

Fact Sheet
April 2005

Avalon School Avalon, California



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

SEEKING YOUR COMMENTS ON SOIL REMOVAL PLAN FOR AVALON SCHOOL

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



You are invited to review and comment on the site cleanup plan known as the **Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP)**.

Introduction

As you may know from our fact sheets distributed in September 2001, June 2002, and July 2004, the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) has conducted environmental investigations at the Avalon School located on Santa Catalina Island at 200 Falls Canyon Road in Avalon, California. This fact sheet describes the current environmental investigation and proposed cleanup activities for the school.

The site cleanup will be conducted by LBUSD with the oversight of our state agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). Our agency ensures the cleanup work meets state and federal standards that protect the public's health and the environment. Under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Initial Study for this project. It has been determined that the proposed cleanup will **not** have a significant effect on the human health and the environment.

IN THIS FACT SHEET YOU WILL FIND:

- What we found
- That it is not a risk to public health
- How it may have gotten there
- Why and how the LBUSD plans to clean it up
- How you can tell us what you think
- Who to contact for more information

PUBLIC HEARING

**Avalon School Auditorium
April 20th, 2005, 6:30PM**

DTSC will host a public hearing to provide you with information about the findings of the environmental investigation and the proposed soil cleanup and take your comments and questions.

DTSC encourages you to take an active role in the issues affecting the cleanup by attending this hearing. *Spanish translation will be provided.*

For information on meeting room accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Maya Akula at (818) 551-2917 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

April 4, 2005 – May 3, 2005

We invite you to provide us with your comments and questions about the Draft Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Avalon School. The purpose of the public comment period is to give you an opportunity to submit comments on the Draft RAP. Please mail your comments to:

Ms. Shawna Chambers
DTSC Project Manager
1011 N. Grandview Ave.
Glendale, CA 91201
Email: Schamber@dtsc.ca.gov

What We Found

The LBUSD conducted environmental investigations at the school in 2001 and 2002. Soil collected at over 200 locations was analyzed during the investigations. The investigations detected concentrations of lead, dioxins and furans, and arsenic in soil samples that exceed DTSC health risk levels for school sites. The contaminated areas are located primarily in the southeastern portion of the campus (please see map on page 3).

As a result of the findings, a site cleanup, known as a remedial action, is being proposed to remove the contaminated soil. DTSC will oversee the cleanup and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not result in any harm to people or the environment.

Not A Risk to the Public

Contaminated soils are temporarily contained beneath asphalt and pavement, preventing contact; therefore *there is no immediate health risk to staff or students*. All of the currently accessible areas of the school campus have been and will continue to be safe for staff and student occupancy.

How the Chemicals Got There – Why a Cleanup is Needed

In June 2001, during trenching in the south playground area, contaminated soil and possible ash from a former incinerator were observed in several of the trenches. Sources of lead could be from leaded gasoline, lead-based paint, or incinerator ash. Sources of dioxins and furans could be herbicide and wood manufacturing, pulp and paper mills, or incinerators. Arsenic is naturally occurring, and elevated levels can occur from pesticide use, treated wood, metal smelting, or incinerators. Although there is no current risk, DTSC determined that cleanup is needed to prevent future exposure from these harmful chemicals.

Cleanup Options

Several cleanup options were screened as part of a Feasibility Study, which was approved by the DTSC in October 2002. The alternatives were

further evaluated in the draft RAP, which was submitted to DTSC for review in May 2003.

Any cleanup plan has to protect the human health and the environment, have a reasonable cost and be shared with the community. The plan that meets these goals is Excavation and Offsite Disposal [for more details on the alternatives, please refer to Section 5 of the Draft RAP]. This option is proposed because it is most protective of human health and the environment, feasible, and permanent.

How LBUSD Plans to Clean It Up

The proposed cleanup plan is to dig up the contaminated soil and transport it off the Island for proper disposal. Prior to removal, the existing concrete and asphalt will be carefully removed and loaded into staged roll-off bins. The soil will then be removed and placed directly into roll-off bins. Each roll-off bin holds approximately 10 tons of soil. The roll-off bins will be loaded onto flat-bed trucks for transport. It is anticipated that an average of approximately 26 roll-off bins will be transported offsite each week. Transportation will be coordinated so that no more than 15 roll-off bins will be on the site at one time. The trucks will transport the roll-off bins to the Catalina Freight Line, located at 1 Pebbly Beach Road. **The roll-off bins will be stored on the school property and the Catalina Freight yard. At no time will they be stored anywhere else on Catalina Island.** The roll-off bins will be shipped from Catalina Freight to Wilmington, California. Then they will be transported from Wilmington to an approved disposal facility in Kettleman City, California.

A total of approximately 4,560 tons (3,040 cubic yards) of soil is to be removed. The soil is generally located from 1.5 feet to 4.5 feet below the ground surface. After the removal, soil sampling will be conducted to confirm cleanup goals have been achieved. The removal areas will then be filled with clean soil.

Proposed Schedule

In **July and August 2005**, 87 tons of soil will be removed from Area A, located north of the Library; 1,088 tons will be removed from Area B, located south of the Library and Elementary School buildings; and 1,315 tons will be removed from Area C, located east of the Elementary School along the western and southern portions of the lower playground. Approximately 249 truckloads of soil will be transported to Catalina Freight.

In **July and August 2006**, 588 tons will be removed from Area D, located south of the elementary bungalows and along the southern school boundary to the east of the lower playground, and 1,482 tons will be removed from Area E, located adjacent to the elementary bungalows and along the southern school boundary to the east of the lower playground. Approximately 207 truckloads of soil will be transported to Catalina Freight.

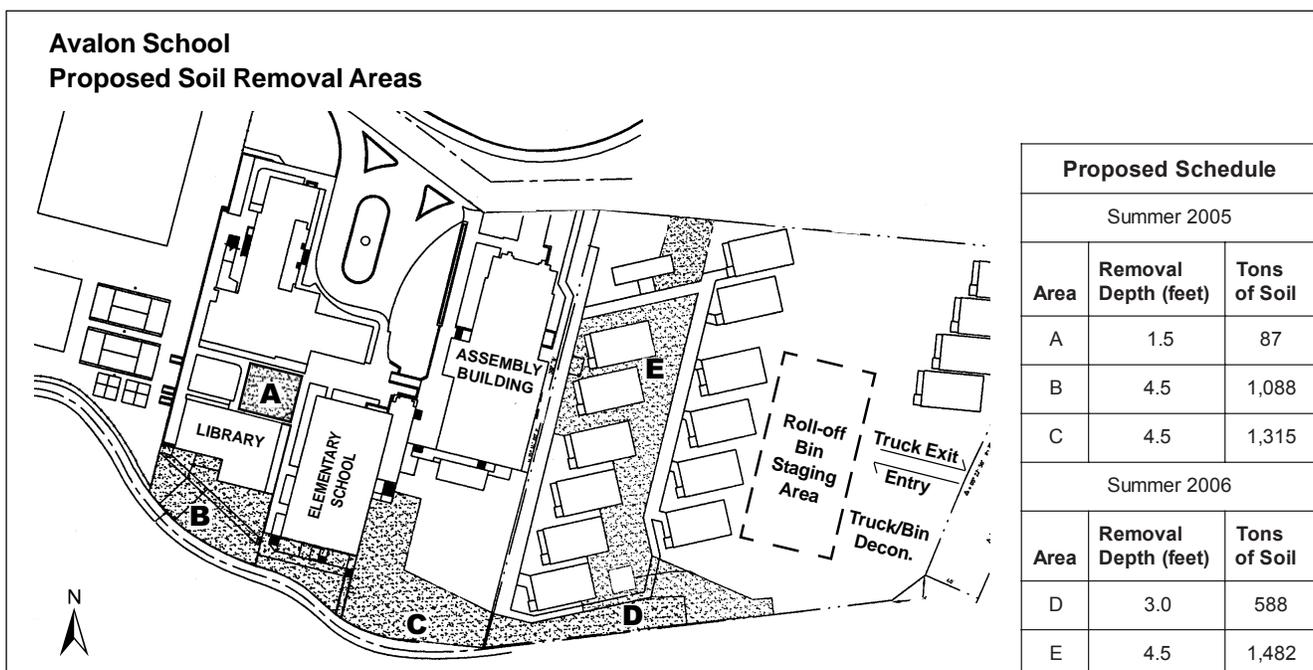
Safety and Dust Measures during Cleanup

Summer school activities, including serving lunch, will be relocated to areas of the campus that are well away from the removal activities. Some noise from the soil removal equipment can be expected

during the cleanup. This distraction will be kept to a minimum. Truck transportation is not expected to cause traffic delays. The trucks will enter and exit the site from the Avalon Road entrance. The trucks will then turn right onto Tremont Street, left onto Clarissa, and then right onto Pebbly Beach Road.

Some of the actions LBUSD will take to ensure safety on the site and minimize the impact of dust during the cleanup action:

- **Summer classes will be relocated to areas separate from the removal areas.**
- The entire site will be secured with fencing to restrict access
- Wind screens will be attached to the fencing
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the property
- The work areas will be lightly sprayed or misted with clean water to prevent dust
- The trucks will be secured with covers as they leave the site
- The air will be monitored at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels
- Plastic sheets will be used to cover removal areas between working hours
- Work will be conducted during normal business hours



Your Chance to Make Comments

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Remedial Action Plan. The **30-day public comment period** starts on April 4, 2005, and ends on May 3, 2005, during which time you can review and send comments and/or questions to us on the proposed cleanup option. Your comments must be postmarked no later than May 3, 2005. Send comments to: *Ms. Shawna Chambers, DTSC Project Manager, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201.*

You may also submit your comments at the **Public Hearing** which will be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 20, 2005, at the Avalon School Auditorium.

Where to Find Site Documents (Technical Reports)

The Draft Remedial Action Plan and other project documents are available for your review at the following locations:

Avalon Public Library

215 Sumner Avenue
Avalon, CA 90704
Phone: (310) 510-1050

Hours:

Tuesday – Thursday 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Friday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Closed Sunday and Monday

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201

Contact: Jone Barrio

Phone: (818) 551-2886

Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Project Contacts

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please call the following persons at our agency:

Ms. Maya Akula

Public Participation Specialist

(818) 551-2917

Email – makula@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Shawna Chambers

DTSC Project Manager

(818) 551-2845

Email – schamber@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries, please contact Ms. Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176. *Si desea información en español, comuníquese con el: Sr. Jesús Cruz, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (818) 551-2875.* For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Maya Akula, at (818) 551-2917.