

# UNITED HECKATHORN SUPERFUND SITE



S. 4TH STREET & WRIGHT AVENUE  
RICHMOND, CA 94804

SEMS DOCID 100049314

## NEW PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN

EPA has released a new proposed cleanup plan, called a "Proposed Plan," to clean up DDT-and dieldrin-contaminated sediments in the Lauritzen Channel.

### BACKGROUND

#### 1940

The Lauritzen Channel is created to support Richmond's shipbuilding activities during World War II.

#### 1940s-60s

Many companies, collectively called "United Heckathorn," process pesticides at the site, contaminating the soil and marine sediments with **dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT)** and **dieldrin**.

#### 1990

The site is added to the Superfund program and EPA begins to manage the cleanup.

#### 1990-1997

EPA oversees upland soil removal and capping, sediment dredging actions and off-site disposal of sediments.

#### 2001

EPA's monitoring (Five-Year Review) finds unsafe levels of DDT and dieldrin in the Lauritzen Channel. The first sediment cleanup was not fully successful.

#### 2001-2025

EPA thoroughly investigates the remaining contamination and leads the development of a new cleanup strategy for the Lauritzen Channel sediments.

### PUBLIC MEETING



**Date:** October 21, 2026



**Time:** 5:00-6:00pm Open House  
6:00-8:00pm Presentation and Public Comments



**Location:** Richmond Recreation Complex,  
3230 Macdonald Ave,  
Richmond, CA 94804

*Habr  interpretaci n en espa ol disponible.*

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**September 30-December 29, 2026**

Your comments and any new information will be considered and responded to before EPA selects a final cleanup decision.

**Submit comments via email or post:**



Jurist.Karen@epa.gov



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Attn: Karen Jurist SFD-7-2  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

*Esta hoja informativa est  disponible en espa ol en el sitio web. Enviar comentarios por correo, correo electr nico o en persona en la reuni n p blica durante el per odo de comentarios p blicos:*

**30 de septiembre al 29 de diciembre**



*The proposed cleanup targets contaminated sediment in the Lauritzen Channel (pictured).*



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[epa.gov/superfund/unitedheckathorn](https://epa.gov/superfund/unitedheckathorn)



Contact us/Cont ctanos:  
Community Involvement  
Coordinator

Hiruni Jayasekera  
[jayasekera.hiruni@epa.gov](mailto:jayasekera.hiruni@epa.gov)  
628-207-9793

#### Superfund sites are...

some of the most contaminated sites in the country. EPA's policy is to hold responsible parties accountable so they (not the taxpayer) pay for and implement cleanup actions.

## PROTECTING HUMAN AND ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

DDT and dieldrin affect bottom dwelling organisms like mussels, as well as fish and fish-eating birds.

Fish and shellfish in the Lauritzen Channel are contaminated with unsafe levels of DDT and dieldrin.

Eating fish or shellfish from the Lauritzen Channel could impact your health.

**FISH ADVISORY:** Do not eat any fish or shellfish from the Lauritzen Channel



### Preventing contact with contamination:

- The entire channel and site area is fenced and under security to prevent public access and fishing.
- Legal controls restrict the site to industrial use and prevent future residential development.



An osprey seen at United Heckathorn.



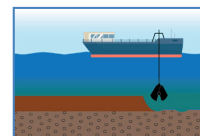
Fish advisory for the Lauritzen Channel

The proposed cleanup strategy was carefully chosen to protect human and ecological health. Removing or treating the DDT and dieldrin in the channel will reduce contamination in fish and shellfish, which will lower human exposure through seafood consumption.

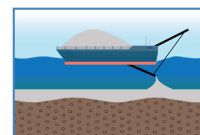
## EPA'S PROPOSED CLEANUP PLAN

The proposed cleanup method applies only to the Lauritzen Channel as the upland area and Parr Canal cleanups continue to operate as intended. EPA considered many cleanup options for the Lauritzen Channel and recommends the following strategy to best protect human health and the environment in the long-term.

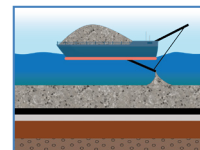
- Dredge/Remove** all contaminated sediment from the **East Side**, **West Side** and **Northern Area** and dispose at an EPA-approved off-site facility.



- Cover dredged areas with a mixture of activated carbon and sand. This is called an **amended residual management layer**.



- Install an **active cap** in the **North End** and **Shoreline Segment**.



LEGEND

 Older Bay Mud

 Dredged Area

 Geotextile

 Activated Carbon Mixed with Sands

 Younger Bay Mud

 Armor Layer

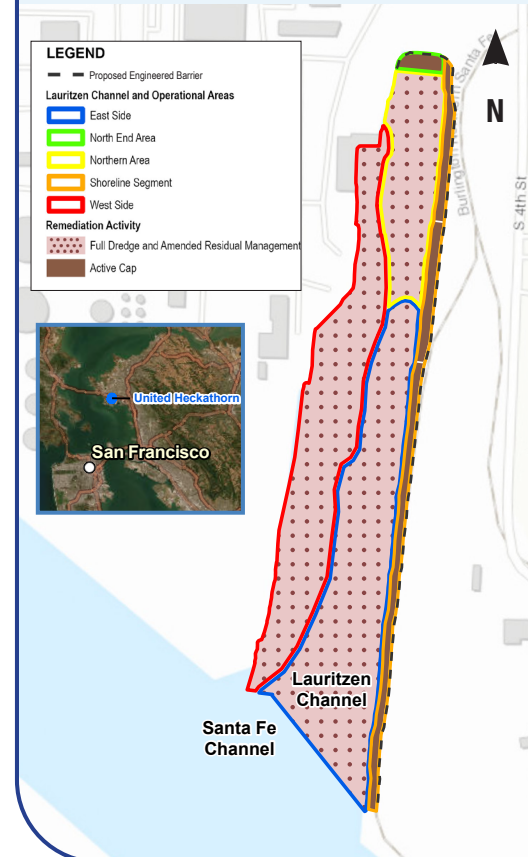
- Stop remaining sources of DDT and dieldrin from coming back into the channel by installing **source controls** like an engineered barrier along the **Shoreline Segment**, sealing pipes, removing wood pilings and cleaning storm drains that empty into the channel.

## KEY TERMS

An **active cap** is placed over contaminated marine sediments. Several layers of protection (like activated carbon mixed with sand, geotextile fabric and rocks) cover contaminants to keep them in place and prevent contact with people and wildlife.

**Activated carbon** acts like a sponge to trap and hold the DDT and dieldrin, which prevents remaining contamination from impacting plants and animals in the water.

**Source controls** are steps taken to stop the sources of DDT and dieldrin at the site from re-contaminating the channel.



Read the full Proposed Plan and supporting documents on our website. (See front for link)

\$

The estimated cost of this preferred cleanup method is

**\$93.4 million over 30 years**