

PUBLIC NOTICE
August 28, 2019

**Air Quality Relating to KB Home Construction
at Communications Hill**

Like many parts of California, Communications Hill is located in an area where asbestos occurs naturally in the soil. As KB Home continues to build in this area, they are doing so under requirements imposed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). KB Home is monitoring air quality and taking actions to minimize dust that may contain asbestos particles, following guidelines set by BAAQMD.

KB Home set up six air monitoring stations around the perimeter of their project. The stations measure asbestos in the air, and the measurement unit is called “structures per cubic centimeter.”

On August 1, 2019, the City of San José received a report with data from the air monitoring stations that showed asbestos levels were, at varying times, above the BAAQMD threshold of 0.016 structures per cubic centimeter at some of the stations. This threshold is a conservative value intended to trigger additional dust control actions, and does not necessarily indicate a public health threat.

Out of an abundance of caution for workers and the community, on August 6, 2019, the City directed KB Home to suspend all construction activities. KB Home halted construction work and immediately enhanced dust control measures in addition to those that were already part of their project operations.

Additional measures included placements of tarps, mulch, and rocks over the soil, and performing hydroseeding and additional watering.

As a result, the air monitoring now shows asbestos levels below the 0.016 structures per cubic centimeter BAAQMD guideline.

KB Home, BAAQMD, the City, and consultants with expertise on asbestos are working closely to identify steps that will enable the construction project to resume, while protecting workers and the community. City review of an action plan is required for dirt work activities to proceed.

The following agencies and links provide information on asbestos and health:

- Agency for Toxic Substance & Disease Registry
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=29&tid=4>
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
<https://www.epa.gov/asbestos>
- Bay Area Air Quality Management District
<http://www.baaqmd.gov/permits/asbestos/naturally-occurring-asbestos>

The project will not resume until a revised Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan is reviewed and approved by BAAQMD and communicated to the City.

Key question: Is it safe to be outside in the vicinity of the construction site? Because asbestos occurs naturally in our environment, no agency can guarantee a zero level of asbestos. At this time, the air monitoring shows asbestos levels below the 0.016 structures per cubic centimeter BAAQMD guideline. KB Home will take actions specified in the Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan should the observations rise above that level.

For information or questions to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, contact:
Asbestos Information Desk: 415-749-4762
www.baaqmd.gov

For questions to the City of San Jose, contact:
Sam Yung, Senior Engineer
Department of Public Works
samuel.yung@sanjoseca.gov or 408-975-7136