

CLEAR LAKE SUPERFUND SITE

TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION CONTRACTS

A SUCCESS STORY

When permanent homes were constructed for the Elem Colony of the Pomo Indians in the 1970s, the Bureau of Indian Affairs used tailings from the Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine, now a Superfund site, to level some of the home sites and as a road base for streets and access roads. Although the contamination from mercury and arsenic was at relatively low levels around the homes, children under the age of 6 were considered at risk.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requested assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove the soil from around the houses and replace it with clean fill dirt before the beginning of the rainy season. The Corps' Sacramento District chose ICF Kaiser, its TERC contractor, for the flexibility it offered and the indeterminate nature of the assignment.

TERC WORKS



Removing contaminated soil from around homes.



TERC contractor used the local labor to keep costs down.

This project presented two major challenges:

- Cleanup was to be performed while the Pomos still occupied the reservation and lived in their homes.
- The performance period was limited to 6 weeks.



The TERC contractor assigned a project manager trained in environmental work and anthropology and experienced in working with the Elem Colony. The colony's executive committee was kept fully informed of work progress and the resolution of issues concerning the work scope and requests for additional work.

The TERC team held costs well within EPA's budget. The contractor used the local Native American work force to the extent possible and a small disadvantaged business to remove the soil. In less than 4 weeks, workers removed 4,000 cubic yards of soil, debris, and foundation materials; replaced that with clean soil; and hydroseeded the clean soil.

Project savings were applied to other environmental requirements.

The EPA met its commitment to the Elem Colony, thus improving local relationships. Since the entire project was accomplished below funding and ahead of schedule, additional work was identified and accomplished both on this site and on the Sulphur Bank Mercury Mine site. This project demonstrates that even with small tasks, the TERC methodology offers a unique opportunity to maximize the use of the remediation funds.

SACRAMENTO DISTRICT

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