



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection



## Department of Toxic Substances Control

Maziar Movassaghi  
Acting Director  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

March 25, 2010

Dear Community Member:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about an environmental investigation (referred to as a Remedial Investigation or RI) that will be conducted at current and former dry cleaners in Modesto, and, most importantly to request your participation in completing the attached Community Survey. The formal name of this project is the Modesto Groundwater Investigation.

Along with this letter and survey, we've provided a fact sheet describing such information as the location of the dry cleaner sites, the reason for conducting the investigation, and a description of the contaminants of concern.

The dry cleaners being investigated are:

*Acme Cleaners*, 122 H Street  
Two former dry cleaners in one building;  
*Elwood's Dry Cleaners*, 433 McHenry Avenue  
*Sunshine Cleaners*, 441 McHenry Avenue  
*Fashion Cleaners*, 229 McHenry Avenue  
*Jerry's Drapery Service*, 1140 Scenic Drive  
*Lincoln Dry Cleaners*, 1801 H Street  
*Sunshine Carpet & Drapery*, 1645 Princeton Avenue.

*Modesto Steam Laundry and Cleaners*, 1201 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
*Coit Drapery Cleaners/ Gordo's Draperies*  
207 McHenry Street  
*Coit Drapery Cleaners*, 1807 G Street  
*Vogue Cleaners*, 409 7th Street  
*Fashion Cleaners*, 1324 North Carpenter  
*Royal Dry Cleaners and Shirt Laundry*, 1508 10th Street

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the regulatory agency providing oversight of the RI at the dry cleaner sites. Your response to the survey will enable DTSC to determine the level of community interest, conduct appropriate community outreach activities, and inform the community of the project's status.

Thank you in advance for filling out and returning the enclosed community survey to me by April 15, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3575 or toll-free (866) 495-5651. You can also email me at [hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,  
*Heidi Nelson*

Heidi Nelson  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist

Enclosures

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
2010 APR 15 A 11:35

Fact Sheet, March 2010

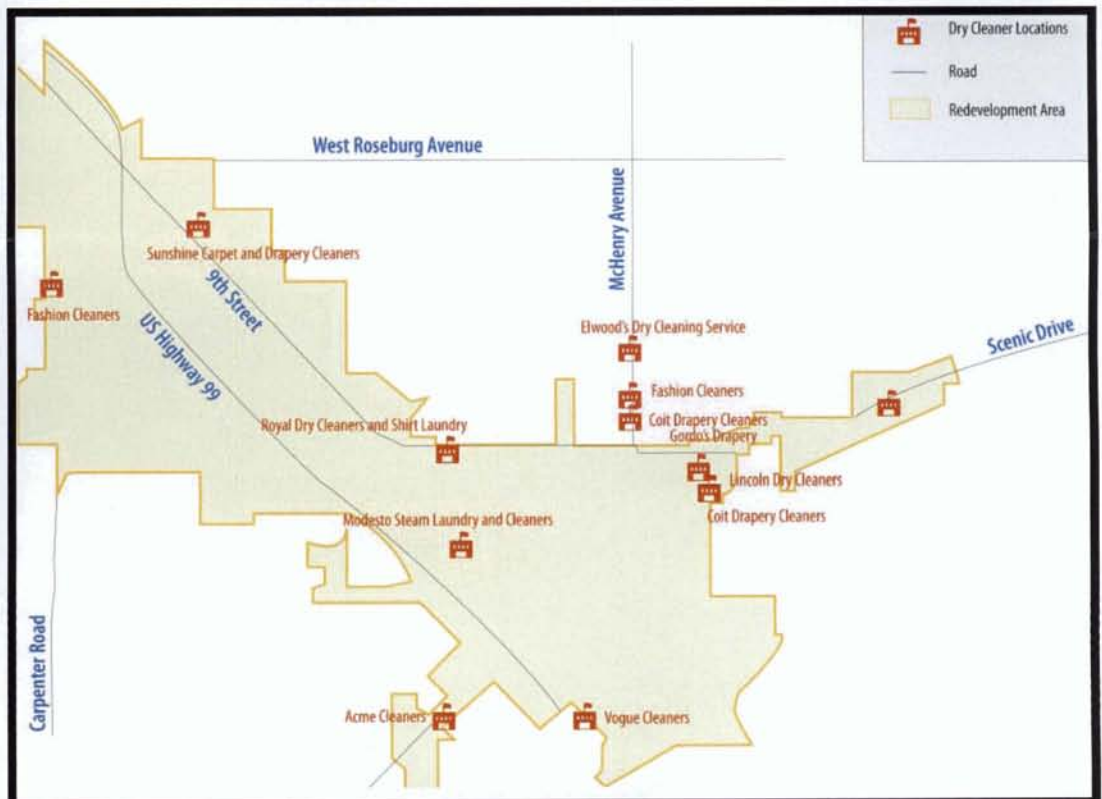
*Si prefiere hablar con alguien en español acerca de esta información, favor de llamar a Veronica Lopez -Villasenor, Departamento de Control de Substancias Toxicas. El número de es (866) 495-5611.*

## Environmental Investigations Are Being Conducted At Former and Current Modesto Dry Cleaners

### Why Did I Receive This Fact Sheet?

This fact sheet has been developed to let you know about activities being performed at former and current dry cleaners in the City of Modesto. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the City of Modesto Redevelopment Agency (MRA) are working together performing environmental investigations on soil, soil gas, and groundwater at the following locations:

Acme Cleaners, 122 H Street  
 Coit Drapery Cleaners/Gordo's Draperies, 207 McHenry Street  
 Coit Drapery Cleaners, 1807 G Street  
 Fashion Cleaners, 1324 North Carpenter  
 Fashion Cleaners, 229 McHenry Avenue  
 Jerry's Drapery Service, 1140 Scenic Drive  
 Lincoln Dry Cleaners, 1801 H Street  
 Modesto Steam Laundry and Cleaners, 1201 8th Street  
 Royal Dry Cleaners and Shirt Laundry, 1508 10th Street  
 Sunshine Carpet and Drapery, 1645 Princeton Avenue  
 Two former dry cleaners in one building;  
 ♦ Elwood's Dry Cleaners, 433 McHenry Avenue  
 ♦ Sunshine Cleaners, 441 McHenry Avenue  
 Vogue Cleaners, 409 7th Street



Map Not To Scale



Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control

*The Mission of  
the Department of  
Toxic Substances  
Control is to  
provide the highest  
level of safety, and  
to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
toxic harm.*



State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



***Who is Conducting The Site Investigation?***

DTSC and the MRA signed a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement which states that the MRA will pay for the environmental investigations at the Sites. DTSC is the regulatory agency overseeing the activities to ensure that they are done in a way that is protective of human health and the environment. MRA's consultant, GeoTrans, Inc., is conducting the investigations.

***How Did The Site Get Contaminated?***

In the past, dry cleaners used solvents in their cleaning processes. It was common for them to spill solvents on the ground during transfer to dry cleaning machines. Dry cleaners also discharged wastewater containing solvents down the drain.

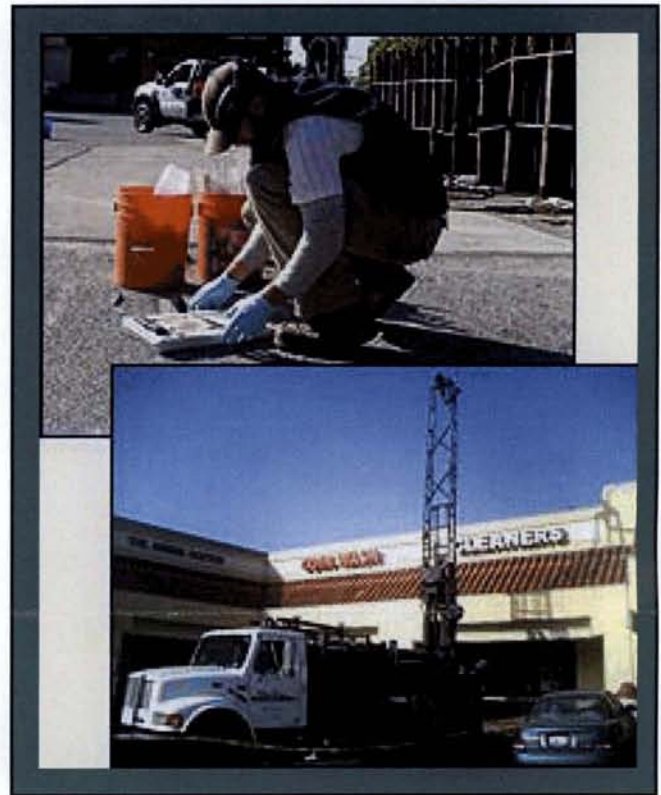
Today the rules for handling and disposing of solvents are more stringent and are considerate of human health and the environment. Dry cleaners have a legal obligation to properly use and dispose of any and all chemicals used in the dry cleaning process.

Unfortunately, however, improper use and disposal resulted in contamination of soil, soil gas, and groundwater.

In early 2002, the City of Modesto started takings soil, soil gas and groundwater samples at some former and current dry cleaner locations. Results from the samples taken found Tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination.

***What is PCE?***

PCE is a manufactured chemical that is widely used for dry cleaning of fabrics and for metal-degreasing. It is also used to make other chemicals and is used in some consumer products. It is a nonflammable liquid at room temperature. It evaporates easily into the air and has a sharp, sweet odor. At high doses and/or under prolonged exposure, PCE may irritate the skin and eyes, cause liver damage, and is known to cause cancer in animals.

***Why Are The Investigations Being Conducted Now?***

Before the MRA can move forward with redevelopment within the redevelopment areas (please see map on Page 1) contamination concerns must be addressed.

The first step is to determine the amount and extent of contamination. The results of the investigations being conducted now will be evaluated along with existing data to develop a cleanup strategy for each individual Site sometime in the near future.

***What Does The Investigation Consist Of?***

- ◆ Installing groundwater monitoring wells.
- ◆ Establishing permanent vapor monitoring locations for collecting soil gas samples. Soil gas is the vapor that exists between soil particles. These vapors can contain contamination.
- ◆ Performing Active Soil Gas Surveys at multiple depths per boring location. Active Soil Gas Surveys are used as a screening tool to determine how much and what kind of contamination exists in soil.

***Please remember to forward your Survey results to  
Ms. Heidi Nelson, Public Participation Specialist  
8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826  
Email: hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov***



◆Collecting soil, soil gas, and groundwater samples to determine if possible vapor intrusion is occurring at any of the Sites.

#### ***What is Vapor Intrusion?***

Vapor intrusion occurs when contamination in soil, soil gas, or groundwater volatilizes and enters overlying buildings as a gas, creating indoor air quality problems and potential health risks to occupants or employees. The seepage of harmful vapors can enter buildings through cracks or openings in foundations such as conduits.

#### ***What Happens After The Investigation is Done?***

The MRA will take the data collected and use it together with previously collected data to identify source areas with concentrations of PCE that pose an unacceptable risk to human health or the environment. Once these areas are identified, potential cleanup alternatives will be developed.

It's important to note that the processes mentioned above can take time. This fact sheet pertains to the investigation phase of the project. Fliers and/or fact sheets like this one will be used throughout the life of the project to update and inform the community about activities at the Sites.

#### **Information Provided Electronically**

If you'd like to research this project online, please visit the following Link and Website:

**Link:** [http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile\\_report.asp?global\\_id=50720008](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=50720008)

**Website:** [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)

#### **Information Repository**

Copies of documents, reports, and data associated with this project will be made available at the following locations:

##### ***Stanislaus County Free Library***

1500 I Street  
Modesto, California 95354-1166  
(209) 558-7801  
Please call for days and hours of operation.

##### ***Department of Toxic Substances Control***

8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
(916) 255-4159  
Please call to make an appointment.

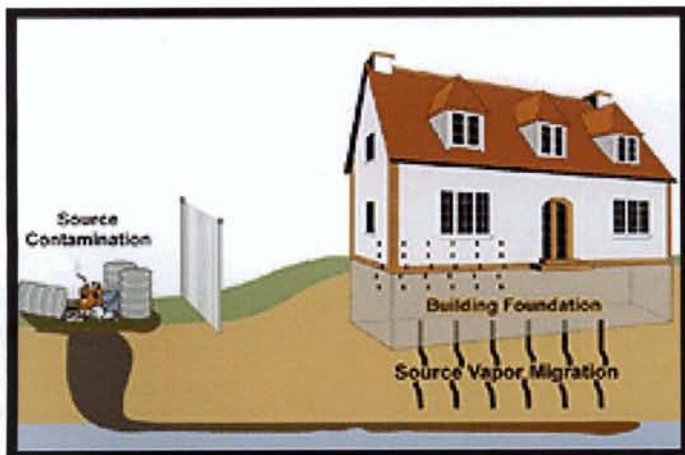
#### **Contact Information**

<b><i>Mr. Mike Vivas</i></b>	<b><i>Ms. Heidi Nelson</i></b>
Project Manager	Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-3682	(916) 255-3575
<a href="mailto:mvivas@dtsc.ca.gov">mvivas@dtsc.ca.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov">hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov</a>

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826

#### **Media Contact**

Ms. Kam Kimberley Coveyou  
Public Information Officer  
PIO Box 806  
Sacramento, California 95812-0806  
(916) 324-8304  
[kcoveyou@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:kcoveyou@dtsc.ca.gov)



#### **Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals**

You can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Mr. Mike Vivas at (916) 255-3682 regarding the *Modesto Groundwater Investigation* project.

Modesto Groundwater Investigation

Please return your responses to Ms. Heidi Nelson by **April 15, 2010** at the address listed on the last page of this Survey.

**1. Please mark your current knowledge about this Site.**

- I do not know anything about this Site.  
 I have heard about this Site but have little or no information on it.  
 I know a lot about this Site.

**2. Please mark your interest in this Site.**

- I do not know anything about this Site and cannot tell you if I am interested or not.  
 I have no interest. I would not be interested in information about this Site.  
 I have some interest. I would be interested in hearing or reading more about this Site.  
 I am very interested. I would read information mailed to me and talk to people about this Site.

**3. Please mark your willingness to attend a meeting regarding this Site.**

- I would not attend a meeting.  
 I might attend a meeting if it was convenient for me.  
 I would attend a meeting.

**4. Please tell us how many times you have attended a public meeting on an issue that concerns you?**

- Never  
 1-2 times  
 3-5 times  
 More than 5 times

**5. Do you have a language preference for receiving information about this Site?**

- English  
 Spanish  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**6. We want to tell you more about this Site. What is the best way to provide information to you?**

- Printed material and/or letters.  
 By newspaper. What newspaper do you read? \_\_\_\_\_  
 By radio. What radio station do you listen to? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Community meetings. When is the best time for you to attend?  
 During the day     In the evening     Saturday

**7. We sometimes need to talk with community members to learn more. Would you be willing to talk with us?**

- No  
 Yes → How may we contact you?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**8. Do you know of an active community group or individual in your neighborhood that we should add to our mailing list? If so, please provide us with the following information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

**9. Please feel free to add any other comments you may have about the Site or public participation.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**10. If you received this survey by hand-delivery or e-mail and would like to receive more information regarding this site, please complete the information below and we will add you to the site mailing list.**

**By checking this box, you are requesting to be removed from the site specific mailing list. Please provide your name and address below for removal.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

We appreciate the time you have taken to fill out this survey for us. If you have questions or concerns regarding this site, please contact us. We want to hear from you.

**Ms. Heidi Nelson**  
Public Participation Specialist  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(866) 495-5651 and/or (916) 255-3575  
hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov

**Mr. Mike Vivas, P.E.**  
Project Manager  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 255-3682  
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