

Other potential environmental concerns must be evaluated separately, either through use of a comparable set of screening levels or through a more detailed, site-specific environmental risk assessment. Additional information regarding the preparation of conceptual site models is provided in the DTSC *Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Manual* (Cal/EPA 1994b), the USEPA Region IX *Preliminary Remediation Goals* document (USEPA 2004), the USEPA *Guidance for Conducting Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies Under CERCLA*, Interim Final Document (USEPA 1988) and the Region 2 Environmental Screening Levels document (SFBRWQCB 2003).

2.3 Using the Lookup Tables

A step-by-step approach for using the CHHSLs is summarized below.

Step 1 – Check for CHHSL Updates and Applicability

Check with the overseeing regulatory agency to determine if the CHHSLs can be applied to the subject site. Ensure that the most up-to-date CHHSLs are being used.

Step 2 - Prepare a Conceptual Site Model

The purpose of the conceptual site model is to present information about site conditions and potential impacts to receptors. All potential environmental concerns at the site (e.g., contaminant sources, pathways, exposure routes and receptors) should be clearly identified in a conceptual site model (Section 2.2 and Chapter 4). Identification of these concerns helps to provide the rationale for the type and location for site sampling. The level of detail required in a conceptual site model will vary from site to site. The presentation and scope of the model should be discussed with the overseeing regulatory agency. The conceptual site model should be continually updated as additional data for the site is obtained.

Step 3 – Collect Data

An environmental risk assessment is based on the results of a thorough site investigation, where all chemicals of potential concern have been identified. The scope and type of site investigation will vary depending on the site specific history and the nature of the actual or suspected chemical release. Sampling objectives should be defined in advance of field activities. For example, the objective may be to document whether a release has occurred; to identify hot spots that may require an expedited removal action; to provide sufficient data to determine whether site remediation is necessary; or to evaluate whether site conditions would be consistent with proposed or potential land uses.