

## GUZI-WEST INSPECTION & CONSULTING NEWSLETTER | Q4 2023

### GUZI-WEST PARTNERSHIPS

We work with you!

- RESTORATION COMPANIES
- DISASTER CLEAN-UP COMPANIES
- HVAC INSTALLERS
- FLOORING CONTRACTORS
- INSULATION CONTRACTORS
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- CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS
- SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- CONSULTING FIRMS
- ARCHITECTS
- ENGINEERS
- REAL ESTATE AGENTS
- STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

AND MORE!



Greetings from Guzi-West Inspection and Consulting! We are thrilled to present our fourth quarterly newsletter. This exceptional past year has been marked by unprecedented project completions, and we take great pride in sharing these milestones with you.

We are delighted to introduce two new Certified Asbestos Consultants (CAC) who have recently joined the Guzi-West team. Alex Crowe will be based in the Humboldt area, while Ben Bryden will contribute to our central valley operations, expanding our capabilities and enriching the scope of our work.

Additionally, we want to bring your attention to two compelling articles addressing hazardous material concerns. One article explores the legal repercussions faced by two contractors in Las Vegas for asbestos violations during renovations, emphasizing the paramount importance of worker health and safety. The other article sheds light on a Vermont school district's legal action against Monsanto due to PCB-containing contaminants found during renovations, stressing the critical need for testing for PCBs.

Finally, enjoy an exclusive glimpse into our on-site endeavors and experiences as we take you behind the scenes with "Guzi-West in the Field."

We believe this newsletter will be an insightful and informative resource for you, our valued readers. Thank you for joining us on this journey as we delve into the latest developments in environmental inspection and consulting. Your hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated, and we eagerly look forward to staying connected with you in the months ahead!

Clay Guzi  
President/CEO  
Guzi-West Inspection and Consulting, LLC



**Guzi-West Inspection & Consulting**

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# Lessons Learned: Legal Consequences of Asbestos Violations in Las Vegas

In November 2023, the construction industry faced a stark reminder of the legal consequences surrounding asbestos violations as contractors Rene Morales and Hector Vasquez, operating under Top Rank Builders, received six-month prison sentences for violating the Clean Air Act during the conversion of a Las Vegas warehouse into a marijuana cultivation facility.

The duo pleaded guilty to releasing toxic asbestos fibers into the air during the renovation, neglecting safety measures and exposing both workers and the surrounding community to hazardous asbestos particles. Documents revealed a troubling pattern of deception, as the defendants lied to investigators and attempted to conceal their actions by falsely labeling bags containing asbestos as intended for a training exercise.

United States Attorney Jason M. Frierson underscored the gravity of asbestos protocol non-compliance, emphasizing that such offenses in the District of Nevada endanger lives and will be rigorously prosecuted. Acting Special Agent in Charge Benjamin Carr highlighted the intentional violation of environmental laws and the endangerment of communities. The case was thoroughly investigated by EPA agents and the Clark County Department of Air Quality, with prosecution led by Senior Trial Attorney Cassandra Barnum and Assistant United States Attorney Jean Ripley.

This case serves as a cautionary tale, emphasizing the critical importance of thorough asbestos testing before any renovation or demolition work begins. The contractors' failure to identify and address asbestos-containing materials in the drywall and ceiling texture resulted in severe legal consequences, exposing them to six months in prison. Asbestos exposure poses significant health hazards, making it imperative for construction professionals to prioritize testing. This not only ensures the safety of workers but also helps in compliance with legal requirements, preventing legal ramifications and safeguarding the well-being of all involved parties.

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For a comprehensive overview of the case, interested readers can access the complete DOJ article at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-nv/pr/las-vegas-contractors-sentenced-prison-release-asbestos-marijuana-grow-facility>. Let this incident serve as a crucial reminder of the importance of stringent adherence to laws and regulations governing asbestos management in the construction industry.

## SERVICES IN

- SHASTA COUNTY
- TEHAMA COUNTY
- BUTTE COUNTY
- SISKIYOU COUNTY
- HUMBOLDT COUNTY
- COLUSA COUNTY
- GLENN COUNTY
- MODOC COUNTY
- LASSEN COUNTY
- TRINITY COUNTY
- SOUTHERN OREGON AND MORE!

## CONTACT US TODAY

Let our professional staff discuss your inspection and consulting needs.

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# PCB Lawsuit Highlights Urgent Need for Building Material Testing and Environmental Compliance

In December 2022, The Burlington School District took legal action against Monsanto, now owned by Bayer, in a federal court, alleging that the company should bear the financial responsibility for constructing a new high school. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Burlington, demanded compensation for the mitigation and removal of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and the estimated \$190 million cost of building a replacement school.

PCBs, a group of synthetic organic chemicals widely used until their 1970s ban due to environmental and health concerns, were found in various building materials within the school, including caulking, glazing, sealants, and flooring adhesives. The district claimed that Monsanto, responsible for a significant portion of PCBs used or stored in the United States, should be held accountable for not adequately warning them about the potential hazards.

Monsanto's legal team sought to dismiss the case, but in June 2023, U.S. District Court Judge William Sessions denied the motion, recognizing the severity of the PCB contamination at Burlington High School. This landmark decision emphasized the importance of addressing environmental hazards and holding accountable those responsible for their presence.

PCBs are persistent organic pollutants known to pose adverse effects on human health and the environment, underscoring the critical need for testing building materials. The implications are multifaceted, ranging from health hazards and environmental concerns to regulatory compliance, property value, liability, indoor air quality (IAQ), and renovation and demolition planning.

The Guzi-West team has conducted PCB sampling for commercial, residential and remedial projects throughout California, offering specialized environmental consulting services. With a focus on ensuring clients' compliance with regulations, our consultants collaborate with building owners, assessing project-specific needs and delivering swift and precise results. Moreover, the team provides recommendations for the safe management and disposal of PCB-containing materials, contributing to public health and awareness.

In a world increasingly aware of environmental issues, the Burlington School District's lawsuit serves as a stark reminder of the importance of proactive measures. The Guzi-West team stands ready to assist, providing expertise and solutions to address the complexities of PCB contamination and ensure a safer, healthier built environment for all.



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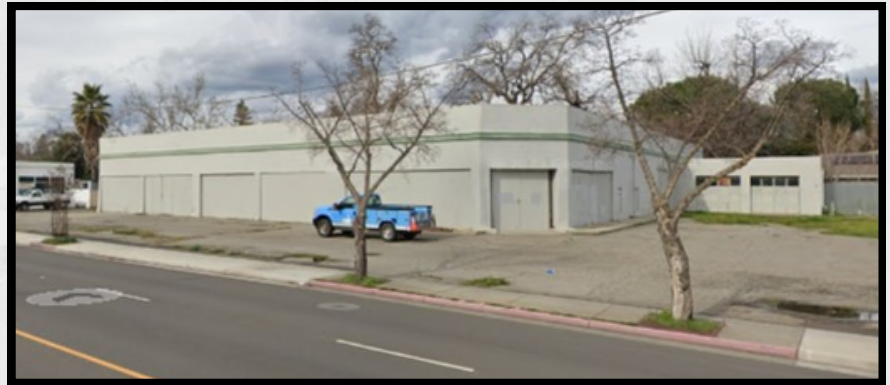
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# GUZI-WEST IN THE FIELD

City of Chico's Park Avenue Redevelopment. Guzi-West certified personnel conducted hazardous material surveys for three buildings located on Park Ave., near downtown Chico.

The surveys were conducted in order to determine the presence or absence of hazardous materials. The structures are proposed to be demolished.



Guzi-West crew surveyed the former 7-Eleven in downtown Chico in determine the presence or absence of hazardous materials. Proposed project plans include renovating the structure.



Guzi-West crew participated in the Bobby McMullen Memorial Golf Tournament on November 13. Proceeds from the tournament were donated to Saint Joseph School in Redding, CA.



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