address public health concerns around the Orange County North Basin Site.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gabriele Windgasse', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Gabriele Windgasse, DrPH
Chief, Site Assessment Section
Environmental Health Investigations Branch
California Department of Public Health
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804
Tel: (510) 620 3610
gabriele.windgasse@cdph.ca.gov