



## DTSC is helping turn former farmland in Fresno County into a new high school

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The California Department of Toxic Substances Control ([DTSC](#)) is coming to the rescue in Reedley, a Fresno County community with an overcrowded high school.

The public has until Nov. 21 to comment on a DTSC-administered draft plan that calls for cleaning up a potential school site in Reedley. The plan requires eight truckloads of contaminated soil to be removed and backfilled with new soil on 50 acres of farmland in south Reedley.

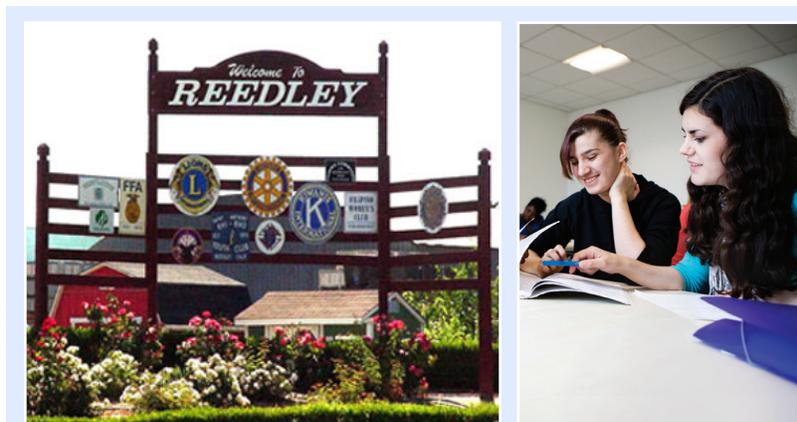
A house was on the property at one time, and lead-based paint and pesticides are the major contaminants in the soil. Cleanup is expected to start in January and take about a month.

“We are going through the site approval process,” said Kings Canyon Unified School District Assistant Superintendent, John Quinto. Construction is tentatively pegged for 2021.

The district, in a 2012 facilities 10-year [master plan](#), said it wants a high school to serve the southern end of the city, which is an area of expected growth. The city’s other high school in north Reedley is overcrowded, the master plan notes. In 2012, a small [charter high school](#) opened on the Reedley College campus for students getting high school and college credits simultaneously.

Projections are for almost 1,800 new homes or apartments within the school district over the next decade. “Construction of a new high school in approximately five to seven years will position the district to address both the existing capacity deficiencies, and the projected increase in enrollment during the latter half of the projection period,” the facilities study noted.

This is one of approximately 110 school projects statewide in which DTSC has an active involvement.



If plans come to fruition, high school students in this central Valley town will have a new campus at which to learn and grow.