



Former Farm Land Could Sprout a School

Fifty acres of former farmland near Marysville that's being cleaned up under Department of Toxic Substances Control ([DTSC oversight](#)) could become the first new campus in the Marysville Joint Unified School District since 2009.

It is one of more than 100 school sites statewide with DTSC involvement. They range from small to large, from rural to urban, and are in various phases of completion.

The [site in Linda](#) – near Marysville – is just being prepped, with construction hopefully to follow. Contrast that with the [Downtown Educational Complex](#) project in Oakland where work is being carefully choreographed because classes, construction and cleanup all are occurring simultaneously.

The new 123,000-square-foot complex in Oakland replaces outdated educational facilities, and school officials were eager to get going. So DTSC agreed to a phased program that allows school to operate in one portion of the 5.5-acre site while construction and environmental cleanup occurs on the other portion.

“It takes lots of coordination between (soil) removal contractors and school supervisors,” said DTSC Project Manager Jose Luevano.

It also requires some additional precautions: Wind screens block the students from the construction and cleanup, additional air monitoring devices are in place and work activities halt while students are outside.

Mellan Songco, DTSC Project Manager at the Marysville site, doesn't have to contend with students yet, but even a rural site like hers requires coordination and logistics. About 44 truckloads of soil contaminated with pesticides, lead and arsenic from previous farming and dairy operations at the southwestern corner of Dantoni and Hammonton Smartsville roads in Linda will be removed and replaced with new soil. The work began the week



A backhoe excavates contaminated soil at a proposed school site near Marysville. If built, it will be the first new school in the district since 2009.



School

of Aug. 18 and is expected to take about a month. Area residents are likely to see trucks and heavy equipment on the site.

No comments were submitted during the 30-day public comment for the cleanup plan.

The Marysville school district owns the property, and signed a cleanup agreement with DTSC. Dates are tentative, but the district could start construction in the 2016-17 academic year, said Ryan DiGiulio, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services.

The plan calls for a middle school and possible district facilities such as a bus yard/garage and a maintenance office and district warehouse, DiGiulio said.

When finished, students, parents and teachers will have first-class educational facilities. And DTSC will have fulfilled its mission of converting unproductive or underproductive land into a better use, and protecting public health and the environment.