

Demolition at Gill Tract

Removal of deserted facilities began this week

Demolition activities to remove long-vacant greenhouses along with office and research facilities at UC Berkeley's Gill Tract in Albany began this week. The Gill Tract is bounded by San Pablo and Buchanan Avenues and Jackson Street. The site has been the home to agriculture and natural resources research that has moved to other locations. The structures being removed have become a target for vandals and a safety risk.

Materials from the greenhouses and various small buildings that could be reused or recycled have been removed from the site over the last few months; significant parts of the greenhouses went to local non-profits. This week, the contractor set up on site and began removing any hazardous materials in the structures. All of this removal is being done under strict controls and supervision, following all applicable regulations. Air monitoring stations are set up around the perimeter of the Gill Tract as well as at locations of construction activity. Daily reports of air monitoring results are provided to the contractor overseeing site safety as well as to campus staff. Air monitoring will continue for the duration of the demolition activity. Dust control measures are also being implemented.

Once any hazardous materials are removed, structures will be demolished and hauled away. Approximately 35 abandoned buildings are scheduled for removal. The surrounding landscape and grounds will remain unchanged. The demolition is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2009.

Work hours on the Gill Tract are 7am – 4pm Monday – Friday. All construction vehicles should access the site via a locked driveway from San Pablo Ave; no construction vehicles will use Jackson Street.

Questions or concerns about this project should be directed to Christine Shaff, UC Berkeley Facilities Services, at 510 643-4793 or cshaff@berkeley.edu

If you are interested in learning more about the air monitoring being conducted during the removal of hazardous materials, please contact the UC Berkeley office of Environment Health & Safety at 510 643-9476.