

## City of Oakland Survey of Background Metal Concentration Studies

Some naturally-occurring concentrations of metals in Oakland soils are higher than the thresholds calculated by risk-based models. In such cases, there is unlikely to be any real reduction in risk realized from remediation to the risk-based threshold since the observed concentrations are likely to represent ambient conditions. In Oakland, this is especially true of arsenic. The following table contains the results from background metal concentration studies conducted in locations that are relevant to Oakland's geology.

**Background Metal Concentrations  
(ppm in soil)**

Source	Antimony	Arsenic	Beryllium	Cadmium	Chromium	Copper	Lead	Mercury	Nickel	Selenium	Silver	Thallium	Zinc
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories <sup>1</sup>	5.5	19.1	1.0	2.7	99.6	69.4	16.1	0.4	119.8	5.6	1.8	27.1	106.1
-Colluvian & Fill	5.9	14.0	0.9	1.5	91.4	59.6	14.7	0.3	120.2	5.6	1.7	42.5	91.5
-Great Valley Group	6.3	31.0	1.0	3.2	59.0	99.7	21.5	0.6	69.7	4.8	2.2	8.7	135.9
-Moraga Formation	6.1	9.3	0.8	2.6	142.2	54.1	8.9	0.3	100.4	4.7	2.0	38.9	84.7
-Orinda Formation	5.2	17.8	1.1	3.3	95.2	66.9	14.8	0.3	144.3	7.0	1.9	19.8	98.3
-San Pablo Group	7.1	15.7	0.8	2.9	78.6	40.9	10.3	0.4	125.9	4.9	1.5	10.9	97.7
San Leandro, Ca <sup>2</sup>	<3-<15	1.8-5.9	<0.25-<1.30	<0.25-<1.30	24.8-43.0	11.8-68.0	3.3-10.4	<0.10	2.93-43.60	<0.25-<2.50	<0.50-<2.50	<0.50-<5.00	9.3-61.3
Union City, Ca <sup>3</sup>	5.0	6.92-9.34	0.5-0.81	0.5-1.30	46.5-112	28.2-60.1	19.8-148	0.1-0.36	32.4-60.6	0.5	0.5	5.0	97.1-474
Western U.S. <sup>4</sup>	--	1-50	--	0.1-0.7	1-1,000	2-100	20-100	0.01-0.3	5-500	--	--	--	10-300

**Sources:**

<sup>1</sup> Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Environmental Restoration Program, 1995. 500 samples were taken from 71 locations representing 5 geologic units at LBNL: Colluvian & Fill, Great Valley group, Moraga formation, Orinda formation and San Pablo group. Concentrations listed are Upper 95% Confidence Limits of data from 71 monitoring well borings.

<sup>2</sup> Chemical Testing on Background Soil Samples: Roberts Landing Development Site, San Leandro, CA, 1994.

<sup>3</sup> Site Wide Remedial Investigation: Pacific States Steel Corp. Union City, CA, 1992.

<sup>4</sup> USEPA (found in Remedial Investigation Report, Hercules Properties, Inc., 1991).