

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ToxicBuilders.org Launches Public Awareness Initiative on Redevelopment Practices

Involving Contaminated Land

Sacramento, CA – Jan 5, 2026

ToxicBuilders.org, a newly formed environmental-justice watchdog organization, today announced the launch of a statewide public awareness effort focused on redevelopment projects built on contaminated lands commonly called “**brownfields**.” The initiative follows concerns raised in *publicly filed court documents* involving the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), McCormack Baron Salazar (MBS), A. Teichert & Son, Inc. (Teichert Construction), and Midstate Construction, where alleged failures in environmental testing and dust-control practices have been linked to the spread of hazardous legacy pesticides, including **chlordan**e, a chemical banned in 1988 due to its cancer-causing potential.

Chlordane contamination is not unique to Sacramento. Across the United States, hundreds of decades old, former industrial, military, and federally funded public-housing sites contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), pesticides, and other toxic substances embedded in soil and sub-slab vapor layers. When disturbed during construction or demolition, absent proper testing, notification, and mitigation, the contaminated chemical dust migrates into nearby homes and businesses, posing long-term health risks.

In the Sacramento case referenced in court filings, nearby cannabis cultivators reported repeated product contamination after redevelopment activities began approximately 100 feet from their facilities. Independent lab testing confirmed the presence of chlordane on plant material, HVAC equipment, and other surfaces. The lawsuit alleges that fugitive dust generated by demolition and trenching traveled off-site, exposing surrounding businesses without warning.

“All references to defendants in this release are based solely on allegations contained in publicly filed court records.”

A Growing Environmental-Justice Problem

Many brownfield sites nationwide sit adjacent to small businesses and low-income neighborhoods where communities of color are disproportionately affected by environmental exposure.

“When redevelopment disturbs toxic soils without full testing and transparency, communities bear the risk,” said a spokesperson for ToxicBuilders.org. **“Our mission is simple: ensure that no resident, worker, or business owner is ever again exposed to banned chemicals without warning. Accountability must accompany revitalization.”**

The organization notes that both CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) require environmental review and mitigation when contamination is known or suspected. Yet gaps remain particularly in off-site dust modeling, and community notification procedures.

A Call for Transparency and Reform

The organization is urging state regulators, redevelopment authorities, and private developers to adopt:

- Transparent release of environmental data before permits are issued
- Independent third-party air and soil monitoring
- Public notification when contaminants exceed safe thresholds
- Stronger dust-control enforcement and contractor training

For More Information

Report environmental concerns, view documentation, or learn about contamination risks at redevelopment sites by visiting:

www.ToxicBuilders.org

Email: **info.toxicbuilders@gmail.com**
Phone: **916-778-5479 text & voicemail**

About ToxicBuilders.org

ToxicBuilders.org is a national environmental-justice watchdog organization dedicated to increasing transparency, accountability, and public health protections in redevelopment projects particularly those built on contaminated or historically industrial land. The organization conducts public-interest research, tracks regulatory compliance, provides education for affected communities, and advocates for safe construction practices to prevent toxic exposure.