

3.13.2.3 Asbestos Containing Materials

New uses of asbestos containing materials (ACM) were banned by the EPA in 1989. Revisions to regulations issued by OSHA (June 30, 1995) require that all thermal system insulation, surfacing materials, and resilient flooring materials installed prior to 1981 be considered Presumed Asbestos Containing Materials (PAC) and treated accordingly. In order to rebut the designation as PAC, OSHA requires that these materials be surveyed, sampled, and assessed in accordance with 40 CFR 763 (Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act–AHERA).

ACMs are a concern within the WT Corridor where future construction may involve the demolition and removal of structures containing these materials.

3.13.2.4 Lead

Lead has been used in commercial, residential, roadway, and ceramic paint; in electric batteries and other devices; as a gasoline additive; for weighting; in gunshot; and for other purposes. It is recognized as toxic to human health and the environment and is widely regulated in the United States. Buildings constructed prior to 1978 are presumed to contain lead based paint unless proven otherwise, although buildings constructed after 1978 may also contain lead based paints. Lead is regulated as a “criteria” pollutant under CAA, which has led to its elimination from automotive fuels. Aerially deposited lead (ADL) from past use of leaded fuels is a concern in unpaved areas adjacent to roadways. Lead is also regulated as a toxic pollutant under CWA and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, as well under the federal and California safe drinking water acts (LaGrega, et al., 1994).

Lead is a concern within the WT Corridor where future construction may involve demolition of structures with lead based paint or grading in areas with the potential for ADL.

3.13.2.5 Pesticides

Pesticides are designed to be toxic to certain living organisms and are widely regulated by the State and federal governments. The California Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act of 1985 directs the State Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) in cooperation with the SWRCB to identify pesticides with the potential to contaminate groundwater, and to develop data regarding the degree and nature of such contamination. Starting in 1944, DDT was widely used as an insecticide for agricultural as well as residential, commercial, and public health applications. The last year in which substantial amounts of DDT were applied to California crops was 1970 and it was banned for agricultural use in 1973. However, DDT and its breakdown products have been detected in soils throughout the State thirteen years after its last use (California Department of Food and Agriculture, 1985).

Pesticides are a concern in the WT Corridor where future construction may disturb soils previously contaminated with DDT or other pesticides.