

Fact Sheet
March 2004

Additional Contamination Detected and Removed at the ASCEND Elementary School



3709 East 12th Street – Oakland, California

Why are you receiving this fact sheet?

This fact sheet is to inform you of the additional contamination detected on the newly built ASCEND Elementary School site (Site). In January 2003, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) sent you a fact sheet informing you about a proposed cleanup plan, known as the Draft **Removal Action Workplan** (RAW) at the Site. The original RAW proposed removal action of **arsenic** contaminated soil. However, after the cleanup and demolition of old buildings was completed, additional sampling was conducted and lead was found in the soil on the site.



What was the additional contamination?

The sampling was conducted in January 2004, which detected elevated levels of **lead**. The soil was contaminated from the flakes of lead-base paint from the recent demolition of the buildings on the Site. Lead levels ranged from 150 to 1,300 **parts per million** (ppm). On February 6, 2004, the Oakland Unified School District submitted a supplemental document to DTSC proposing digging up the soil and taking away 2,300 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil and back filling with of clean soil. The work began at the site on March 9, 2004.

DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



DTSC WEBSITE—For more information about DTSC please visit: www.dtsc.ca.gov

What is the difference between the original RAW and the Supplemental Document?

DTSC received a supplemental document to modify the original Draft RAW. The document identifies the differences between the both soil removal actions.

Original RAW

Digging up the soil and taking away approximately 590 cubic yards of arsenic contaminated soil.

Modified RAW

Digging up the soil and taking away approximately 2,300 cubic yards of lead contaminated soil.

Cleanup activities you may have seen at the School site

You may have seen contractors digging up the lead contaminated soil on the site. Construction equipment, such as front-end loaders equipped with a backhoe was used. The contaminated soil will be temporarily stored onsite and covered to prevent dust. The soil will be loaded onto transport trucks. This soil will then be taken away to a disposal facility. The soil removal activities are expected to be completed within seven to ten days.



Fencing

The areas where the digging has occurred is secured using existing fencing where possible and temporary fencing or barriers so that unauthorized personnel do not enter the work area.

Truck Route

It is anticipated that about 163 truckloads will be needed to haul the soil from the site. Trucks hauling the soil will exit the Site by turning left (west) on 37th Avenue and left (south) on San Leandro Street. Trucks will proceed from San Leandro Street to 12th Street, south on 12th Street to 42nd Avenue, continue to 42nd Avenue to I-880 South, south on I-880 to I-238, east on I-238 to I-580, east on I-580 to I-5, south on I-5 to CA-41, west on CA-41 to Old Skyline Road exit. Traffic control measures, such as flagmen, will be used during off-site soil transportation. The landfill is located in Kettleman Hills, Kings County, California.

Dust Suppression

The soil is dug in a manner that reduces dust. Water is sprayed on the areas where there is digging throughout the cleanup process. Additionally, trucks were equipped with tarps to cover the soil after it has been loaded, so that soil won't spill out of the trucks while they are on the road. Airborne dust monitoring is conducted to verify and document dust suppression efforts.

California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

DTSC prepared a revised Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The NOE document states that the project will not have a significant negative effect on the environment because of the relatively small volume,

short duration, and the controlled manner in which the contaminated soil will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken away for disposal.

What Happens Next?

Confirmation sampling will be conducted to verify that all soils containing elevated levels of lead at concentrations of the clean up goal (255 ppm) or above have been properly removed, and the Site is safe for occupancy as a school.

For More Information

If you have questions or concerns regarding the site cleanup, please contact either:

Ms. Kamili Siglowide
DTSC Project Manager
Phone: (916) 255-6527
Email: Ksiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov

or

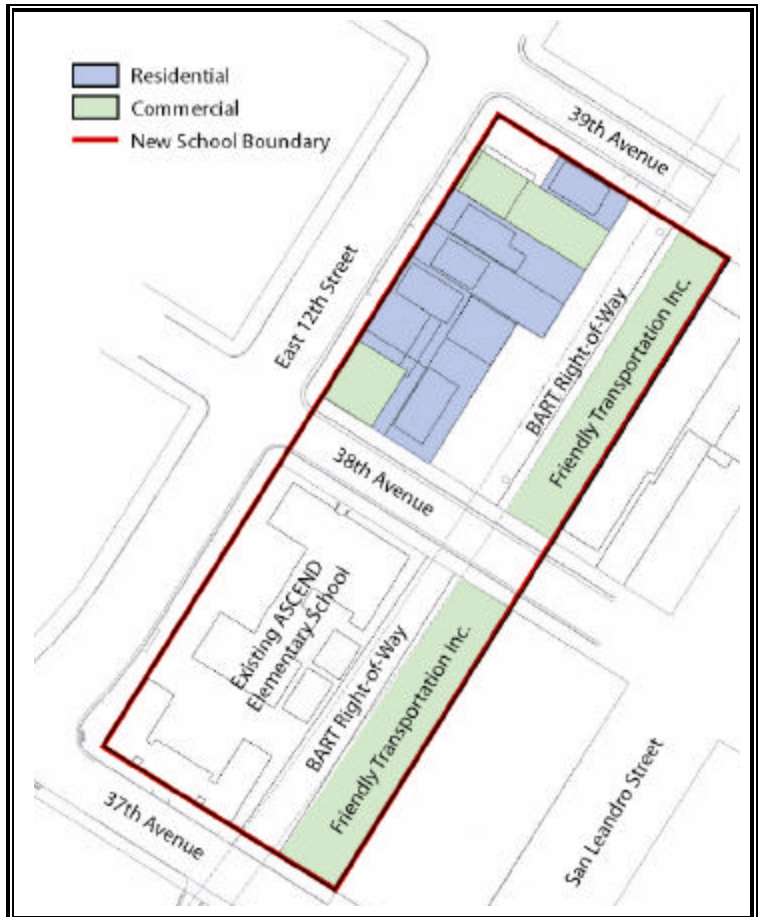
Ms. Kim Rhodes
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
Phone: (916) 255-3651
Email: Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov

or

Ms. Angela Blanchette
DTSC Public Information Officer
Phone: (510) 540-3732
Email: Ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice To Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach the Public Participation Specialist Ms. Kim Rhodes, at (916) 255-3651.



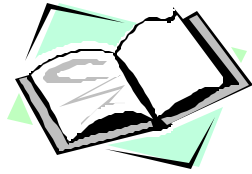
Information Repositories

The Draft RAW, Supplemental to the RAW, the Explanation of Significant Difference document and the revised CEQA document, which are part of the administrative record for the site, as well as other documents relating to the site are available for public review at the following locations:

Oakland Unified School District Office
1025 Second Avenue
Oakland, California 94606

ASCEND Elementary School
3709 East 12th Avenue
Oakland, California 94601

California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826



Glossary of Terms

Arsenic - As defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Arsenic is a naturally occurring element widely distributed in the earth's crust. In the environment, arsenic is combined with oxygen, chlorine, and sulfur to form inorganic arsenic compounds. Arsenic in animals and plants combines with carbon and hydrogen to form organic arsenic compounds.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – A California law requiring an environmental impact review of governmental actions. The Act applies generally to all activities undertaken by state and local agencies, and to private activities financed, regulated, or approved by state and local agencies.

Explanation of Significant Difference – An ESD is a document identifying the significant changes and proposal of remedy. An ESD is prepared to provide the public with an explanation of the nature of changes made to the remedy, to summarize the information that led to making the change and to affirm that the revised remedy complies with the statutory requirements. DTSC will make the ESD available to the public by placing it in the administrative record file and information repository.

Lead - As defined by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, lead is a naturally occurring bluish-gray metal found in small amounts in the earth's crust. Lead can be found in all parts of our environment. Much of it comes from human activities including burning fossil fuels, mining, and manufacturing. Lead has many different uses. It is used in the production of batteries, ammunition, metal products (solder and pipes), and devices to shield X-rays. Because of health concerns, lead from gasoline, paints and ceramic products, caulking, and pipe solder has been dramatically reduced in recent years.

Parts Per Million (ppm) - As defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection, ppm is commonly used to express contamination ratios, as in establishing the maximum permissible amount of a contaminant in water, land, or air.

Removal Action Workplan (RAW) – A report submitted to DTSC that contains an evaluation of alternative methods to clean up a site with hazardous waste or contaminants and recommends a preferred cleanup method. Once the draft RAW is prepared, DTSC will accept comments from the public for a period of 30 days. After public comments have been considered and responded to in writing, DTSC approves the final remedy for the site (the final RAW) or requests that changes be made based on public comments prior to approval.