



## Site Facts

*Site Name:*

Stone Ranch Elementary School

*Location:*

San Diego, San Diego County

*Site Size:*

10 Acres

*Historical Uses:*

Undeveloped

*Length of Cleanup:*

27 months (integrated into school construction)

*Contaminants of Concern:*

Methane

*Redeveloped Use:*

Elementary School

# School Revitalization

SUCCESS STORY, May 2006

## Stone Ranch Elementary School

With the increasing number of school-aged children, communities are faced with overcrowded schools in their neighborhoods. School districts contract with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to oversee environmental investigations and, if necessary, cleanups at proposed new or expanding school sites to ensure the schools are safe. The Poway Unified School District requested DTSC oversight for the Stone Ranch Elementary School, located on a 10-acre site in San Diego County. The District planned for this school to meet the educational needs of a newly developed area. The newly constructed Stone Ranch Elementary School is a 55,300 square foot facility configured in a horseshoe shape, including five buildings with six classrooms each, which accommodates a total of 700 students.

Prior to construction, the site was historically vacant, undeveloped land. Environmental investigations at the site revealed the presence of elevated methane concentrations, with the suspected source being imported soils brought in due to significant cut and fill operations conducted at the site. The methane was identified over the entire site to depths of 20 feet below ground surface. In May of 2003, the Poway Unified School District (District) entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC to provide oversight of development and implementation of a mitigation plan for the methane.

The Removal Action Workplan that DTSC approved required installation of a methane mitigation system, which is a combination strategy utilizing an impermeable membrane under buildings, along with a passive venting system, to prevent accumulation of methane gas beneath site structures. In August of 2003, the district broke ground on construction of the school. Completion of the methane mitigation system and testing, to ensure the system was operating properly, occurred in January of 2004. In August of 2005, DTSC entered into an Operation and Maintenance Agreement with the district to continuously monitor the concentrations of methane beneath the building structures, from within the vent risers and the classrooms. Construction of the Stone Ranch Elementary School was completed, and classrooms were opened for instruction in August of 2005. The Operations and Maintenance Plan requires the District to conduct ongoing inspections, maintenance, and to submit reports to DTSC to ensure protection of the remedy.



After



State of California



Department of Toxic Substances Control

