



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Department Signs Agreements to Oversee Work at Jefferson Middle School & Belmont Learning Complex

SACRAMENTO -- The California Environmental Protection Agency's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has entered into two Voluntary Cleanup Agreements with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to provide oversight of the environmental investigations at Jefferson Middle School and the Belmont Learning Complex.

"These agreements will enable DTSC to provide oversight and contribute our technical expertise to these ongoing environmental investigations," said Jesse Huff, DTSC Director. "Both agreements provide worker and community safeguards through health and safety plan components, and ensure public notification and awareness through the development and use of public participation plans," Huff added.

The agreement for Jefferson Middle School, located at 644 East 56th Street in South Central Los Angeles, was signed on February 16, 1999. Under the agreement, LAUSD will pay DTSC approximately \$230,000 for oversight of twelve (12) specific tasks at the site including: a Supplemental Subsurface Monitoring Assessment Program; evaluation of the Soil Vapor Extraction System; a Remedial Action Plan (cleanup plan); and the development of a baseline health risk assessment.

The agreement for Belmont Learning Complex, located at 1101 West 1st Street in downtown Los Angeles, was signed on February 22, 1999. Under the Belmont agreement, LAUSD will pay DTSC approximately \$240,000 for DTSC's oversight of the development and implementation of a Remedial Investigation / Feasibility Study (RIFS) Workplan, (to characterize subsurface soil, soil vapor and groundwater contamination associated with the site), a Health Risk Assessment and the development of a Remedial Action Plan (Cleanup Plan). Other tasks at the Belmont Learning Complex include reviewing recommendations and overseeing the development of modifications to an existing gas venting system.

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Voluntary Cleanup Agreements are written agreements that enable DTSC to provide review and oversight of site characterizations and site remediation (cleanup) activities. The agreement, which specifies the technical services provided by DTSC, also includes an estimated cost of the services and a schedule for each project.

DTSC offers the following oversight services through its Voluntary Cleanup Program: site investigation; characterization; sampling work plans; health risk assessments; public participation documents; establishment of remediation goals consistent with future land use; and removal / remedial action plans.

DTSC is one of the six boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC's mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment by regulating the management of hazardous waste and promoting reduction.

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