

Fact Sheet, June 2009



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

Cleanup Plan for Proposed South Region Elementary School #9 Available for Review

A draft plan to remove contaminated soil at the **proposed South Region Elementary School #9** site is available for public review and comment. Lead, chlordane, and dieldrin were found in the soil above acceptable levels at the site which is located at 2777 Willow Place in South Gate. The Removal Action Workplan, or RAW, was submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for review and approval by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil, since the contaminants are located underground beneath concrete, asphalt, or landscape. Long-term exposure, however, to elevated levels of lead, chlordane, and dieldrin contamination can cause adverse health effects. In order to protect future students and staff of the new school, the DTSC recommended that the school district prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil prior to construction of the new school. The DTSC will oversee the cleanup that will take place and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Lead-based paint and historical application of insecticides for termites are possible sources for the identified lead, chlordane, and dieldrin contamination around residential and commercial properties at the site.

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup
- Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for More Information

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

June 11, 2009 – July 13, 2009

The draft RAW and other related project documents for this school site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. The DTSC will make a final decision on the draft RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope postmarked **by July 13, 2009**; or by email before the deadline date to:

Jeanne Matsumoto, Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov



History and Operations at the Site

The proposed site is a 3.9-acre rectangular-shaped area consisting of 16 parcels, including five single-family residential properties, six multi-family residential properties, two parking lots, and commercial properties, which include an auto repair shop, a vacant banquet hall, and a night club (*see map on page 4*). The site is bordered by Firestone Boulevard to the north, Willow Place to the south, and adjacent commercial and residential properties to the east and west. The site has historically been mixed land use consisting of both residential and commercial properties.

Environmental Investigations

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2005. The investigations found elevated levels of lead, chlordane, and dieldrin in shallow soil that require cleanup. During the investigations, elevated levels of contaminated soil were detected at depths up to approximately 3 feet below ground surface at seven properties around the site. Three properties (2761, 2773, and 2781 Willow Place) could not be evaluated during the PEA investigation, therefore average soil removal volume was estimated for those remaining properties. Based on the results and recommendations of the investigations, DTSC has determined that cleanup is required at 10 of 16 parcels.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following four cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and On-site Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Off-site Disposal

Based on careful analysis, Alternative 4, Excavation and Offsite Disposal is recommended because it is protective of human health and the environment, is permanent, and has a reasonable cost. If this alternative is approved, an estimated 739 cubic yards (1,109 tons) of contaminated soil will be removed. After the excavation is completed, clean import fill or site soils will be used to replace the contaminated soil. The cleanup is expected to begin in the fall of 2009 and will take two weeks to complete.

Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installing temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property and streets
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Brushing truck tires entering and exiting the site to remove soil and debris
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

If approved, about 50 truckloads will be used to remove the contaminated soil from the site. To minimize potential impacts on the local neighborhood, trucks will exit the site by traveling east on Firestone Boulevard to the Long Beach (710) Freeway. The soil will be lawfully transported to a State-approved disposal facility.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In compliance with CEQA, DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment. This is due to the removal's short duration, its relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, and the controlled way in which the contaminated soils will be dug out, loaded onto trucks and taken away to an approved/permitted facility for lawful disposal.

Next Steps

At the close of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider all public comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW prior to final approval. A Response to Comments document will be mailed to anyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct confirmation soil sampling to verify cleanup goals have been met and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed South Region Elementary School #9 site are available for review at the following locations:

Walnut Park Elementary School

Main Office
2642 Olive Street
Huntington Park, CA 90255
Phone: (323) 588-3145

State Elementary School

Main Office
3211 Santa Ana Street
South Gate, CA 90280
Phone: (323) 582-7358

Leland R. Weaver Library

Reference Desk
4035 Tweedy Boulevard
South Gate, CA 90280
Phone: (323) 567-8853
Hours: Sun. & Mon.: Closed
Tues. – Wed.: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Thurs.: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Fri.: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat.: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1055 W. 7th Street, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: Corey Jones, (213) 893-7460
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Site documents are also available online at the LAUSD web site:

www.laschools.org/find-a-school

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: (714) 484-5337, Julie Johnson for appointment
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Site documents are also available at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov for your review. A computer is available in the DTSC file room for your use.

Who to Contact for More Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Juan Osornio
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5498
josornio@dtsc.ca.gov

Jeanne Matsumoto
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5338 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 717-6573
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

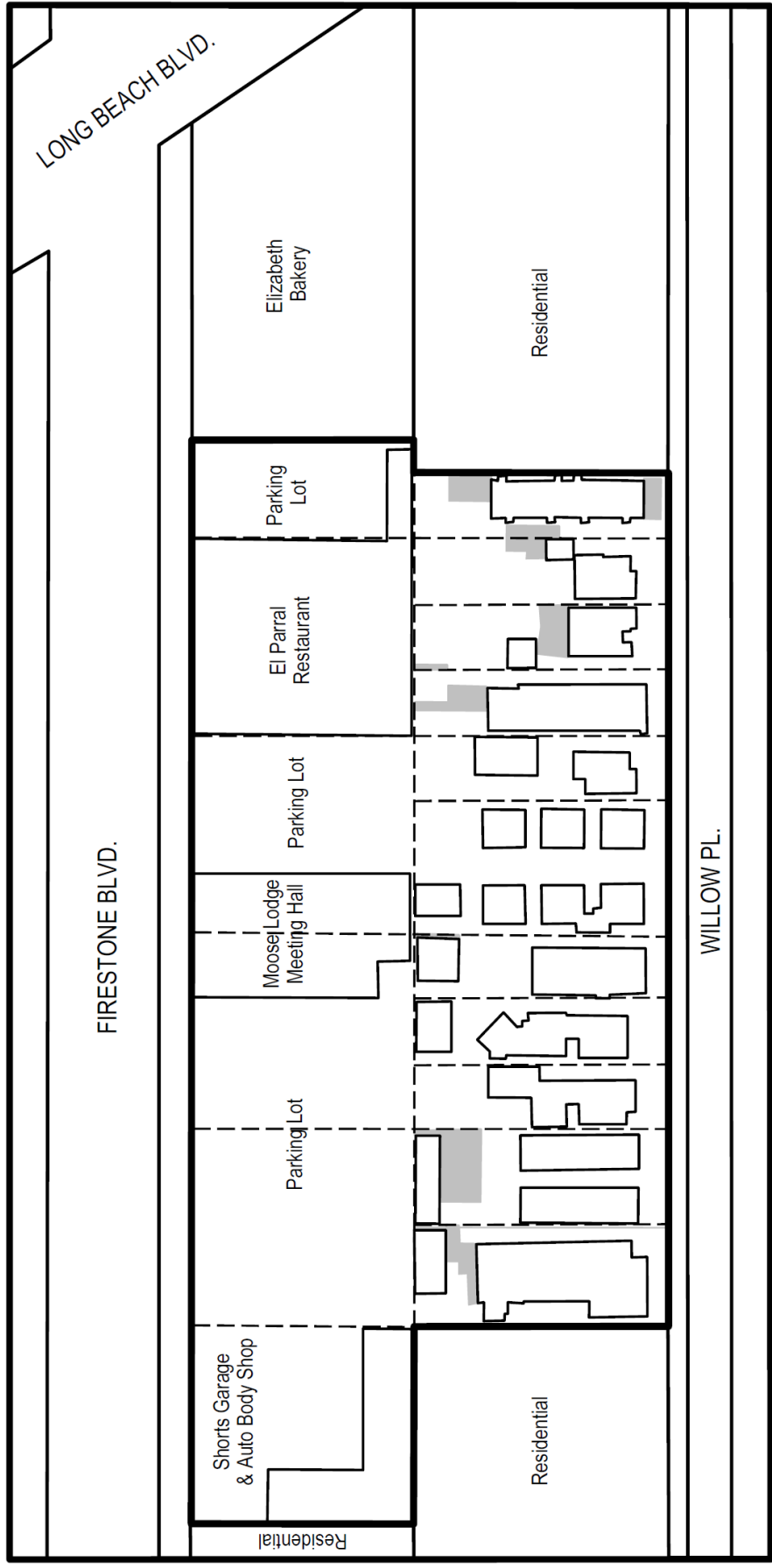
Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Jeanne Matsumoto at (714) 484-5338 regarding the project.


DTSC is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property.

For more information about DTSC, please visit our Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov

Proposed South Region Elementary School #9



- Legend**
- Proposed School Site Boundary
 - Existing Property Boundary
 - Existing Building
 - Proposed Soil Removal Area

North 
Not to Scale