



The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) wants to inform you about upcoming field activities in your neighborhood. As directed by Cleanup and Abatement Order (CAO) No. R4-2011-0046 issued to Shell Oil Company (Shell) on March 11, 2011, Shell is implementing an approved pilot test work plan for an excavation pilot test activity. This fact sheet provides information regarding the excavation pilot test.

What is the excavation pilot test?

The excavation pilot test plan involves the removal of soil from pre-determined locations at designated test properties. The test results will be used to evaluate possible methods for addressing impacted soils and also to evaluate the necessity and feasibility of removing the buried concrete reservoir bases. A report presenting the findings, conclusions and recommendations drawn from pilot testing will be submitted to the Regional Board. This information will be used to develop a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) to be submitted to the Regional Board for review and approval.

Soil removed at the pilot test sites will be replaced by certified clean soil. Surface conditions will be restored and landscaped consistent with original conditions after consultation with the property owner. During the excavation process, the test property and surrounding properties will be monitored extensively to ensure the safety of residents, integrity of structures, and that all work is in compliance with permit requirements.

How will affected property be restored after the excavation takes place?

Any removed soil will be backfilled with certified clean soil. The affected area will also be restored and landscaped consistent with original conditions after consultation with the property owner. Shell will provide the homeowner with alternative landscape restoration options for consideration that will be prepared by a landscape architect/contractor. Any landscaping features (fences, patios, etc.) removed or damaged by pilot test operations will be repaired or replaced consistent with documented pre-excavation conditions.

Who is overseeing and approving the excavation test?

The Regional Board is overseeing the testing and has approved the pilot test work plan. Geotechnical investigations, site surveys, and excavation design have been completed to the satisfaction of the County of Los Angeles and the City of Carson. Additionally, all required permits will be obtained from the County of Los Angeles and the City of Carson before work begins.



Why is the excavation procedure taking place?

As part of an ongoing environmental investigation at the former Kast property, Shell is gathering data to evaluate different possible remediation techniques as part of a pilot test program required by the Regional Board prior to developing a RAP. Excavation is one of the pilot test methods that have been approved by the Regional Board.

How were the pilot excavation test locations chosen?

To ensure a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of different excavation methods, pilot test locations were selected based on a wide variety of different geographical and environmental characteristics. Selection criteria included the known locations of existing reservoir bottoms, the unpaved areas of yards, a sufficiently large work area available for excavation, the presence and location of major utility lines in the yards, the geotechnical stability of the soils, and the results of prior environmental investigations. The criteria used to identify potential pilot test locations are intended for this purpose only and are not intended as criteria for final remedies. The proposed test locations were reviewed and approved by the Regional Board.

Are there different types of excavation methods?

Yes, during the excavation pilot testing four different excavation methods will be used.

1. Large unshored excavation spanning the front yard of two adjacent properties to approximately 10 feet below ground surface (bgs) with slope sidewalls;
2. Unshored slot trenches to approximately 10 feet bgs;
3. Slide-rail shored excavation to approximately 10 feet bgs; and
4. Unshored surgical excavation to less than 10 feet bgs.

Some of the excavations will be performed in the back yards of properties, in order to evaluate methods for moving excavated soils from back yards to the front of the residences for management and disposal.

Where will excavation take place?

Pilot excavation work will take place at the following six locations:

- 24432 Marbella and 24502 Marbella – Large unshored excavation
- 24612 Neptune – Slot trench (front yard)
- 24715 Neptune – Slot trench (back yard)
- 24533 Ravenna – Surgical excavation (back yard)
- 24736 Ravenna – Slide-rail shored excavation



How long does the excavation test take?

The entire sequence of pilot test setup, excavation, backfill, and site restoration will take approximately two weeks to complete at each location.

How will affected residents be notified of what will happen during the pilot excavation test?

Prior to the start of pilot test excavations, Shell representatives and Regional Board staff will meet with the affected property owners and residents to explain the planned activities, the measures that will be taken to protect their property, and the plans to landscape and restore the test site consistent with original conditions. Alternative accommodations, if necessary, will be discussed during this meeting. Additionally, meetings will be offered to the residents of adjacent properties to explain the planned activities.

Will affected residents be relocated while excavation is taking place?

Shell will offer alternative accommodations to residents at affected properties, unless the resident prefers to remain at the home and the nature of excavation work allows occupancy during pilot testing. The homeowner will be given the option to stay at a hotel of their choice and make their own arrangements (up to a daily maximum amount) or to stay at a hotel arranged by and billed to Shell. Alternative accommodations for residents of neighboring properties where pilot excavation work is taking place will also be provided, where necessary.

Will there be security on-site at the pilot excavation residences?

While residents are temporarily relocated, onsite security consisting of an off-duty law enforcement officer, will be present at each construction area during the hours that the contractor, URS, or its subcontractor personnel are not present onsite. A second relief officer will be present in the neighborhood to relieve the onsite officer for meal and rest breaks.

What will Shell do with the excavation pilot test results?

The results of the excavation pilot test will be submitted to the Regional Board and made available to the public as part of a Pilot Test Report. These results will be used to help Shell and the Regional Board develop the RAP for the Carousel neighborhood. The RAP must be reviewed and approved by the Regional Board.



**State of California
California Environmental Protection Agency
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**FACT SHEET and Questions & Answers
September 2012**

**Excavation Pilot Test
Former Kast Property Tank Farm Site
Carson, California**

Will residents be notified of the pilot test results?

Soil samples will be collected from the excavation and will be tested by a state-certified laboratory. Results of all samples will be included in a pilot test report which will be sent to the Regional Board for review. Property owners will be provided with copies of the reports regarding the pilot testing on their properties.

Who can I contact with any questions?

If you would like more information, please contact Dr. Teklewold Ayalew, Project Manager, at (213) 576-6739 or Gita Kapahi, Director of Public Participation of the California State Water Resources Control Board, at (916) 341-5254. You may also contact Shell's Kast information line at (310) 857-2355.