

CONTAMINATION DECISION TREE

(ADA version of flowchart)

Project Initiation Document (PID; K) Phase

Projects on the State Highway System (SHS) - Perform project screening and an Initial Site Assessment (ISA), if needed, as part of input to the Preliminary Environmental Analysis Report (PEAR). If screening indicates that only low risk sites are present, completion of the ISA may be deferred until the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED; 0) Phase.

Projects off the SHS - Perform project screening as part of input to the Preliminary Environmental Scoping (PES) form. ISAs are scheduled as a separate activity after the Department signs the PES form.

NOTE: The scheduling of post-ISA studies is partially guided by the results of the project screening and ISA - large numbers of variable risk properties and/or the presence of high risk properties indicate the need to schedule subsequent investigations early in the PA&ED Phase. In the event of extremely high-risk sites, such as Superfund sites and landfills, it is advisable to initiate the PSI during the PID Phase.

Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED; 0) Phase

Step 1

If an ISA is needed and has not previously been completed, or a previously completed ISA is over a year old, complete an ISA or an ISA update. Are contaminated properties present?

- **YES:** Go to Step 2
- **NO:** Go to Step 5

Step 2

Is the information sufficient to assess impacts to project cost, scope, and schedule?

- **YES:** Go to Step 5
- **NO:** Go to Step 3

Step 3

Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) performed by qualified and registered professionals (i.e., California Professional Geologist and/or California Professional Engineer depending on the work to be done). Permits to enter required. Is the information sufficient to assess impacts to project cost, scope, and schedule as well as characterize the nature and extent of contamination?

- **YES:** Go to Step 5
- **NO:** Go to Step 4

Step 4

Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) performed by qualified and registered professionals (i.e., California Professional Geologist and/or California Professional Engineer depending on the work to be done). Permits to enter required. Is the information sufficient to assess impacts to project cost, scope, and schedule as well as characterize the nature and extent of contamination?

- **YES:** Go to Step 5
- **NO:** Repeat Step 4

Step 5

Document results in the Environmental Document/Determination, Project Report, Environmental Commitments Record (ECR), and project files. Proceed to next phase.

Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E; 1) Phase

Step 1

Are additional environmental studies needed to support design?

- **YES:** Go to Step 2
- **NO:** Go to Step 5

Step 2

Conduct Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) of all low-risk sites (for which there was already adequate information to estimate impacts to project cost, scope and schedule), all properties not previously addressed, and any properties for which there has been a significant change in conditions since the PSI was performed. Work is performed by qualified and registered professionals (i.e., California Professional Geologist and/or California Professional Engineer depending on the work to be done). Permits to enter required. These studies should be completed as early as possible in the PS&E Phase. Is the information sufficient to characterize the nature and extent of contamination and prepare plans and specifications?

- **YES:** Go to Step 4
- **NO:** Go to Step 3

Step 3

Detailed Site Investigation (DSI) performed by qualified and registered professionals (i.e., California Professional Geologist and/or California Professional Engineer depending on the work to be done). Permits to enter will be required. These studies should be completed as early as possible in the PS&E Phase. Is the information sufficient to characterize the nature and extent of contamination and prepare plans and specification?

- **YES:** Go to Step 4
- **NO:** Repeat Step 3

Step 4

Incorporate new information with that from the PA&ED Phase in the project documents and files, including the ECR. **NOTE:** Results may necessitate an environmental re-evaluation, reconsideration of project alternatives, changes in project scope, cost, schedule, or other changes. Go to Step 5.

Step 5 (performed concurrently with Right of Way phase)

Pre-construction mitigation/remediation - Develop mitigation and remediation plans in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, including regulatory agencies. Implement mitigation and remediation prior to construction of the transportation project. Update project documents and files, including the ECR. **NOTE:** Remediation efforts may require years to complete and may restrict maintenance and owner-operator activities.

Remediation/management during Construction - Prepare plans and specifications for contamination issues to be addressed during project construction.

Right of Way Acquisition (ROW; 2) Phase (Concurrent with PS&E Phase)

Use the most recently updated data to ensure that, in accordance with Caltrans policy, properties being acquired are free of hazardous materials before title is transferred to the State. Acquisition of contaminated parcels requires special approval from Management. Information is documented on the HMDD-A and, if required, the RACP. Proceed to next phase.

Construction (3) Phase

- Implement SSPs and NSSPs for remediation and hazardous waste management.
- Unless stipulated in the original contract, construction contractors are legally prohibited from performing hazardous waste work.
- In the event that unanticipated evidence of suspected contamination is encountered during construction, follow the Unanticipated Contamination

Decision Tree process and update the project documents and files including the ECR and the Certificate of Environmental Compliance (CEC).

- If excess parcels remain, see instructions below.

Excess Property Disposal

After construction there are often excess parcels remaining. Before an excess parcel can be transferred out of State ownership the hazardous materials clearance procedures must be completed. The DHWTS will perform an abbreviated ISA using existing information. If warranted, a PSI will be performed to determine actual property conditions and the need for any additional work. Information is documented on the HMDD-D.