



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

Fact Sheet, July 2006

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 drafted to address the contamination after the discovery of contaminated soil in 2001. You are receiving this update in order to share information on progress made to date and changes which have occurred in the cleanup process.

DTSC, a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, is responsible for overseeing environmental investigations and ensuring that mitigation and cleanup activities are conducted in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- Site History and Background
- Phase 1: Summer 2005
- Changes from the original plan
- Phase 2: Summer 2006
- Protecting Students and Faculty
- Next Steps

Site History and Background

In 2001, contaminated soil was discovered on the Avalon campus. Five areas of contamination comprising approximately one acre out of the total of the approximately 11 acre campus, are identified as Areas A, B, C, D & E. (see map) The DTSC investigation found potentially hazardous chemicals and metals resulting from a former incinerator and from fill material deposited on the site. The Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) began removing the contaminated soils, which contained primarily lead, dioxins, furans and arsenic.

Plans to begin soil cleanup activities at an earlier date were postponed due to transportation safety issues resulting from an inability to close certain streets which would have allowed trucks to travel from the site to the disposal area. As a result, the process was split into two phases.

Phase 1: Summer 2005

During the first phase, approximately 2,126 tons of 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).

After removal, soil was loaded into bins, and a total of 143 bin containers were immediately transported off-site. Digging and transporting of contaminated soil was completed by August 31, 2005. The area was filled with clean soil and paved with blacktop or covered with grass during September and October 2005.



Clean up activities were conducted under DTSC oversight, ensuring that dust control, access, and other precautionary measures to protect public health were strictly followed. Special construction equipment was used to dig and load the soil directly into bins in a manner that reduced the potential to generate dust. Additionally, to ensure public safety, equipment and vehicles entered and left the site from Avalon Road during cleanup activities. Staff, students, and parents accessed the open portion of the campus from Falls Canyon Road.

Changes from the Original Plan

During the Phase 1 removal process, it was determined that further removal of contaminated soil in certain areas could undermine the adjacent school building or damage other site features (i.e. trees, sidewalk, and building foundation in Area A, pad mounted transformer on Area B, and building foundation in Area C).

Contaminated soil in these areas was removed to the extent possible within physical and engineering limitations. Confirmation samples collected indicated elevated concentrations of lead and dioxins/furans

still remaining beneath the soil in some areas. Rather than damage the other structures, the District elected to leave this soil in place.

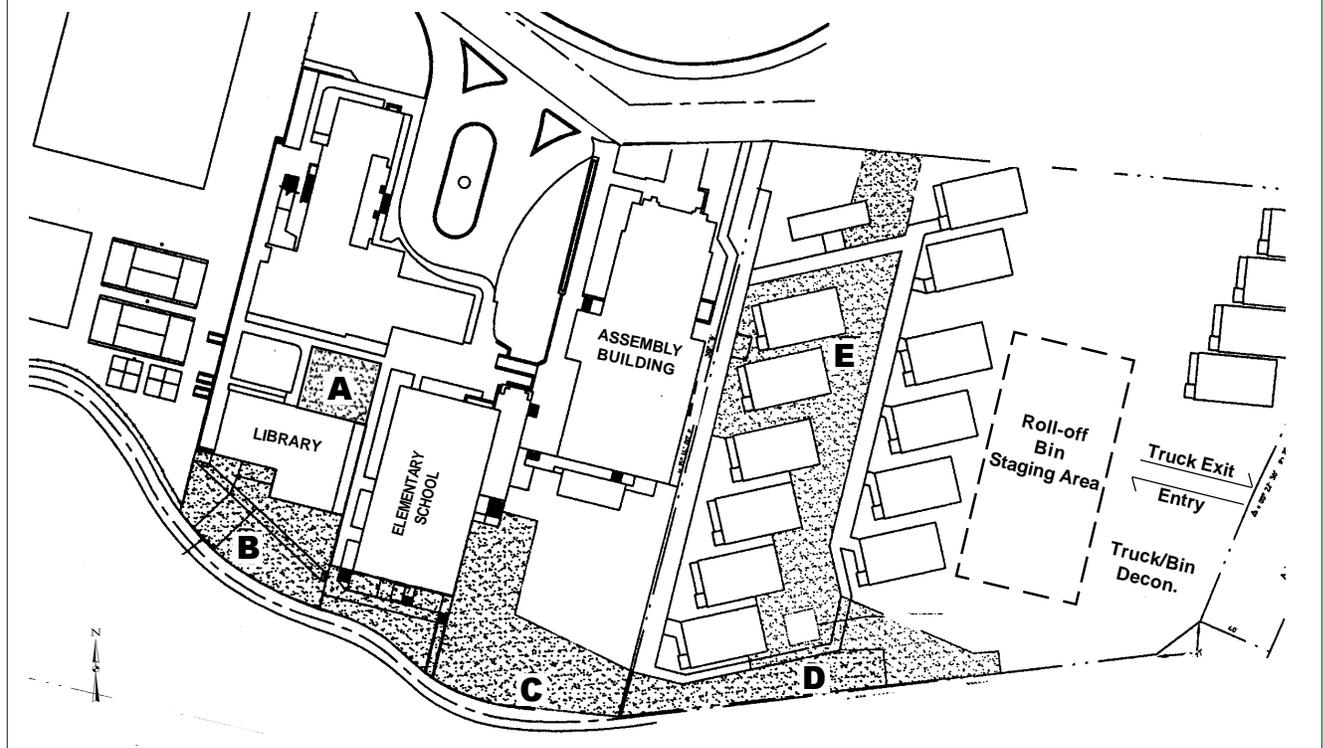
All areas have been filled with clean imported soil, at depths from one to four and half feet, to ensure that there is no opportunity for someone to come in direct contact with the soil left in place.

Since this was a modification to the original clean up method selected, the contaminated soil left in place will be managed in an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan and Agreement between DTSC and the LBUSD. As the cleanup process continues, further modifications may be necessary if structural damage would result.

Phase 2: Summer 2006

During June 2006 through September 2006, the second phase of cleanup and site restoration activities will be conducted in the remaining two areas of the campus; **Area D**, is located in the area of the western two rows of classroom bungalows and along the southern school boundary to the east of the lower playground, and **Area E**, is located

Avalon School Soil Removal Areas A, B, and C – Summer 2005



adjacent to the elementary bungalows and along the southern school boundary to the east of the lower playground. (see map)

Approximately 36 bins loaded with the 3,500 cubic yards of soil will be delivered by truck to Catalina Freight Company and transported off the island. The contaminated soil will be offloaded in Wilmington, and transferred to landfills. The trucks will exit the site onto Avalon Road traveling northwest towards the Santa Catalina Island coast. The trucks will then turn left onto Tremont Street, right onto Sumner, right on Beacon, left onto Claressa and then right onto Pebbly Beach Road. The Catalina Freight Line is located at 1 Pebbly Beach Road, Avalon, California.

Protecting Students and Faculty

During the cleanup efforts between June 26, 2006 and September 4, 2006, the District will temporarily relocate six of the classroom bungalows.

The same strict dust control, access control and precautionary measures will be taken as conducted in Phase 1, summer 2005. Summer school activities will be relocated to other areas of the campus.

Next Steps

After the cleanup process concludes in September, the District will collect confirmation samples to verify that the remedial actions will be protective of human health and the environment. The District will then submit a completion report for DTSC review and approval. If the report reflects that the cleanup process accomplished the goals established in the RAP for Areas D and E, DTSC will certify these areas of the site as requiring no further action. If the goals were not met for Areas D and E, any residual contaminated soil will be managed in an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan and O&M Agreement between DTSC and LBUSD, as in Areas A, B, and C.

Where to Find Site Documents

Avalon Public Library

215 Summer Avenue

Avalon, CA 90704

Phone: (310) 510-1050

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: Jone Barrio, (818) 551-2886

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 or makula@dtsc.ca.gov

Toll Free: 1-866-495-5651

Ms. Shawna Chambers

DTSC Project Manager

(818) 551-2845 or schamber@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) 551-2846, or by email to makula@dtsc.ca.gov.