

Port of Los Angeles Koppers Facility

The Port of Los Angeles (POLA) is one of the busiest ports in the world. To accommodate increased container traffic, POLA implemented a major infrastructure upgrade program. This included rail and road links, as well as berth improvements, and large-scale redevelopment of land-side parcels for container storage, warehousing, and inter-modal transfer facilities.

One large, land-side parcel owned by POLA was a former Koppers wood treating facility (formerly operated by American Lumber and Treating). The site formerly included a wood-treating area, above ground storage tanks (ASTs) for various wood-treating chemicals and petroleum products, wood storage areas, and waste ponds used for the storage of a variety of liquid and sludge wastes. The parcel had also been used for oil production and petroleum storage, and is traversed by rail lines and oil pipelines.

The parcel is currently used as an imported automobile parking/staging area. POLA planned to redevelop this parcel. However, the soil and groundwater beneath the parcel was contaminated with creosote, "Wolman Salts" (a mixture of sodium fluoride and dinitrophenol with sodium or potassium dichromate), copper chromate, copper chromated arsenate (CCA), pentachlorophenol (PCP), diesel, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), other metals, fungicides, and dioxins.

Extensive investigation was performed to characterize site hydrogeology, as well as contaminant conditions in soil and groundwater. The work was performed under the oversight of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Groundwater contamination, first detected at a depth of 8 feet, extended beyond the parcel boundaries. Site remediation included focused soil excavation for the removal of contaminated soil, sludge and sediments in former waste ponds, and an on-site groundwater treatment system. Investigation and remediation activities are still ongoing at the site, and no further redevelopment has been implemented.