

Center for Community
Action and
Environmental Justice

Autumnwood

Concerned Neighbors of Wildomar

APRIL 2014

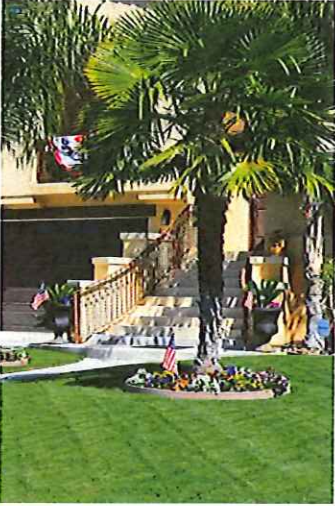
American Dream



Or

Toxic Nightmare!

The Story of Autumnwood



From looking at the exterior of the 61 homes in the Autumnwood Complex in the City of Wildomar one would think it is the perfect American Dream. But what lurks inside and under their homes may be killing them. Residents moved into the homes in 2006. Since then several residents have been sickened by what they believe is toxic soil used as “fill” upon which their homes were built. The list of illnesses is astonishing—from chemically-induced “pneumonia” to lupus. Two young women have died on Amaryllis from pneumonia both in their 30s. More than 40 are injured on Amaryllis, a street with only 11 homes. But the list goes on — 35 on Pink Ginger; 20 on Protea Court and 20 on Front Street.

Ciccarellis

On July 20, 2012 Fatima and Thomas Ciccarelli welcomed the birth of their first child, Kalie. Less than three weeks later Fatima was dead! On the morning of August 9, Fatima became extremely ill. Thomas took her to the Inland Valley Medical Center, where she passed.

Master Sergeant Thomas Ciccarelli is a Marine and has served his country for more than 23 years. Mr. Ciccarelli, like many of his neighbors, has abandoned his home. What he thought would be his American dream turned into a toxic nightmare. “Kalie and I have been living with family or friends for the past 6 months until we can figure out what’s going on with the house.” Despite their pleas for help from various agencies no one is responding!

Thom says, “Is this America? Is this what I fought for? Am I being told that my family and I are safer on foreign soil than on the soil at home in the United States?”



Muniz

Jennifer and Javier Muniz have also moved out of their Amaryllis Court dream home. Javier is an 11 year veteran of the California Highway Patrol. Jennifer is an elementary school teacher. In 2006, Jennifer, Javier and their two children moved into their “perfect home.” In 2007 the Muniz’ family started experiencing health problems. Jennifer explains, “I was pregnant with our third child and our second child began suffering from rashes, headaches, consistent post nasal drip, burning throat, and burning eyes and nose.



In 2012 the family of six moved from their two-story 3000 square foot home to a 900 square foot apartment. They left most of their possessions behind. Within a week of moving out their fourth child, a daughter, was born. Blood work shows that the family had been exposed to toxic chemicals. Jennifer says, “I was told by my child’s doctor that if we move back into our home she’d have to report me to child protective services”. Jennifer and Javier now have a bad credit rating because they could no longer afford to pay both the mortgage and rent.

Villanueva



Floyd and Xonia Villanueva and their two children have also left their homes behind. Floyd is a border patrol agent. The family moved into their new home in 2006. Within months they began experiencing aggravated asthma, joint pain, burning throats, watery eyes, gastrointestinal disorders, infections, rashes, fevers, hair loss as well as other ailments. Floyd had pneumonia in 2008. Xonia said that when they moved out of the Amaryllis home, they literally “ran for our lives”.

Floyd said, “When we in law enforcement get a call for help— we respond. Sure, we get false alarms, but we make sure people aren’t in harms way. I don’t understand why when we’ve called DTSC, no one responds. We’ve been waiting for months.”

Marstellers

Bobby and Gina Marsteller live on Front Street. That street also demonstrates the same problems.

The couple purchased their home in 2008 for \$300,000. They worked very hard for our house. Bobby explains, “Over the passed 4 years we have lived there, we have become consistently sick and have had documented heart and stomach problems. After reviewing the facts that the lawyer had given us, we agreed that it was the house making us sick. So we moved out.

The first week my sinus problems went away. The second week my whole family became sick, throwing up, fever, and joint pain. It felt as though we were de-toxing. Two months later we are very sensitive to all smells, but feel much better. I ask all Autumnwood home owners to review the facts, do the research, before they make any harsh comments about any one, especially someone who is trying to help. It is much easier to act like you don’t know or that everything is fine. Who decides to just leave their home for no reason? Who walks away from memories and everything they have worked for? We did not want to leave, but we did because we knew something was not right. I’m protecting my family, our health and spreading our experience to those who are or may not even know are affected.

Contaminated Fill

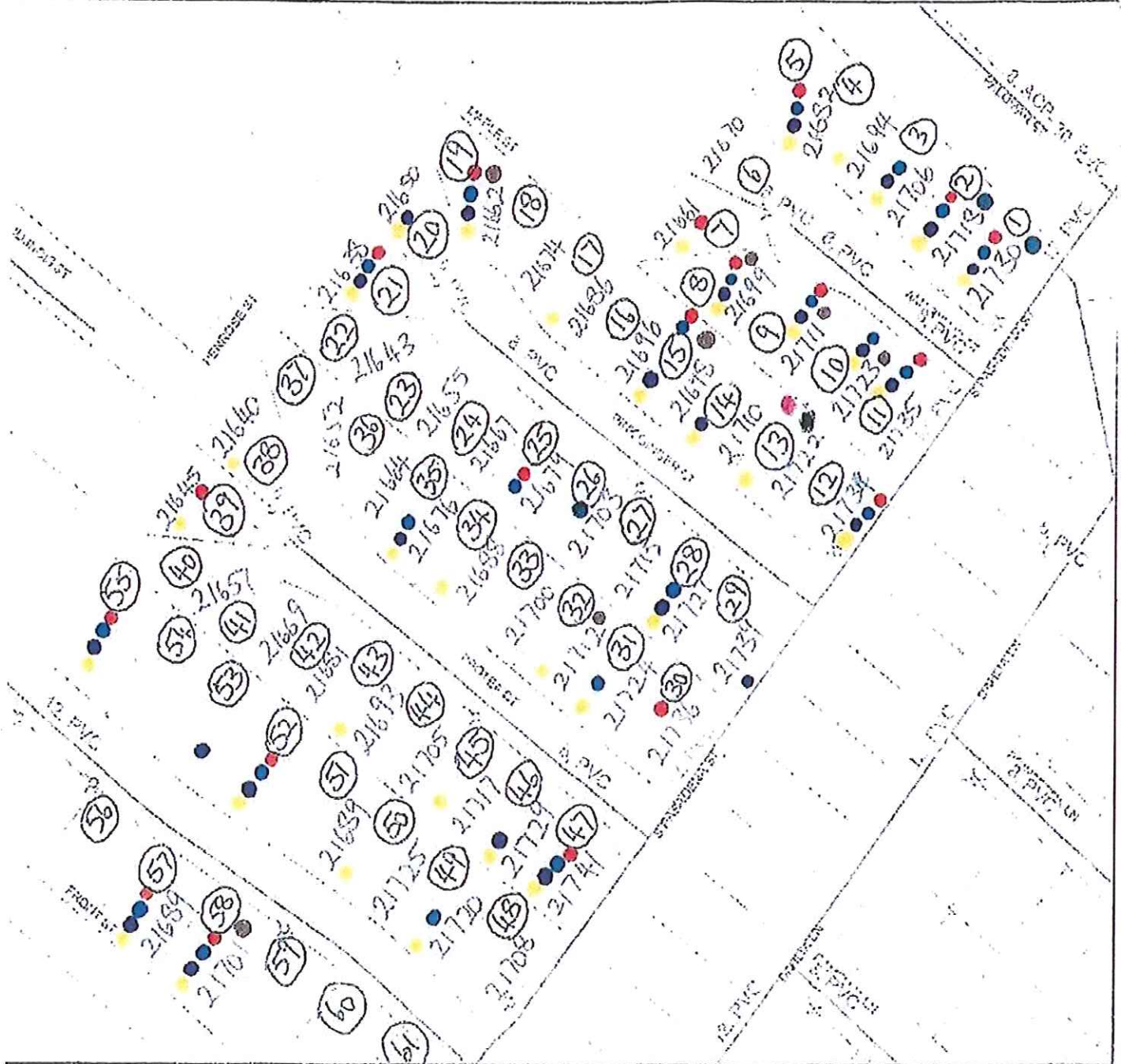
Since then more families have moved out of their homes, all suffering from various illnesses. Records show that fill was brought in to the housing tract from the Rancho California Water District by a trucking company who was also hired by RCWD to remove a half million cubic yards of soil. Apparently, the soil from RCWD contained spoils from various repair jobs and stockpiles from the 1990s.

Local residents also report following trucks with contaminated soil from a gas station remediation and deliver their loads to the Autumnwood tract for fill. (See page 11)

All the evidence suggests something is wrong at Autumnwood. Without a comprehensive investigation by DTSC, none of the families can move on with their lives. All they are asking for is for DTSC to do its Job—Investigate!

Autumnwood Illness Reports

Tract 31175



This application has been provided to give a visual display of District facilities and related geographic information. To be sure of complete accuracy, please check with the engineering staff for the most up to date information.

ORANGE

Asthma, Exacerbated/New Diagnosis
 Adult Onset and Children
 Allergies, Exacerbated
 Ears Pain/Clogged
 Excessive Thirst
 Eye Irritation (Dry Watery Conjunctivitis/Red
 Burning/Blurry/Pain)
 Headaches
 Lung Congestion/Fluid Build Up
 Throat Irritation (Dry/Sore)
 Hacking Cough (dry/wet)
 Nose (runny/stuffy)
 Rashes (bumps/blisters)
 Skin (dryness/redness)
 Sinuses (congestion/infections)
 Sore Throat

PURPLE

Abdominal Pain
 Back Pain
 Bone Pain
 Difficulty Swallowing
 GI Problems (stomach/colon)
 Joint Pain
 Kidney Pain/Infections
 Muscle Pain
 Nausea/Vomiting
 Numbness (extremities/face/lips)
 Urinary Tract (pain/infections)
 Viruses
 Wounds Not Healing

BLUE

Ankle Swelling
 Brain Fog
 Chronic Fatigue/Exhaustion
 Depression
 Dizziness
 Facial Swelling (eyes shut)
 Fevers (extremely elevated/low grade)
 Hair Loss
 Hives
 Insomnia
 Loss of Coordination
 Lumps on Body (arms/legs/back)
 Lumps on Neck/Throat
 Memory Loss (short-term, i.e. words, sentences)
 Menstrual Disturbances
 Muscle Twitching
 Nail Thinning/Chipping/Black
 Nose Bleeds
 Nose Blisters
 Ovary Pain
 Persistent Sweating
 Sleep Apnea
 Sores on Tongue
 Tongue Swelling
 Tooth Loss/Chipping/Decay
 Impeded Speech

RED

Gallbladder
 Autoimmune Disorders
 Alveoli/Macrophage Response
 Bacterial, Chronic
 Burning Hands & Feet
 Burning lungs upon inhalation
 Cardiac
 Chemical Sensitivity/Intolerance
 COPD
 Deep Thoracic Pain
 Difficulty Breathing/Severe Shortness of Breath
 Diminished Lung Function
 Heart Racing
 High Blood Pressure
 Hot & Cold Extremities
 Kidney, Systemic Edema
 Lupus
 Pins & needles Sensations
 Pleurisy
 Persistent Auto-Immune
 Persistent Dermal Activity
 Pneumonia
 Pneumonitis, Interstitial
 Premature Peri-Menopause
 (ten/young adult)
 Swollen Lymph Nodes
 Thyroid Enlargement
 Tremors

BROWN

Pets (seizures/tumors/cancer/bloody cough/vomiting/
 rashes/lethargic/arthritis/disoriented)

BLACK

Death

Autumnwood

TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES

For more than a year Concerned Neighbors of Wildomar requested DTSC to do their job and conduct a comprehensive risk assessment investigation. Finally they agreed to do a “screening” of soil and Subslab testing. Unfortunately we got the same old manipulation of the test results. As their press release stated:

“State tests find no contamination below housing tract”

DTSC irresponsibly released their “conclusions” of the test results and declared there were no chemicals found in their testing. Their theory is that the air inside the homes is contaminating the soil beneath our homes (Subslab). By DTSC not telling the truth, the residents of Autumnwood pay the consequences with their health.

DTSC says: *“While volatile organic contaminants (VOCs) were previously detected in indoor air quality samples at certain homes, our recent investigation indicated that these VOCs are not a result of contaminated soil, soil gas or groundwater beneath the homes in the Autumnwood development.”*

The Truth: In reviewing the actual testing results chemicals were found in the groundwater, soil, and soil gas that are up to 1,000 times higher than the concentrations inside our homes. The chemicals would migrate from the highest levels detected to the lower levels. It is impossible for the air inside the homes to be polluting the soil, and water beneath our homes.

DTSC says: *“No evidence of soil contamination”.*

The Truth: Autumnwood is laden with hundreds of toxic substances including chlorinated hydrocarbons, petrochemicals, metals, and pesticides. All of which has caused injury, illness and death! (See pages 8 & 9).

DTSC says: *VOCs in soil gas are at background levels”*

The Truth: According to the actual DTSC testing results and raw data, VOCs tens to hundreds of times greater than the health threshold levels.

DTSC says: *“Shallow groundwater is not a source of volatile organic contaminants.”*

The Truth: Many VOCs including Benzene, Formaldehyde and Acrolein are in the shallow groundwater at Autumnwood.

DTSC says: *“According to DTSCs Vapor Intrusion Guidance Vapor intrusion is not occurring in the Autumnwood development.” (Vapor intrusion is when chemicals from below migrate into the home through cracks, the slab or other pathways)*

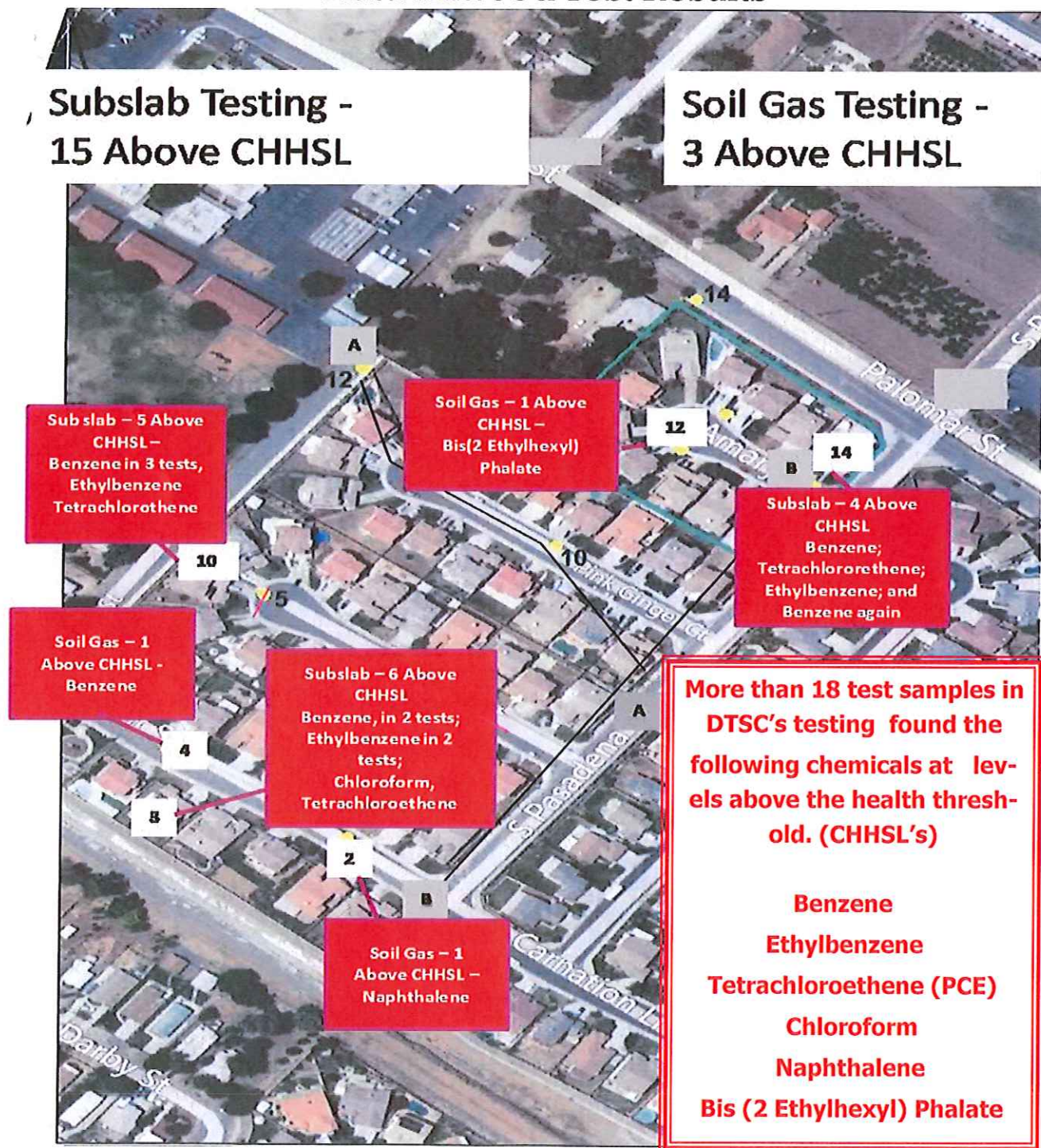
The Truth: All chemicals found in groundwater and soil are tens, hundreds even thousands of time higher than the concentrations inside our homes! The chemicals in our homes are not contaminating the soil below. The higher concentrations in the soil are permeating into our homes!

DTSC manipulation of data

To mislead people, DTSC reported the health threshold and the test results in different measurements. For example, if the health thresholds were set at 36 and the test result is 4, one would assume there isn't a high level. But if you realize that the '36' is in inches and the '4' is in feet it changes the picture. When converted to the same measurements the 4 becomes 48" way above the health thresholds at 36". In the final report the measurements have been corrected.

DTSC should not be playing games with people's lives!

Autumnwood Test Results



- AQMD testing
- Independent Testing
- Ami Adini
- DTSC
- DTSC Groundwater
- HOA Testing

above Health Threshold

@ All chemicals in powdery substance are high and above that to be expected in region with Uranium levels 77% higher than western US levels



White Powdery Substance in yards @

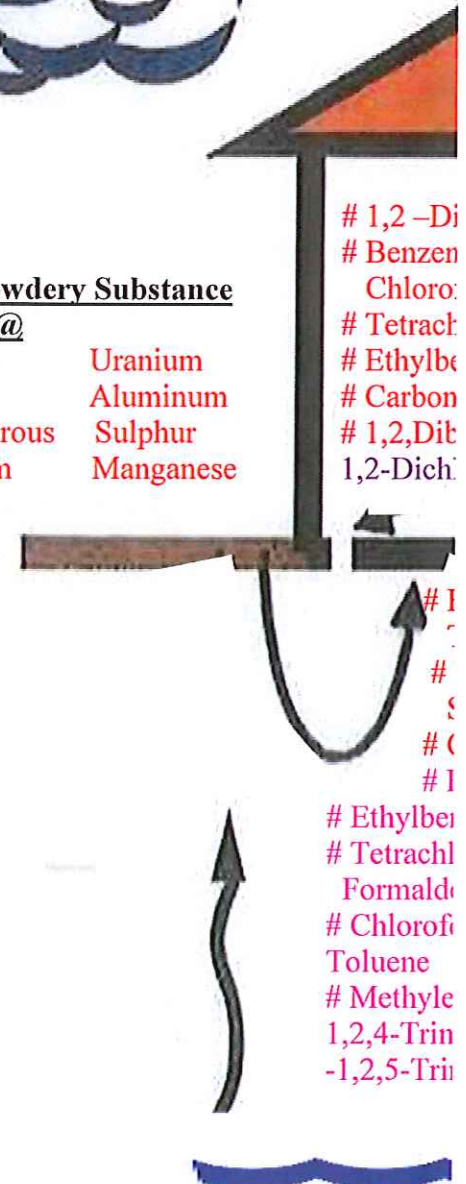
- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| # Arsenic | Uranium |
| Barium | Aluminum |
| Phosphorous | Sulphur |
| Chromium | Manganese |

- # 1,2-Di
- # Benzen
- Chloro:
- # Tetrach
- # Ethylbe
- # Carbon
- # 1,2,Di
- 1,2-Dich

Outside Soil—Soil Gas

- Chloroform
- Toluene
- Chlorobenzene
- Trichloroethylene
- Chloromethane
- Trichloroflouromethane
- # Benzene
- # Ethylbenzene
- # Tetrachloroethene
- # Naphthalene
- # Chloroform
- Toluene
- m-p-Xylene
- O-Xylene
- MTBE
- 1,2,4-Trimetholbenzene
- 1,3,5-Trimetholbenzene
- p-Isopropyltoluene

- Formaldehyde
- Chloromethane
- Trichloroethylene
- Benzene
- Chloroform
- Toluene
- Trichloroflouromethane
- Ethylbenzene
- Tetrachloroethene
- m-p-Xylene
- o-Xylene
- MTBE
- 1,2,4-Trimetholbenzene
- 1,3,5-Trimetholbenzene
- Vinyl Chloride
- Naphthalene
- 1,2-Dibromoethane
- Carbon Tetrachloride



- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Acetine | Toluene |
| Benzene | 2,2-dichlor |
| Bromodichloromethane | Methylene |
| Bromomethane | Vinyl-acet |
| 2-butanone | Isopropanc |
| Chloroethane | Acrolein |
| Chloroform | Hexane |
| Chloromethane | Propionitri |
| 1,1-dichloroethane | Ethyl-meth |



Outside Air

- # Carbon Tetrachloride
- # Benzene
- # Naphthalene
- # Vinyl Chloride
- 1,2-dichloroethane
- Ethane
- Propane
- Chloromethane
- Bromoethane
- Ethanol
- Methylene chloride
- 1,1-dichloroethane
- 2-butanone MEK
- Chloroform
- Bromoform
- Ethyl benzene
- 1,2-dibromoethane

Toluene

- Chlorobenzene
- Tetrachloroethylene
- Vinyl acetate
- O-Xylene
- 2-propanol
- # Vinyl chloride
- # Carbon Tetrachloride
- # Benzene
- # 1,2-Dichloroethane
- # Tetrachloroethylene
- # Ethylbenzene
- # Formaldehyde
- Chlorobenzene
- Chloroform
- Chlorobenzene
- Chloromethane
- Trichloroethylene
- Trichlorofluoromethane

- roethane # Vinyl chloride
- # Carbon Tetrachloride
- # Benzene
- ethylene # 1,2-Dichloroethane
- # Tetrachloroethylene
- achloride # Ethylbenzene
- oethane # Formaldehyde
- enzene Chloroethane

Sub Slab Testing

- ene Methanol
- ene O-Xylene
- thalene m-p-Xylene
- ne MTBE
- oform Trichlorofluoromethane
- ene Carbon Tetrachloride
- the Methylene chloride
- ne # Benzene
- ne Chloroform
- ne Tetrachloroethylene
- ne Ethylbenzene
- chloride Chloromethane
- lbenzene 1,2-Dichloroethane
- olbenzene Trichloroethylene

- pane Ethanol
- ride Tert-butyl alcohol
- Acetonitrile
- I,4-dioxane
- Iodomethane
- Hexachloro-1,3-butadiene
- 1,3-butadiene
- late Isobutyl alcohol

- Tetrahydrofuran
- cyclohexane
- Methyl methacrylate
- Acrylonitrile
- Formaldehyde**

Park Testing

In the report the Testing Firm commented on finding a "blackish stain at 1.2 feet with a "hydrocarbon odor in ambient air." "The origin of the blackish stain is unknown".

- Bromobenzene Bromoform
 - Bromochloromethane **Vinyl Chloride**
 - Bromodichloromethane **Styrene**
 - Bromomethane **Dioxin**
 - C-1,3-Dichloropropene **Chloroform**
 - Carbon tetrachloride **# Arsenic**
 - Hexavalent Chromium **Lead**
 - c-1,2-Dichloroethene **Ethylbenzene**
 - Dibromomethane MTBE **Benzene**
 - Tetrachlorethene (PCE)** **Naphthalene**
 - Trichloroethene (TCE)** Methylene chloride
 - 1,2-Dibromoethane** ETBE
 - Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate** Toluene
- And many more industrial and agricultural chemicals!

Known health impacts from chemicals found above CHSSL thresholds.

Benzene is a chemical that is a colorless or light yellow liquid at room temperature. It has a sweet odor and is highly flammable. Benzene evaporates into the air very quickly. People who breathe in high levels of benzene may develop the following signs and symptoms within minutes to several hours: **Drowsiness, Dizziness, Rapid or irregular heartbeat, Headaches, Tremors, Confusion, Unconsciousness, Death** (at very high levels). The major effect of benzene from long-term exposure is on the blood. (Long-term exposure means exposure of a year or more.) Benzene causes **harmful effects on the bone marrow and can cause a decrease in red blood cells, leading to anemia.** It can also cause **excessive bleeding and can affect the immune system, increasing the chance for infection.** The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has determined that **benzene causes cancer in humans.** Long-term exposure to high levels of benzene in the air can cause **leukemia, cancer of the blood-forming organs.**

Ethylbenzene is mainly used in the manufacture of styrene. Acute (short-term) exposure to ethylbenzene in humans results in **respiratory effects, such as throat irritation and chest constriction, irritation of the eyes, and neurological effects such as dizziness.** Chronic (long-term) exposure to ethylbenzene by inhalation in humans has shown conflicting results regarding its effects on the blood. Animal studies have reported effects on the **blood, liver, and kidneys from chronic inhalation exposure to ethylbenzene.** Limited information is available on the carcinogenic effects of ethylbenzene in humans. In a study by the National Toxicology Program (NTP), exposure to ethylbenzene by inhalation resulted in an **increased incidence of kidney and testicular tumors in rats, and lung and liver tumors in mice.** EPA has classified ethylbenzene as a **Group D, not classifiable as to human carcinogenicity.**

Tetrachloroethene (PCE) Major releases of Tetrachloroethylene are: via vaporization losses from dry cleaning and industrial metal cleaning; wastewater, particularly from metal finishing, laundries, aluminum forming, organic chemical/plastics manufacturing and municipal treatment plants. Acute: EPA has found Tetrachloroethylene to potentially cause the following health effects from acute exposures: **detrimental effects to liver, kidney, and central nervous system.** Chronic: Tetrachloroethylene has the potential to cause the following health effects from long-term exposures at levels above the MCL: **detrimental effects to liver, kidney, and central nervous system.** Cancer: There is some evidence that tetrachloroethylene may have the **potential to cause cancer** from a lifetime exposure.

Chloroform may be released to the air as a result of its formation in the chlorination of drinking water, wastewater and swimming pools. Other sources include pulp and paper mills, hazardous waste sites, and sanitary landfills. The major effect from acute (short-term) inhalation exposure to chloroform is **central nervous system depression.** Chronic (long-term) exposure to chloroform by inhalation in humans has resulted in **effects on the liver, including hepatitis and jaundice, and central nervous system effects, such as depression and irritability.** Chloroform has been shown to be carcinogenic in animals after oral exposure, resulting in an increase in kidney and liver tumors. EPA has classified chloroform as a **Group B2, probable human carcinogen.**

Naphthalene is used in the production of phthalic anhydride; it is also used in mothballs. Acute (short-term) exposure of humans to naphthalene by inhalation, ingestion, and dermal contact is **associated with hemolytic anemia, damage to the liver, and neurological damage.** Symptoms of acute exposure include **headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, malaise, confusion, anemia, jaundice, convulsions, and coma.** Cataracts have been reported in humans acutely exposed to naphthalene by inhalation and ingestion. Cataracts have also been reported in animals following acute oral exposure. Cataracts have also been reported in workers acutely exposed to naphthalene by inhalation and ingestion. Chronic (long-term) exposure of workers and rodents to naphthalene has been reported to **cause cataracts and damage to the retina. Hemolytic anemia has been reported in infants born to mothers who "sniffed" and ingested naphthalene (as mothballs) during pregnancy.** Available data are inadequate to establish a causal relationship between exposure to naphthalene and cancer in humans. EPA has classified naphthalene as a **Group C, possible human carcinogen.**

Bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) is used in the production of polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Acute health effects may occur immediately or shortly after exposures and include: **contact can irritate the skin and eyes. Inhaling it can irritate the nose and throat.** Chronic effects: **May be a carcinogen in humans** since it has been shown to cause liver cancer in animals. Many scientists believe there is no safe level of exposure to a carcinogen. Reproductive Hazard: **May be a teratogen** (a substance capable of interfering with the development of an embryo fetus that may lead to birth defects or developmental malformations) in humans since it is a teratogen in animals. **May damage the testes (male reproductive glands). May decrease fertility in males and females. Other effects: may affect the nervous system and the liver.**

	A l l e r g y	C a r c i n o g e n e s i s	D e v e l o p m e n t a l	E n d o c r i n e	E y e	H e m a t o l o g i c	I m m u n e	K i d n e y	N e r v o u s S y s t e m	R e p r o d u c t i v e	R e s p i r a t o r y	S k i n	L i v e r	C a n c e r	Other
Tetrachloroethene	X				x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Trichloroethene	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Chloroform	X	X	X	X		x	x	X	X	X	X	X	x	X	
Chloroethane	X		X				X		X						
Vinyl Chloride	X	X	X	X	x	x	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Carbon Disulfide		X	x			x	x	X	X	x	x		X		
1,1-Dichloroethene			X					X	X		X		X	X	
Methylene Chloride	X	x				x			X		X	X	x	X	Human mutagen
Chloromethane		x	X						X	X					
Bromodichloromethane					x			x	X	X	X	X	x	X	
Bromomethane	X	X	X		x		X	X	X	X		x	x		
Carbon Tetrachloride	X		X		x	x		X	X		x	x	x	X	
Chlorobenzene	X					x		X	X	X					
Bromoform	X							X	X		X				
Benzene	X		X			x	X		X					X	
1,2-Dichloroethane				X	x				X		X	X	X	X	
Ethylbenzene	X		X	X				X	X	X		X			
Formaldehyde	X			x	x	x	X	X	X		X	X	x	X	Asthma
Methanol	X	X			x			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Naphthalene	X		X		x	x	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
1,2-Dibromoethane	X		X		x			X	X	X	X	x	x	X	
Styrene					X	x			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Acetone	X					x		X	X						
1,2-Dichloropropane					x	x		X	X		X	X	X		
Toluene						x		X	X	X		X	X		
Barium	X	X	X			x		X	X	X	X	X	X		
Arsenic	X	X	X			x	X	X	x	X	X	X	X	X	
1,4-Dioxane	X	X					X	X	X					X	
Dioxin (2,3,7,8-TCDD)	X		x	x		x	X		X	X	x	X		X	
2- Butanone	X				x				X		x	X			
	X				x	x		x	X		x	x	X		
o-Xylene			x		x			x	X		x	x	X		
Methyl Tert Butyl Ether	X			x	x				X		x	X			
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	X					x			X		x	X			
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	X					x			X		x	X			
Bis(2-ethylhexy)Phthalate	X				x	x			X	X	x	x		X	
Acrolein	x	X			x	x	X		X	x	x	X			Severe Pulmo- nary - WW1 Chemical Weapon
Uranium		X						x	X	X	x		x	X	

Potential Sources of Contaminants

Concerned Neighbors of Wildomar have conducted extensive research into the potential source(s) of contaminants plaguing our community. We know that dirty fill was brought into our housing tract and forms the foundation upon which our homes were built.

According to DTSC's Clean Fill Advisory, fill dirt from undesirable commercial sites should not be used unless certain precautions are taken. "Undesirable commercial sites include former **gasoline service stations**, retail strip malls that contained dry cleaners or photographic processing facilities, paint stores, **auto repair** and/or painting facilities. Undesirable industrial facilities include metal processing shops, manufacturing facilities, aerospace facilities, oil refineries, **waste treatment plants**, etc.

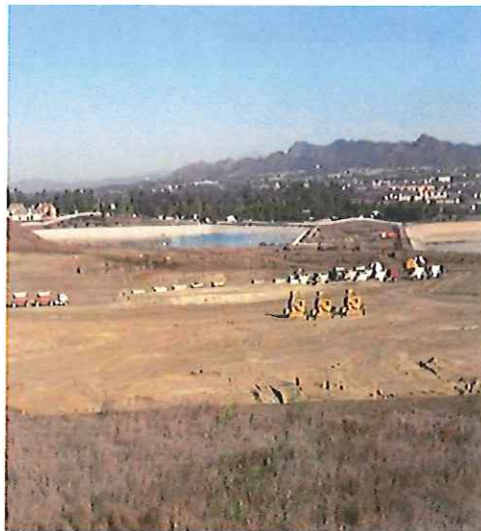
"...all sampling and analyses should be completed prior to delivery to ensure the soil is free of contamination...:

"If soils are borrowed from any of the above sites they must meet the follow provisions:

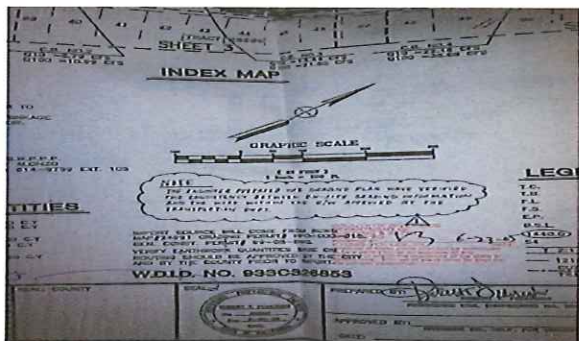
Borrow area stockpile greater than 5,000 cubic yards, 12 soil samples for first 5,000 cubic yards + 1 sample per each additional 1,000 cubic yards are to be analyzed.

Autumnwood Fill source for the Community of 61 Homes was completed in 2006.

51,000 cubic yards of "fill material" was permitted by Riverside County from the RCWD **Wastewater Site** excavated from an area adjacent to two treatment ponds that included stockpiles of dirt left behind from the 1990s (source unknown). Therefore the Autumnwood tract should have had more than 58 soil samples done, **but not one single soil sample was ever tested**. Yet Riverside County approved the fill.



Other sources of unpermitted "fill material" came from the "washout areas" of **Lake Elsinore** and the corner of Clinton Keith & Washington Avenue in Wildomar/Murrieta.



Eyewitnesses report following dump trucks carrying spoils from underground storage tank clean up jobs at **two gas station** from Temecula and from an **illegal Auto Dismantling Yard** in Murrieta.

Recycled Water

After testing in the housing tract, Ami Adini stated a possible source of contamination might be a cross connection between recycled water lines and potable water lines providing service to Autumnwood.

DTSC's criminal investigation unit's visual investigation revealed staining and white compounds in the yards and tree polls raising concerns that that might be a possibility. We requested that the water be tested for VOCs as a possible source of contamination in our homes. Instead, after consultation with the California Department of Public Health Water Division, DTSC was advised that the best way to test for recycled water was to test for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS). If a



level above 500 was found DTSC was told it would indicate that it is recycled or non potable water. Test results revealed TDS levels at 540 on average.

Upon notification to the water agencies of the test results, they reversed themselves and stated TDS levels are good up to 1,000 and only tells you of clarity, taste and odor. Interestingly, Federal EPA recommends that TDS levels should never be above 500.

All around Autumnwood we have signs indicating recycled is being used. There are even purple pipes (indicating reclaimed or recycled water) and blue pipes (drinking water) are connected together. These pipes should never be connected together unless a special waiver or permit issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. According to the "purple pipe rule" the signs should never be used unless recycled water is in use.

Shortly after we started investigating the source of water and our suspensions regarding recycled water being connected into our drinking water, we saw major work on the water pipes in the streets around Autumnwood.

Blue (drinking water) pipes connected to recycled water pipes. To date, no VOC testing has been conducted on the water coming into Autumnwood and no permit has been presented allowing for this type of connection.



Water, Water Everywhere!

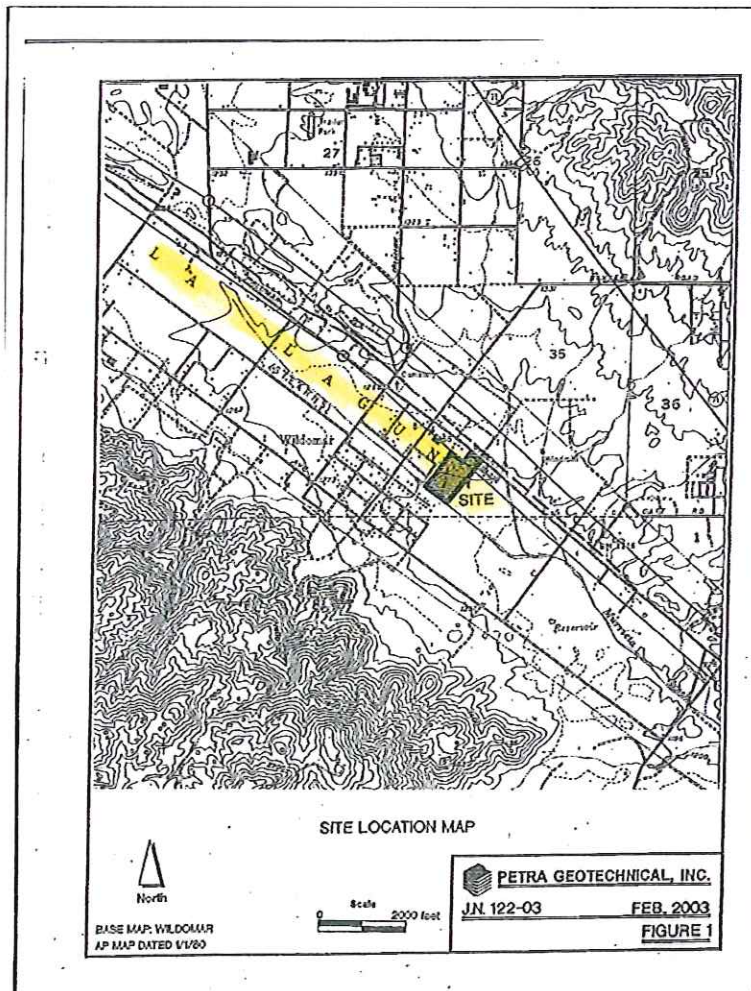
As anyone living in Autumnwood knows there is a moisture problem. Over saturation in our yards, running water in between homes, seepage into the street, concrete areas that are darker grey from moisture and moisture coming through the slabs of homes.

Through moisture vapor testing using the flooring industry standard for vapor intrusion tests showed a level 3 times or more higher than the industry standards. This should have not been a surprise to the developer or the county if they reviewed historical data.

In reviewing the historical data we found this area was once named La Laguna (the lagoon). DTSC confirmed through their research that there was an old river channel that runs through the area.

As the map below shows, La Laguna encompasses the Autumnwood neighborhood. This low lying area is the natural receptacle for water run off from surrounding areas, channeling any contaminants from former agriculture, mining, industrial uses. Existing fault lines in the area would also channel contaminants.

Throughout the testing by DTSC, the staff confirmed a "lateral water flow" at 5 feet. This continuous moisture problem made the test results they did find bias low. The levels of chemicals in the soil are much higher than the levels pulled through the soil under these moist conditions.



DTSC's Tainted Reputation

In a groundbreaking report—Golden Wasteland by Consumer Watchdog — (<http://www.conserwatchdog.org/golden-wasteland-report>) released in February 2013, they chronicled the glaring mistakes, overt cover-ups and cozy relationships between DTSC staff and the industry they purport to be regulating.

The report documents lack of oversight of industry operations, weak law enforcement, permitting irregularities, and relegation of their extensive and powerful regulatory authority. The lack of an effective, transparent agency has left the residents of California in harms way. The Wildomar case is one example of the failure of DTSC to protect the people of California.

DTSC has participated in manipulating testing, disposing of soil gas samples, playing games with numbers, and omitting important test results while 61 families live in limbo, continuing to be exposed to chemicals surrounding them, or taking a desperate action of abandoning everything in

order to save their lives. The burden of proof has fallen on the families—ill prepared to fight back against a bureaucracy determined to ignore, dismiss and minimize their concerns.

In any other disaster, whether it be a n earthquake, fire or disease epidemic, agencies from FEMA, Red Cross and health departments would be rallying to step in and offer support and help. Despite documenting extensive illnesses, showing chemical contamination in the air, soil, water and within the homes no one has stepped forward to provide assistance. The situation that Wildomar residents find themselves in is a result of bureaucratic bumbling, disingenuous lip service and a massive cover-up.

In a Senate Oversight hearing held on January 15th by the Senate Environmental Quality Committee, Director Debbie Raphael gave a professional, clear and polished presentation on all the changes she had accomplished. NOT ONE WORD mentioned any change or improvement in the communities where families near the Exide facility, Kettleman or Wildomar are continuing to be exposed to deadly chemicals. In a DTSC all staff meeting, Ms. Raphael talked about how important it was to have the legislature on their side and that her performance at the hearing paved the way. She summed up the dismissive attitude permeating through DTSC to the public's concerns in her statement, "Of course we had some complaints from the public,—but we're used to that." It is time for the Governor to step in and replace the leadership of DTSC with people willing to step forward, solve problems and protect the people of California.



As just one example of the cozy relationship with industry, even after the scathing report, DTSC's lead toxicologist, showed up in Wildomar for testing wearing a Chevron hard hat!

Concerned Neighbors of Wildomar

- Reform DTSC to meet the regulatory authority it already has.
 - Dismissal of DTSC employees found to have violated the public's trust and not meeting the regulatory authority of the department.
 - Mandatory risk assessment testing when chemical odors, injury and death are reported.
 - Create an independent Public Oversight Committee to monitor DTSC including providing a Community Ombudsman not associated with the department; and provide independent Technical Assistance to communities while testing is taking place in order to ensure accurate test results.
 - Independent contractors need to be allowed to conduct the testing without interference from DTSC staff.
 - Create a "Chinese wall" between the agency and corporations they regulate to reduce the perceived cozy relationship.
 - Create a comprehensive health education program for treating physicians on health outcomes from chemical exposures in communities.
 - Create Autonomy for the criminal investigation unit away from the current agency structure.
- For Wildomar
 - Conduct a full risk assessment investigation
 - Identify the source of contamination through a comprehensive investigation
 - Hold the responsible party accountable for the damage done.
 - Relocate families out of harms way until a remediation has been implemented.
- Changes to public policies
 - Change the laws and regulations on residential fill and construction practices.
 - Raise the insurance requirements for builders to truly cover construction defects including conditions that cover mold, slabs and toxic substances.
 - Developers must post a bond to cover defects under warrantee.

Concerned Neighbors of Wildomar

American Dream or Toxic Nightmare

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