

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311

Project Title: Removal of Tar Material from Runkle Canyon

Project Location: Runkle Canyon is located at the Terminus of Sequoia Avenue

City: Simi Valley County: Ventura County

Project Description:

Excavation and removal of approximately 30 cubic yards of tar like material from piles of mined aggregate (sand and gravel) within the "Fish Tail" of three drainages that converge within the property. The excavated sand/gravel/debris will be screened to separate the tar like material to minimize the number of truckloads of tar like material. Once the tar material is removed, confirmation samples will be collected from the bottom of the excavation to verify that benzo(a)anthracene concentrations in soil do not exceed the United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 Preliminary Remediation Goal (PRG) which has been confirmed as a site specific cleanup level for this location. The PRG for Benzo(a)anthracene is: .015 mg/kg. The Site will be restored to its near original condition and grade with onsite soils.

Background:

The Runkle Canyon property consists of three parcels totaling 1,615 acres. Surface mining was historically performed at the site for sand and gravel material. Large volumes of semi-processed sand and gravel material from the former quarry operations have been placed within the Fish Tail area of the site. The piles of material from the quarry appear to be in excess of 30 feet thick in areas where the stream has eroded channels through them. Miscellaneous debris has been buried by the aggregate material. The debris included items such as, pipes, concreted, asphalt, rubber material, tires, and a black solid to very viscous tar like substances. During the summer months the tar seeps out of the steep walls and accumulates in pools at the bottom of the slope.

The tar material poses a potential threat to human health because benzo(a)anthracene concentrations exceed the (PRG).

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Runkle Canyon, LLC.

Exemption Status: (check one)

- Ministerial [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(1); CCR, Sec. 15268]
 Declared Emergency [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(3); CCR, Sec.15269(a)]
 Emergency Project [PRC, Sec. 21080(b)(4); CCR, Sec.15269(b)(c)]
 Categorical Exemption: [14 CCR, Sec.15330]
 Statutory Exemptions: [State code section number]
 General Rule [CCR, Sec. 15061(b)(3)]

Exemption Title: Title 14, Section 15330, California Code of Regulations. Minor Actions to Mitigate or Eliminate the Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

1. The project is consistent with the definition of Minor Actions to Prevent or Eliminate the Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances. The cost of the project is less than \$1,000,000, and a small volume of soil, less than 60 cubic yards. The site is not on the Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65692.5.
2. The project is a small removal action (RA) from areas that will avoid both sensitive biological habitat areas and cultural resource areas. The area has been previously disturbed by excavation and by the placement of the fill subject to

removal. Based on a review of the Department of Fish and Games Rarefind Database in December 2008, there are no known sensitive species of concern in the project area. According to the City of Simi Valley Senior Planner, previous field work and resource studies in the area of the removal for the Runkle Canyon EIR¹ (April 2004) have not revealed any significant biological or cultural resources in the direct vicinity of this small removal action.

- Staff from the California Department of Fish and Game have inspected the excavation area and have verified that the proposed scope of work is in compliance with the existing Streambed Alteration Agreement between Runkle Canyon LLC and the California Department of Fish & Game.

Excavation of the tar substance along the Runkle Canyon Drainage is within the grading area authorized in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Permit (file no. 2003-72-AJS) and does not require any additional Corps of Engineers permitting or approval.

- The removal will be removed in one day. The Site will be restored to its near original condition. A grading permit is not required from the City of Simi Valley. The area will not be accessible to the public.
- Slopes on the excavation will be utilized to assure that OSHA requirements under Title 8 for deep excavation worker safety are met.
- Transportation vehicles will be driven by registered hazardous waste haulers and wastes will be manifested. Less than 5 truck loads of material will be removed. Soil from the excavation will be shipped to a Class 2 landfill.

¹ City of Simi Valley 2004. *Runkle Canyon Final Environmental Impact Report*. SCH No. 2002121143. May 2004 (Certified April 26, 2004). City of Simi Valley, Ventura County.

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Project Manager Name	Project Manager Title	Phone #
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Branch Chief Signature		Date
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Branch Chief Name	Branch Chief Title	Phone #

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