



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Community Update Fact Sheet, July 2007

Update on Cleanup Activities at the Avalon School Campus

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is overseeing an environmental cleanup at the Avalon School. A Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was approved in June 2005 to address the contamination discovered in soil in 2001. You are receiving this update in order to share information on progress of the cleanup and future environmental activities at this site.

This Fact Sheet provides information on:

- **Site History and Background**
- **Cleanup Activities to Date**
- **Changes From the Original Plan**
- **Activities Planned for Summer 2007**
- **Protecting Students and Faculty**
- **Next Steps**
- **Where to Find the Documents**
- **Who to Contact for Information**

Site History and Background

In 2001, contaminated soil was discovered in five areas identified as Areas A, B, C, D & E (see map) on the Avalon campus. These areas comprise approximately one acre of the 11 acre campus. The DTSC investigation found potentially hazardous chemicals and metals (primarily lead, dioxins, furans, and arsenic) thought to be associated with the historical incinerator that operated on the campus.

There is no immediate health risk because the contamination is deep beneath the soil and the public is not exposed to it. However, since the contamination could pose a future risk to the occupants, DTSC has directed the school district to remove the soil.

Cleanup Activities to Date

The Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) conducted soil cleanup activities during the summers of 2005 and 2006. In **2005**, about 2,126 tons of lead and dioxins/furans contaminated soil was removed from three areas: **Area A**, located north of the Library; **Area B**, located south of the Library and Elementary School buildings; and **Area C**, located east of the Elementary School along the western and southern portions of the lower playground (see map). These areas were back-filled with clean soil and paved with blacktop or covered with grass.

In the summer of **2006**, about 1,500 tons of contaminated soil was removed from **Areas D & E**. **Area D** includes the area of western classroom portables along the southern school boundary, and **Area E** includes the area of the elementary portables and areas east of the assembly building (see map). These areas were back-filled with clean imported soil and paved with asphalt.



Confirmation samples collected following the soil removal revealed residual contamination still exists, but could not be removed in the typical manner due to the following:

Modifications from the Original Clean up Plan

All of the contaminated soil could not be removed as proposed in the approved RAP due to accessibility and because the cleanup had to be done during the summer months when the students are not present in and around the work areas. It was determined that further removal of contaminated soil in certain areas could damage site features such as sidewalks, building foundations in Areas A and C, a pad mounted transformer in Area B, and the drainage channel that runs along the southern property boundary.

Based on these concerns, the District has concluded that more investigation is necessary to determine the extent and volume of contaminated soil remaining on site and to evaluate proposed solutions including removal or an Operation and Maintenance Plan.

Activities Planned for Summer 2007

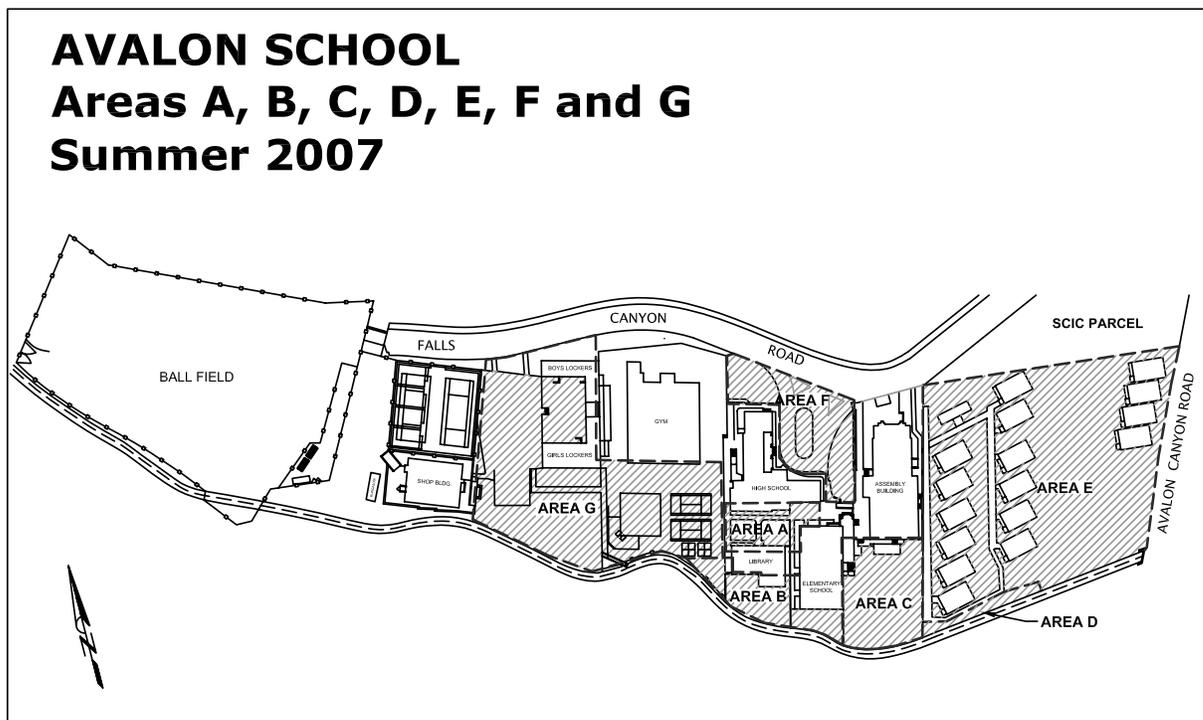
Additional investigation will be conducted in two phases.

- The first phase of sampling was conducted by LBUSD for about two weeks starting the week of July 11
- The second phase of sampling will be conducted with DTSC oversight in mid August and will last about ten days.

No soil removal activities are planned for the summer 2007. Sampling procedures will use technology that will contain all soil samples inside plastic containers, eliminating the possibility of direct contact with soil. The equipment will be kept in a sampling van on-site during the two sampling periods. All boring locations will be promptly backfilled. Street closures are not anticipated.

Protecting Students and Faculty

Soil sampling activities will be contained by temporary fencing and will be kept away from the path of travel of summer school students. Coordination with the school principal and the environmental consultant will be ongoing



throughout the sampling event to ensure that there will be no disruption to campus activities. This includes use of the school facilities scheduled during the summer months.

Next Steps

The District will prepare a report with a recommendation for removal of the contaminated soil, if feasible, or management under an Operation and Maintenance Plan to DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find Related Site Documents:

Avalon Public Library

215 Summer Avenue
Avalon, CA 90704
Phone: (310) 510-1050
Hours:
Tuesday – Thursday: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Friday – Saturday: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday and Monday

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
Contact: (818) 551-2886
Jone Barrio for an appointment
Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact the following persons:

Ms. Maya Akula

DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(818) 551-2917
e-mail: makula@dtsc.ca.gov
Toll Free: 1-866-495-5651 (press 3, then 1)

Ms. Stephanie Lewis

DTSC Project Manager
(818) 551-2847
e-mail: slewis1@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con el: Sr. Javier Hinojosa, Jefe, Unidad Escolar – Glendale del DTSC, al (818) 551-2172.

For Media Inquiries:

Ms. Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176 or jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals:

TDD users may obtain more information by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877 5378 (TDD) to reach Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2917, or by email to makula@dtsc.ca.gov.

