

Ideas generated at the March 8, 2023 Operations committee concerning contaminated site clean-up.

- No reuse of contaminated sites for residential use.

Would require either clean-up to background levels, or redesignation of Zoning for land already zoned for residential, or prevention of rezoning of land to residential designation. DTSC only requires land to be cleaned up to the level required for its current land use designation. Option - recommend no rezoning of industrial land for residential use if there are land use restrictions placed on the site after the initial cleanup due to contamination left at the site.

- Early community engagement, communication and education – identify potential tools and increase distance from site for notification. Creative means to reach hard to reach people. Culturally appropriate messaging and in the appropriate languages.

See presentations of DTSC on 1/13/23, Heathy Contra Costa on 8/11/23, DCD on 11/3/23, EPA framework on 12/8/23 and Tracy Criag on 2/9/24. Could also be part of a grant to do site identification and investigation. See discussion with Alyson Greenly about getting grants for the NWEDI on 6/9/23. See draft letter Ops developed to support such efforts.

- Define “early engagement” - prior to development proposal – ask people what they want for various sites.

See especially presentation by DCD on 11/3/23 where Mr. Avila discussed potential for better community engagement at the beginning of the CEQA process

- Continuously let public know about contaminated sites in their community.

Currently, residents have to review Envirostor and Geotracker or sign up to get public notices when there is activity at particular sites. Additional outreach would require additional staff at DTSC or the County to conduct. Could be a function of the Ombudsman program.

- Have better signage and notification.

AB 1045 addresses this.

- Identify clear timelines for development and don't lose historical information.

Again, for the County to provide a repository of information other than Envirostor, or to educate the public about envirostor, it would have to add staff. Look at fed EPA guidelines and West Oakland Indicator Project guidelines.

See notes from 12/8/23

- Wanting the County to be more of an advocate for community and not just an arbitrator.

This could be a project of the Ombudsman position – to help residents educate themselves and be good advocates for themselves, or the County would have to add staff.

- Do more work to identify cumulative impacts.

See work being done by DTSC and EPA to identify cumulative impacts in North Richmond. See flyer sent to HMC by MK on 2/12/24.

For more information, please contact Duane James, (415) 972-3988 or james.duane@epa.gov

- County to comment during DTSC process – close gap between development and cleanup process.

See especially presentation by DCD on 11/3/23 where Mr. Avila discussed potential for better community engagement at the beginning of the CEQA process

- Community compensation and make it easier to participate (childcare, alternative times, food).

See discussion with Alyson Greenly about getting grants for NWEDI on 6/9/23. See draft letter Ops developed to support such efforts.