

Avalon School Avalon, California



SOIL SAMPLING RESULTS FOR AVALON SCHOOL

During the public meeting on September 11, 2001, DTSC informed the community that areas of contaminated soil were discovered during modernization activities at the Avalon School. Although no immediate health risks were identified, the Long Beach Unified School District (District) voluntarily relocated the classrooms for two weeks. The District is conducting an environmental investigation with the oversight of the California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The first step in the environmental investigation is to conduct an expedited evaluation of surface soil throughout the campus to determine if there is any potential health threat to students and staff.

The soil sampling was conducted on September 12th and 13th and the results indicate that the majority of the school does not pose an immediate risk to students and staff. The District, with the concurrence of the DTSC, will reopen the school. A small area of the school, behind the library and elementary school, will be restricted from use and covered as a precaution due to elevated levels of lead and dioxins.

Thirty-five locations were sampled on the property and surface samples were analyzed on a fast track basis for lead and dioxins. The majority of samples had levels of lead and dioxins that were below a level of health concern. A few samples had levels of potential concern. The highest lead level detected was 884 parts per million (ppm) located behind the library and the highest dioxin equivalent level detected was 36 parts per trillion (ppt) located behind the elementary school building. Analytical data for additional soil samples collected below the surface are still pending.

Based on the analytical results, DTSC recommends two areas of the school property remain restricted from use. These areas include the lower playground and the areas behind the library and elementary school buildings. These areas should remain fenced and covered and not be used for school-related activities until the site is fully investigated and mitigation measures are evaluated. In addition, the former pitch and putt area to the northeast of the classroom bungalows should not be used for school-related activities, because one of the three sample locations in this area indicate an elevated concentration of lead.

The roll-off bins containing the excavated soil are to be removed from the island from September 27 - 29, 2001. The bins are scheduled to be transported to an approved disposal facility. Prior to the removal, security personnel were hired to prevent unauthorized entry into the bin storage area as suggested at the September 11, 2001 public meeting. Following the removal of the bins, the area where they were stored will be cleaned.

Open House and Community Meeting

**Open House: 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Meeting: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, October 2, 2001**

Tuesday, October 2, 2001 an Open House will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the Casino Ballroom and a Community Meeting will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Casino Theater to present and discuss the findings of the latest soil sampling.

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

State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



The District's and DTSC's primary concern is the safety and health of the students and staff at the Avalon School. 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 investigations at Avalon School, please call Maya Akula, Public Participation Specialist at (818) 551-2917 email: MAkula@dtsc.ca.gov or Pete Cooke, Project Manager at (818) 551-2193, email: PCooke@dtsc.ca.gov. All media contacts should be directed to Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176, email: JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov.