

# Avalon School Avalon, California



## SOIL INVESTIGATION AT THE AVALON SCHOOL, AVALON, CALIFORNIA

*It is DTSC's  
mission to protect  
public health  
and the  
environment  
from  
harmful exposure  
to hazardous  
substances.*

Renovation activities at the Avalon School site have revealed areas of contaminated soil. The Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) requested the involvement of the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to oversee a soil investigation at the Avalon School site. Buried ash material located beneath the playground blacktop from a former trash incinerator was found during trenching activities for the installation of new utility lines. Soil samples from these trenches indicated that some of the soil has concentrations of lead up to 2700 milligrams/kilogram (mg/kg). The DTSC action level for lead is 255 mg/kg. Samples from the trenches in the lower playground also indicate trace amounts of dioxins and furans in the ash material.

Excavated soil from the trenching activities is secured in plastic sheeting within roll off bins and is stored on campus waiting for off site disposal. The trenching and bin areas are fenced and covered to restrict access. At this time, based on current information, students, faculty, staff and workers are not currently exposed to these contaminated soils.

DTSC will oversee the environmental investigation, which will be conducted by URS Corporation (URS) on behalf of the LBUSD. Initial soil sampling will commence on Tuesday, September 11, throughout the school grounds to determine if contamination is present on the surface soil, such as grassy and bare soil areas. This information will be used to evaluate any potential exposure and health risks to students, faculty, staff and workers from the contamination. DTSC will report the results of this immediate investigation within 2 to 3 weeks.

Following this initial investigation, DTSC will oversee a more extensive investigation of the deeper soils on the school property. This investigation, called a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA), will be used to determine what cleanup activities may need to occur at the school.

**An Open House will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. with a Community Meeting being held at 4:30 p.m. Both events will be held on Tuesday, September 11, at the Casino Theater. The Open House will provide an opportunity to discuss individual concerns with project staff. The Community Meeting will present what is currently known about the school site and the upcoming investigation activities.**

LBUSD's and DTSC's first concern is the safety and health of the children and staff at the Avalon School site. Periodic updates on the project will be provided to the community both as fact sheets, such as this, and at community meetings. Results of all investigations will be available at the following locations:

Avalon Public Library  
215 Sumner Avenue  
Avalon, California 90704  
(310) 510-1050

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
1011 North Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, California 91201  
Contact: Jone Barrio (818) 551-2886

If you would like additional information on the soil investigation at Avalon School, please call Maya Akula, Public Participation Specialist at (818) 551-2917 or Pete Cooke, Project Manager at (818) 551-2193. All media contacts should be directed to Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176.

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

