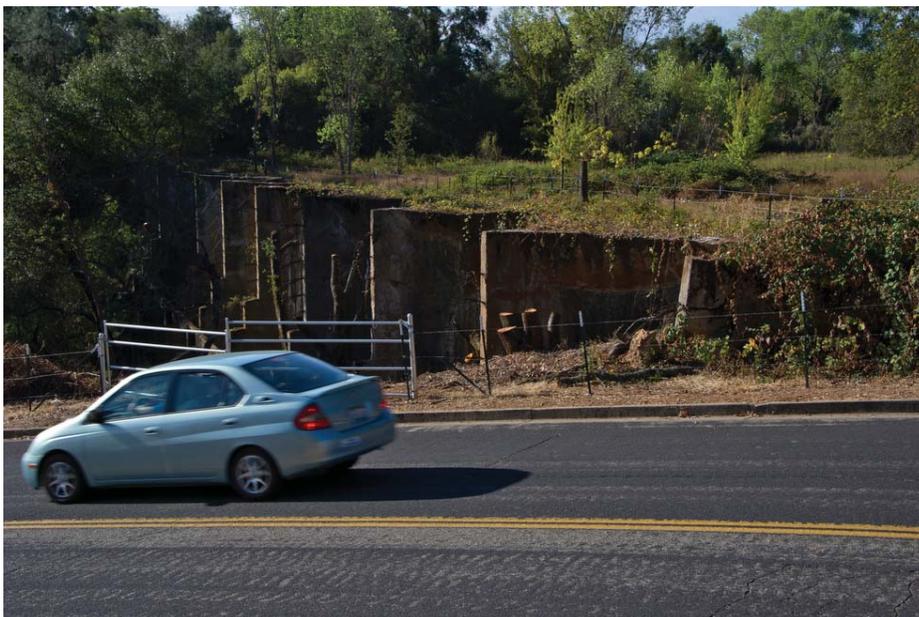


COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

DTSC Begins Water Diversion to Protect the Eastwood Multiple Arch Dam in Jackson



At the Argonaut Mine Tailings Site, miners deposited arsenic contaminated tailings into a valley above the City of Jackson. Tailings fill the valley behind the Eastwood Multiple Arch Dam (Dam). The Dam is near the corner of Sutter Street and Argonaut Drive. This Dam holds 165,000 cubic yards of tailings. Earlier this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studied the safety of this Dam. They concluded that the Dam is unsafe and could fail. The Dam needs significant repair. Estimates are that the repair will take at least two years. As a temporary solution, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) plans to divert and manage storm water to decrease risk of dam failure in case of heavy rain. Plans include constructing a larger culvert under Argonaut Drive and building a storm water diversion system behind the Dam to direct storm water around it and into the enlarged culvert.

DTSC coordinates this water diversion work with the City of Jackson, Amador County, and other state and federal agencies.

Information



You may read the plans for this work

Plans are available:

Jackson Public Library
 530 Sutter Street
 Jackson CA 95642
 (209) 223-6400

You may also view these plans at the DTSC web site:

<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>

Type in “Jackson CA” in the dialogue box. Then you can select the “Argonaut Mine” from the bottom list of Sites.

History and Description

The Argonaut Mine Tailings Site consists of 65-fenced acres located along Argonaut Lane in Jackson, California. The 65-acre site was used for gold mining operations from 1850 to 1942. Mine tailings are the mined rock that is left over after the gold is removed. Tailings contain arsenic.

Most of the Site has gray sands which are processed tailings from the Argonaut Mine. These sands range in depth from about 25 feet on the north end of the Site to exceeding a depth of 100 feet on the south. Two earthen berms, one concrete dam and two concrete retention basins used to hold mine tailings remain on the Site. Built in 1916, the Dam is in a deteriorated condition. The Dam has not received any maintenance since 1942.

In a 2015 U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development Report, engineers studied the effects of a Dam failure. They concluded that if this Dam failed, during wet winter months, mud and tailings could flood downtown Jackson with damages as high as \$100 million as well as a possible loss of life.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

As the Lead Agency under CEQA, DTSC has filed a Notice of Exemption for this storm water diversion project.

Next Steps

To replace the culvert, DTSC will have to close a portion of Argonaut Drive for about a week. DTSC will send out a work notice to the surrounding neighborhoods informing you of the actual dates for all of this activity. You may contact the DTSC staff listed below for further information.

Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about the project or the water diversion activities,

From October 24 to November 3, 2015, please contact:

Fernando Amador
Project Supervisor
(916) 255-3737

Fernando.Amador@dtsc.ca.gov

Marcus Simpson
Public Participation
(916) 255-6683

Marcus.Simpson@dtsc.ca.gov

After November 3, 2015, please contact:

Tami Trearse Nathan Schumacher
Project Manager Public Participation Specialist
(916) 255-3747 Toll-free 1 (866) 495-5651

Tami.Trearse@dtsc.ca.gov Nathan.Schumacher@dtsc.ca.gov

For news media inquiries only, please contact:

Tim Reese
DTSC Public Information Officer
(916) 323-3395 or Tim.Reese@dtsc.ca.gov