

# Superfund cleanup plan announced for Coalinga

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced approval of a \$2.5 million plan to clean up the asbestos contamination within the city of Coalinga. The contaminated material will be consolidated and buried in an on-site landfill.

"After careful study of all the alternatives, we have determined that the asbestos ore and nickel waste material be consolidated, removed and buried on-site in a landfill known as a waste management unit. This is the EPA's preferred cleanup remedy," said Daniel W. McGovern, regional administrator for U.S. EPA, Region 9. "This decision reflects EPA's commitment to fulfill its responsibility to protect the health and environment of the citizens in the vicinity of this federal Superfund site."

Under the cleanup plan, soils containing asbestos ore will be removed from varying depths of two inches to two feet, until samples indicate there is less than or equal to 1 percent asbestos in the soils.

Clean soil will be used to regrade areas where contaminated soil is excavated. The nickel and asbestos contaminated waste will be transported to the waste management unit. The WMU will be located on property previously leased by Westside Sanitation, directly east of Lucille and Elm streets. The facility will be approximately 225 feet wide and 20 feet deep.

An impermeable covering will keep the wastes intact and prevent rain water and surface water from seeping into the facility. The WMU will be designed and constructed in accordance with all applicable federal and state standards: Two probing devices will provide monitoring of soil moisture content to assure that the contaminants do not migrate away from the facility.

The city of Coalinga was historically used as a distribution center for the Atlas, U.S. Asbestos and Johns-Manville Asbestos companies. Milled asbestos was trucked into the city from the mines, unloaded and later transported out of the city via the railroad or trucks. As sacks broke open, the waste was simply disposed of near the warehouses. Milling occurred in the city as well.

The Atlas and Coalinga mines

were proposed in 1983 and placed in a final status on the National Priorities List in 1984. The NPL is EPA's list of the hazardous waste sites potentially posing the greatest long-term threat to health and the environment. EPA identifies and ranks NPL sites according to threats to humans through actual or potential contamination of groundwater, surface water or air.

The city of Coalinga con-

tamination was discovered in March 1987 following regional air sampling that was part of the remedial investigation for the Atlas and Coalinga mine and mill sites. In August 1987, EPA ordered the Southern Pacific Transportation Company to determine where asbestos was present on lands

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## All parties on track to resolve problem

Coalinga, Southern Pacific and the Environmental Protection Agency reached a tentative agreement at a meeting of all the parties involved on the cleanup process of the asbestos contaminated properties on the Southern Pacific properties in Coalinga. Most of the near 100 acres involved lie south of Polk street on the old Southern Pacific Railroad right of way.

According to Mayor Keith Scrivner, the meeting was held in San Francisco between parties of all three primary parties, and according to the mayor, without any attorneys involved.

The highlights of the discussions were that the city would resolve itself to having a one acre asbestos waste cell within the city. The waste cell would not be the unsightly affair originally proposed at public hearings earlier this year. And, funds would be placed in trust to guarantee maintenance of the cell by either SP or the EPA.

The meeting in San Francisco was the result of a threat by the city to litigate the matter in court. The city felt that it was being blackmailed into accepting the only offer the EPA and SP had offered. This was based on a public statement made by EPA officials at the hearings that if the city did not accept the proposed plan as presented, cleanup would be held up for years.

Scrivner said that the city felt that it could win the case, but cleanup would be delayed at least 18 months.

The cleanup process is a matter of

contention between SP and the EPA and without court intervention, could begin without city signatures.

The council gave the mayor and city manager authority to sign an agreement between the city and SP that would give allow SP and the EPA to build their one acre storage cell near Pacific and the proposed extension of Forest Streets. In exchange, the city would take the project at the point where it became environmentally safe and be responsible for the landscaping. In order to make the project more sightly, the cell would be extended outside the actual burial site for the landscaping.

Southern Pacific would be responsible for the construction of a high standard street to the cell from Elm street and extend this street completely around the cell. This would then eventually become a traffic circle when Forrest Street is extended.

Also the city would be given the deed to about 12 acres of the 95 acre site at the corner of Polk and Elm Streets.

The agreement if finalized was to be signed this week. The agreement would include wording to hold Coalinga harmless in any future litigation that arose because of asbestos contamination and Coalinga would relinquish all rights to further litigation against SP or EPA in the matter. Failure to sign this week could mean that Coalinga, SP and EPA could still see each other in court.

## Superfund

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presently or previously owned by SPTC in the area of former asbestos warehouses.

EPA will negotiate with the companies which the agency believes have contributed to the overall environmental problem in the area. As a result of these negotiations EPA plans to reach an agreement regarding who will conduct the area cleanup work and associated activities. EPA will maintain the responsibility to oversee work at the site.



COALINGA PLANS on an all out effort to rid the town of junk vehicles that have accumulated in yards and lots through the years. There is already a list of such vehicles that have been mailed out to owners. Unless concealed behind a solid fence, such autos are considered a nuisance and the city can demand their removal. These pictures were taken near V is not limited dition, dela scheduled to case of the either demol the 1983 earl

## Coalinga Post Office 100 years this week

It sneaked up on everyone, but the Coalinga Post Office is celebrating its 100 year birthday this week.

Postmistress Mary Nunn said the celebration is being done on short notice and by modest means. For the remainder of this week, there will be punch and cookies for customers and as a special treat, postcards with the July 22 cancellation date will be given to a few lucky patrons.

Collectors were more aware of the anniversary than was the post office. Nunn said the first she was aware of the birthdate was when she began receiving requests for the July 22 cancellation from several collectors around the nation.

It was too late to do a history on the Coalinga Post Office for this week's edition of the Coalinga Record, but one will be coming soon. This much was learned. The

first postmaster was Robert Hill.

Nunn said that one of the requests for cancellation came from a man who also submitted a short summary of the naming of the Coalinga Post Office. She has written him asking for confirmation of his sources. According to the summary, the name Coalinga is less dramatic than the Coaling Station-A legend.

The post office also has a letter on display that was postmarked in

Coalinga in 1890. Out of curiosity Nunn looked this canceled stamp up in the collectors books they have on hand. She discovered that the stamp on the letter if in new condition is priced at \$23,000. Even if postmarked and still in good condition the stamp would have considerable value, but in this case the stamp is damaged to an extent that it is worth but a fraction of the top value of the issue.

## Coalinga men die in accident

Two Coalinga men were killed in a single car rollover accident on Highway 198 last Saturday.

Pete L. Martin age 27 died at the scene and Bobby Sadler age 24 died three hours later at the Templeton hospital of injuries suffered when they were ejected as their vehicle rolled one and one-half times.

According to the Highway Patrol, the 1986 pickup believed to have been driven by Martin, dropped its right side off of the pavement and onto the shoulder of the road. The driver overcorrected and the pickup skidded sideways and overturned, coming to a stop on its top. The accident happened shortly after 7 p.m. Saturday evening. The men were believed to have left a wedding reception en route to a party at Priest Valley. The accident happened about three miles east of the Fresno-Monterey County line.

Martin was pronounced dead at the scene and Sadler died three hours later at Templeton where he was flown by a military helicopter from Hunter Liggett.

## City rental rate target right on the money

The Coalinga Police and Public Works Departments are beginning another campaign to clean up properties inside the city. At the last council meeting, Alan Jacobson and Rick Metcalf presented a list of buildings and abandoned vehicles on which they had begun the cleanup process.

Metcalf showed that his department had mailed 43 notices of abandoned vehicles and since that time 23 of the nuisances had been abated either through police department action or owners action. In the meantime he reported that the department is still following up on that list in addition to preparing another list on which they will be working.

Jacobson in the meantime has a shorter list.

His list includes only 33 buildings which are eligible for city action. Since that list was prepared, he told the council that three of the properties had since been cleared to the cities satisfaction and nine more were showing satisfactory progress either toward demolition or

## Avenal planning commission has var

Avenal's Planning Commission met last week with newly appointed commissioner Florent Salazar in attendance. On the agenda was five mobile home reviews, three requests for variances and consideration of a tentative parcel map.

After being on the Planning Commissions agenda off-and-on for about two years, commissioners were able to give their approval for a variance and a parcel split to the owner of property located at 800 Fremont St.

The original delay was caused by

rehabilitation. Substandard buildings and abandoned vehicles are a nuisance every city. Metcalf calls the abandoned vehicles in Coalinga a nuisance of catching up on years of neglect this issue. The earthquake spotlighted the blighted areas.

When substantial progress been made on rebuilding following the 1983 earthquake, this just the few substandard buildings littered lots stand out.

Coalinga probably has fewer standard buildings per capita any city in California. The thquake took down most every standard building in the city. So of the lots on Jacobsons list in small buildings—that-were-on where the main building demolished following the thquake.

The city is anticipating a period in the near future. Until some last minute snag appears city will be in the return to business by next year and ju

## NOTICE

Due to an inserting error, the Thrifty advertisement for the Coalinga Record issue of July 19 and July 26 were switched. All advertised prices will

## Nomination pa elections now a

Persons interested in nu