



# ORLAND DRY CLEANERS SITE



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • SAN FRANCISCO, CA • NOVEMBER 1998

## U.S. EPA PLANS WELL SAMPLING FOR FALL 1998

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide an update on the investigation of the release of hazardous substances from the Orland Dry Cleaners site, located at 726 Fifth Avenue, Orland, CA. The fact sheet contains information concerning site history, site investigation, and contacts for further information.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), at the request of the State of California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), will conduct an additional round of residential well sampling during the fall to assess current groundwater conditions. Residential and public supply wells will be sampled for PCE and PCE breakdown products.

Wells were selected for testing because either they were tested before by the DTSC and EPA would like more current information, or because a particular well is near the estimated area of groundwater contamination. The sampling is voluntary and those involved have been notified in writing before sampling occurs.

### WHAT IS PCE?

PCE (tetrachloroethylene) is a cleaning solvent used in the dry cleaning industry. It is a volatile organic compound, which means it evaporates quickly when exposed to air. When liquid PCE is poured onto the ground, it moves through the soil and contaminates groundwater. Based upon animal studies, PCE is a suspected carcinogen in humans.

# CONTAMINATION AT THE ORLAND DRY CLEANERS SITE

The primary environmental concern at the Orland Dry Cleaners site is groundwater contamination. The map below shows an estimate of groundwater plume boundary.

Between 1988 and 1993, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, DTSC and EPA conducted sampling of the Orland Dry Cleaners dry well, soil, and private and municipal wells. Sludge material from the dry well was found to contain 60 million ppb (parts per billion) of PCE. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed by EPA for PCE is 5 ppb. The MCL is the level considered to be protective of public health and the environment. Previous sampling revealed that three private wells exceeded the MCL. Treatment systems were placed on those wells to bring the water back to drinking water safety standards.

# NEXT STEPS

Once the sampling is complete and the samples are analyzed, the results will be published in a final report which will be made available to the public in information repositories listed at the back of this fact sheet. Project findings will be summarized in a fact sheet which will be distributed using to residence on the mailing list.

EPA and DTSC will also hold a public meeting to present and discuss the sampling results. In consultation with the community and the agencies that are involved, EPA will use the sampling results to determine if further investigation is necessary.

# SITE HISTORY

The site was operated as a dry cleaning business from the 1940s to 1988 and resumed dry cleaning operations in 1992. Prior to the 1988 closure, spent solvent and solvent sludge were dumped on the Orland Dry Cleaners property in a shallow dry well. The solvent PCE was detected in groundwater by Pacific Gas and Electric in 1986 during removal of underground tanks.

Regulatory agencies conducted sampling from 1988 through 1993. The community was informed by DTSC that there was groundwater contamination in 1996 via a fact sheet and a public meeting. Three wells exceeded the MCL and received Point of Entry Treatment Systems (POETS, an individual home water treatment device). Additionally, DTSC made funds available to place POETS in additional private residences should those homes eventually exceed the MCL.



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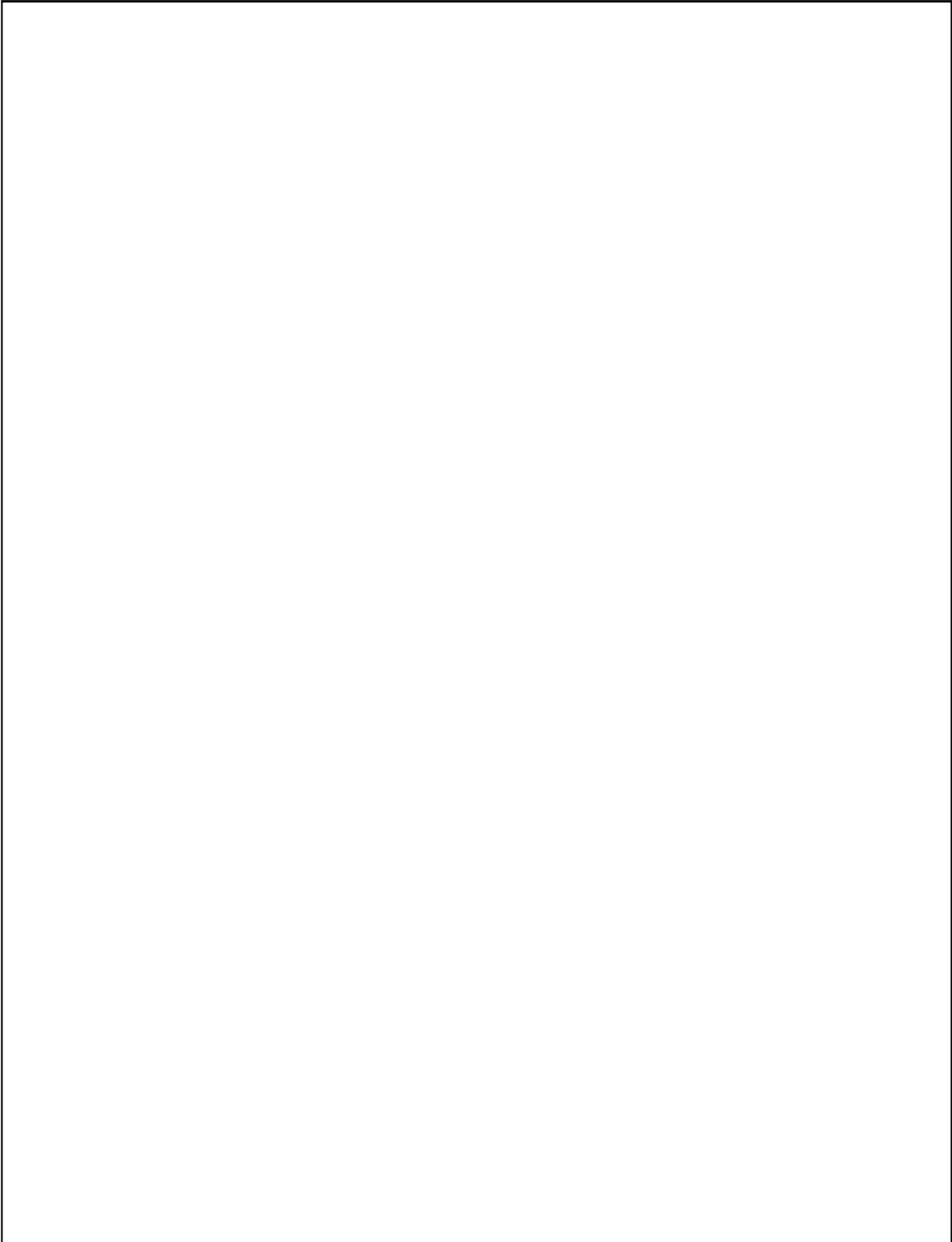
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## INFORMATION REPOSITORIES / FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Copies of site-related documents are available for public view at the information repositories located at:

Orland City Hall  
815 Fourth Street  
Orland, CA 95963  
Contact: Laura Blevins  
(916) 865-1601  
Hours: M-F, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DTSC, File Room  
10151 Croydon Way, Suite 3  
Sacramento, CA 96827  
Contact: Alberta McMurray  
(916) 255-3758  
Hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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For additional copies of this fact sheet or the September 1996 fact sheet, or for general questions about the Orland Dry Cleaners site, please contact:

Randy Sturgeon  
Public Participation Specialist  
California Department of  
Toxic Substances Control  
10151 Croydon Way, Suite 3  
Sacramento, CA 95827  
(916) 255-3649

David Cooper  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (SFD-3)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 744-2179  
or call toll-free (800) 231-3075



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United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street (SFD-3)  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Attn: David Cooper

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