



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Greener Cleanups Policy

The purpose of the Region 9 Greener Cleanups Policy¹ is to enhance the environmental and human health benefits of our cleanups by integrating greener practices and technologies. Under this policy and related Implementation Plan, Region 9 will apply the Best Management Practices (BMP) Checklist from the ASTM Standard Guide for Greener Cleanups (E2893) at all appropriate cleanup sites. This process will identify opportunities to reduce the environmental footprint of our cleanups. Project managers will consider the BMP Checklist during each stage of the cleanup, including site characterization, selection of response actions, and cleanup implementation. In applying the BMP Checklist, Region 9 will place special emphasis on the following practices:

- Use renewable energy to power our remedies;
- Obtain water from recycled sources and reuse treated water;
- Incorporate pollinator friendly habitats;
- Use clean diesel fuels and technologies for on-site equipment and transport;
- Use concrete made with secondary materials (*e.g.*, coal combustion products); and
- Reuse or recycle clean demolition debris.

Region 9 will also consider conducting environmental footprint analyses at larger cleanup sites, using EPA's Footprint Methodology and Spreadsheets for Environmental Footprint Analysis (SEFA).²

This policy replaces the Region 9 Greener Cleanups Policy of September 2009 and builds on several guidance documents on greener cleanups issued by EPA since 2009. The policy applies to all cleanup programs: Superfund, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Toxic Substances Control Act, Leaking Underground Storage Tanks, and Brownfields. This policy does not change cleanup goals, or how and why cleanup decisions are made, but calls for sustainable approaches to implement our cleanups. To be considered "Greener Cleanups" under this policy, cleanups must meet all statutory and regulatory requirements, such as satisfying requirements for protectiveness and meeting other site-specific cleanup objectives.

Issued by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexis Strauss".

Alexis Strauss, Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 9

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¹ This Region 9 Policy is neither a substitute for applicable regulations, nor is it a regulation itself. Thus, it cannot impose legally binding requirements on EPA, states or the regulated community and, based upon specific circumstances, may not apply to a particular situation. EPA will make any decisions regarding a particular situation based on the applicable statute and regulations, and EPA decision-makers retain the discretion to adopt approaches that differ from the Region 9 Policy on a site-specific basis where appropriate.

² For more information about Greener Cleanups, including the ASTM Standard Guide to Greener Cleanups, EPA's Footprint Methodology, and SEFA, visit EPA's website at www.epa.gov/greenercleanups.