

Update
July 2004

Environmental Investigation Update



AVALON SCHOOL, AVALON, CALIFORNIA 90704

*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



Dear Community Member,

As you may recall, environmental investigations were conducted at the Avalon School after contaminated soil was found during a modernization project in 2001. The investigations were conducted by the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) under the oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). This letter is part of DTSC's ongoing effort to keep the community informed of the project status.

The Avalon School site is located on Santa Catalina Island at 200 Falls Canyon Road in Avalon, California on approximately 11 acres. Initial investigations detected concentrations of lead and dioxins/furans in soil samples that exceed DTSC health risk levels. A more comprehensive follow-up investigation revealed concentrations of metals (lead and arsenic), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and dioxins/furans.

Contaminated soils are located primarily in the southeastern portion of the campus (south of the library and elementary school building, the lower playground, and along a portion of the southern campus boundary to the east of the lower playground, adjacent to the drainage channel). The investigation confirmed that:

- those areas previously restricted from access remain the areas of concern;
- **there is no immediate health risk** to staff or students, and;
- all of the currently accessible areas of the school campus have been, and will continue to be, safe for staff and student occupancy.

A draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) has been prepared to remove the contaminated soil. The plan describes the proposal to remove the soil and transport it off the Island. This action is scheduled to take place during the summers of 2005 and 2006. Prior to the removal, DTSC will distribute a fact sheet with more details, hold a public meeting, and hold a 30-day comment period to receive public comments on the draft RAP.

Thank you for your patience while this important work is under way. We are committed to ensuring the safety of the students, faculty and staff. If you have questions regarding the investigation results or future activities, please contact Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, (818) 551-2917; Shawna Chambers, DTSC Project Manager, (818) 551-2845; or Jeanne Garcia, Media Contact, (818) 551-2176.

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