

Richmond Field Station Remediation and Marsh Restoration Phase 3 Update, November 5, 2004

The campus is continuing to implement a cleanup and restoration plan for contaminated areas of the UC Berkeley's Richmond Field Station. Industrial activities that took place prior to UC ownership of the site polluted parts of the property and the adjacent marsh. The University's ultimate goal for the area is to clean up, enhance, and restore the uplands, shoreline and marsh habitat.

If you have questions about the exact locations of any of the work areas described, please contact a member of the project team (contact information below).

Site activities are expected to be completed by the middle part of next week so this will be the final update for the Phase 3 activities. The project team appreciates your patience and cooperation during the field activities.

The remediation project now has a website with some basic information about the project and these weekly updates. It is now online at: http://www.cp.berkeley.edu/RFS_MarshRR.html

Recently Completed Activities

- Excavation of chemically-affected soil an area located along Lark Drive near Buildings 275 and 277. Following excavation, the area was backfilled with clean fill material and crushed rock was placed along the drainage ditches to prevent soil erosion during rain.
- Placing grass sod and replacing irrigation piping in two areas that were excavated near Buildings 445 and 484.
- Repairing a small section of Egret Way that was damaged during site activities. The damaged section was removed and new asphalt placed and compacted.

Ongoing Site Activities

Activities currently in progress include:

- The contractor has shipped the majority of the soil temporarily stockpiled on the asphalt pads to an approved landfill facility. There will likely be two to three remaining cleanup loads shipped off site next week after the asphalt pads have been cleaned.
- The contractor has begun installing the new sections of fencing and repairing sections that were damaged during this year's activities. This activity should be completed by early next week.
- The contractor is in the process of performing final project closeout items identified by the project team.

Anticipated Activities for Next Week (November 5 to 12, 2004)

Anticipated activities for next week include:

- Finish cleaning the asphalt pads where excavated soil was stockpiled. The pads are being swept and pressure washed to remove any remaining soil.
- Off-site haulage of the final clean-up loads of soil generated during cleanup of the asphalt pads. It is anticipated that between two to three cleanup loads will be shipped off site to an approved landfill. The trucks are accessing the site from Meade Street using the South 47th Street entrance on the adjacent property and proceeding down along South 46th Street to the asphalt pads. The off-site haul trucks are being instructed to reduce speeds to 10 to 15 mph while on South 46th Street. The contractor is performing daily street sweeping on roads traveled by transport trucks. Shipping manifests for each truck are being reviewed and signed by an authorized EH&S representative.
- The contractor will be installing erosion control measures in areas disturbed by site activities. The areas disturbed by excavation or where former stockpiles were removed will be first seeded with native vegetation and grasses and then sprayed with a hydroseed material (given a coating to prevent surface erosion from storm water runoff). Fibrous jute mats are also expected to be used to recover portions of the Bay mud stockpile (located south of Building 163) that were uncovered as part of this year's activities.
- Replacing damaged and installing new sections of fencing at various locations affected by site activities.
- Performing final project closeout items as identified by the project team.

Site activities are tentatively scheduled to be completed by Wednesday, November 10, 2004.

During the remediation work, the access trail to the Bay Trail from the Field station will remain open for use when feasible. However, the project team expects to close it at times for safety reasons. Signs will be posted 24 hours in advance when possible to notify you of closure of the RFS Bay Trail access. The path can remain open only if everyone stays within the safe corridors, so please do not stray into the work zones.

Health and Safety Issues

Dust suppression is an important concern and every effort will be made to control "fugitive" dust. Air monitoring is being performed throughout the project to ensure dust suppression is in compliance with accepted limits. The work areas and along the perimeter fence lines of the work zone are being monitored for particulate matter during work hours. The campus office of Environment Health & Safety (EH&S) is performing oversight of the monitoring done by the environmental consultants.

Anna Moore is the campus EH&S contact – she works at the RFS and can be reached by phone at 231-9584 or e-mail at amorel@berkeley.edu. If Anna is not available, please contact one of the staff listed below. Air monitoring data collected to date for site activities has shown the dust levels are well below the accepted limits. EH&S is maintaining a weekly report of readings and this information is being kept on file. Air monitoring data is now online at: http://www.cp.berkeley.edu/RFS_MarshRR.html

Contact information

If you have any urgent environmental health concerns, please contact EH&S directly at 510 642-3073.

Project Contacts:

Christine Shaff, Facilities Services 643-4793 or cshaff@cp.berkeley.edu.

Mike Hryciw, Capital Projects 642-3057 or mhryciw@cp.berkeley.edu

Please keep in mind that all construction projects are subject to scheduling intricacies that can result in day-to-day changes in planned events.