

Fact Sheet, September 2009



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

Cleanup Plan for Proposed Bell Education and Career Center Available for Review

A draft cleanup plan to remove contaminated soil from the proposed Bell Education and Career Center (Site) located within the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is available for public review and comment. The draft plan, called a Removal Action Workplan (RAW), was submitted by the LAUSD for the proposed Site located at 5600 Rickenbacker Road in the City of Bell, California to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

The DTSC is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

This Fact Sheet Provides a Brief Summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup
- Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for More Information

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

September 24, 2009 – October 26, 2009

DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the draft cleanup plan (draft RAW). DTSC is holding a public comment period beginning September 24, 2009 and ending October 26, 2009. The draft RAW and other related project documents for this school site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. The DTSC will make a final decision on the RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope postmarked **by October 26, 2009**; or by email or no later than 5 p.m. on the deadline date to:

Aslam Shareef, DTSC Project Manager
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
ashareef@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jeanne Garcia al (818) 717-6573



Why Cleanup Is Necessary

Environmental investigations found arsenic and petroleum based chemicals called polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in soil above acceptable levels. **There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil, since the contaminants are located underground beneath concrete, asphalt, or landscape.** Should current conditions change, contaminated soil may be brought up to the surface. Long-term exposure to elevated levels of arsenic and PAHs can cause adverse health effects. In order to protect future students and staff of the new school, DTSC requested that the school district prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil. The DTSC will oversee the cleanup that will take place prior to construction of the new school and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Arsenic was historically used as an herbicide at railroad tracks and PAHs (a component of coal tar) were historically used to treat railroad ties. The inactive railroad spur located on-site appears to be the source of the arsenic- and PAH-impacted soil.

History and Operations at the Site

The proposed site comprises two parcels: Parcel D and Parcel E, located within the former Bell Federal Service Center (*see map on page 4*). The total acreage of the site is 13.049 acres. The parcel on the northern portion of the site is designated Parcel D, covering 10.456 acres, and is bounded by I Street to the north, 5th Street to the east, J Street to the south, and Building #1101 to the west. The majority of land on Parcel D is occupied by Building #4 of the former Bell Federal Service Center, a vacant warehouse (approximately 200,000 square feet). An inactive railroad spur running east-west is situated on Parcel D, south of Building #4.

The second parcel, located southwest relative to Parcel D, is designated Parcel E and covers 2.593 acres. Parcel D is bounded by Building #1101 to the north, Building #2 to the east, and K Street and the Long Beach Freeway to the southwest. Parcel E is a vacant, predominately dirt lot with no improvements.

Environmental Investigations

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2007. The investigations found elevated levels of arsenic and PAHs in shallow soil that require cleanup. During the investigations, elevated levels of arsenic and PAHs in soil were detected at depths up to approximately 4 feet below ground surface from the inactive railroad spur on the site. Based on the results and recommendations of the investigations, DTSC has determined that cleanup is required at the location of the inactive railroad spur on the site.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following four cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and On-site Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Off-site Disposal

Based on careful analysis, Alternative 4, Excavation and Off-site Disposal is recommended because it is protective of human health and the environment, is permanent, and has a reasonable cost. If this alternative is approved, an estimated 974 cubic yards (1,461 tons) of contaminated soil will be removed. After the excavation is completed, clean on-site soils will be used to replace the contaminated soil. The cleanup is expected to begin in the fall of 2009 and will take 15 days to complete.

Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installing temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property and streets
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Brushing truck tires entering and exiting the site to remove soil and debris
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

If approved, about 70 truckloads will be used to remove the contaminated soil from the site. To minimize potential impacts on the local neighborhood, trucks will exit the site by traveling east on I Street and Rickenbacker Road, turning left (north) on South Eastern Avenue, turning left (west) on Bandini Boulevard, turning right (north) on South Atlantic Boulevard, and merging onto the north 710 Harbor Freeway. The soil will be lawfully transported to a State-approved disposal facility.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In compliance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment. This is due to the removal's short duration, its relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, and the controlled way in which the contaminated soils will be dug out, loaded onto trucks and taken away to an approved/permitted facility for lawful disposal.

Next Steps

At the close of the public comment period, the DTSC will review and consider all public comments and make any necessary revisions to the Draft RAW prior to final approval. A Response to Comments document will be mailed to anyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct confirmation soil sampling to verify cleanup goals have been met and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAW and other Site related documents are available for review at the following locations:

Woodlawn Avenue Elementary School

Main Office
6314 Woodlawn Avenue
Bell, CA 90201
Phone: (323) 560-1445

Bell High School

Main Office
4328 Bell Avenue
Bell, CA 90201
Phone: (323) 832-4700

Bell Library

Reference Desk
4411 East Gage Avenue
Bell, CA 90201
Phone: (323) 560-2149

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1055 W. 7th Street, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: Tom Dolan, (213) 972-3989
www.laschools.org/find-a-school

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: (714) 484-5337, Julie Johnson
www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov

Who to Contact for More Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Aslam Shareef
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5308
ashareef@dtsc.ca.gov

Christina Fu
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5488 or
Toll Free 1-866-495-5651
cfu@dtsc.ca.gov

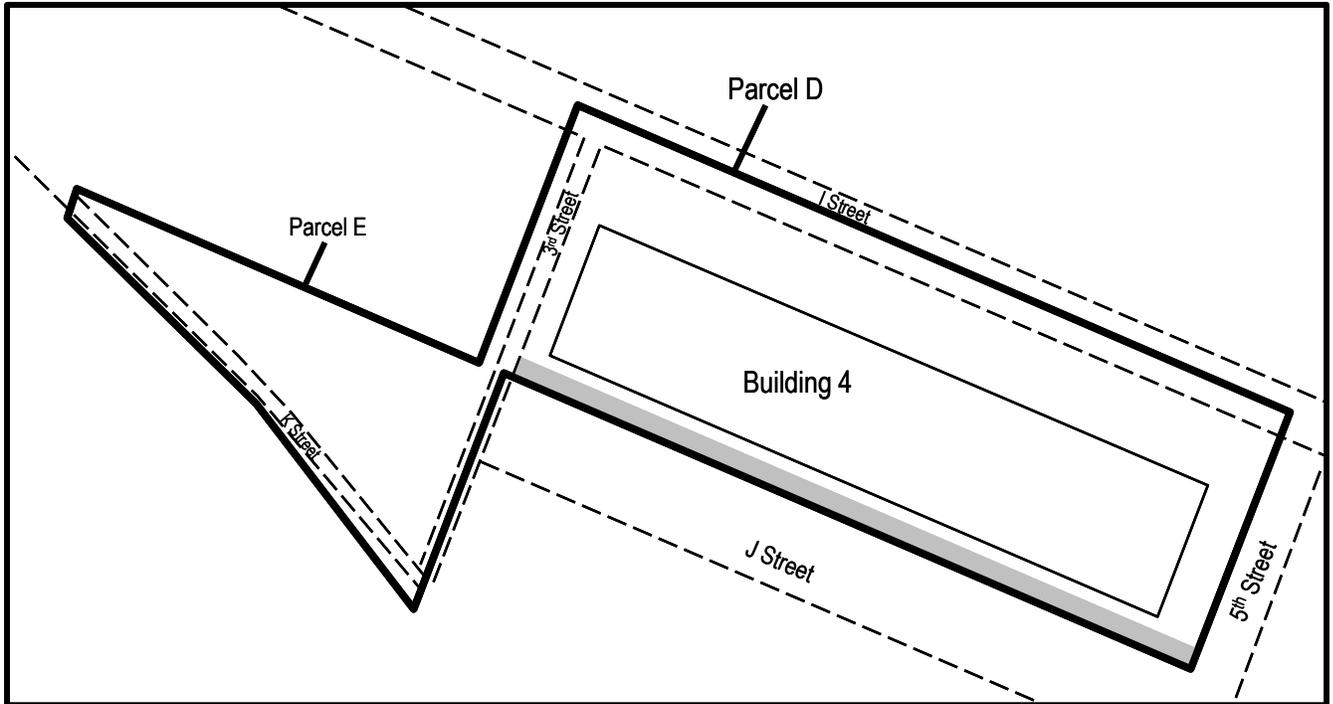
Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 717-6573
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

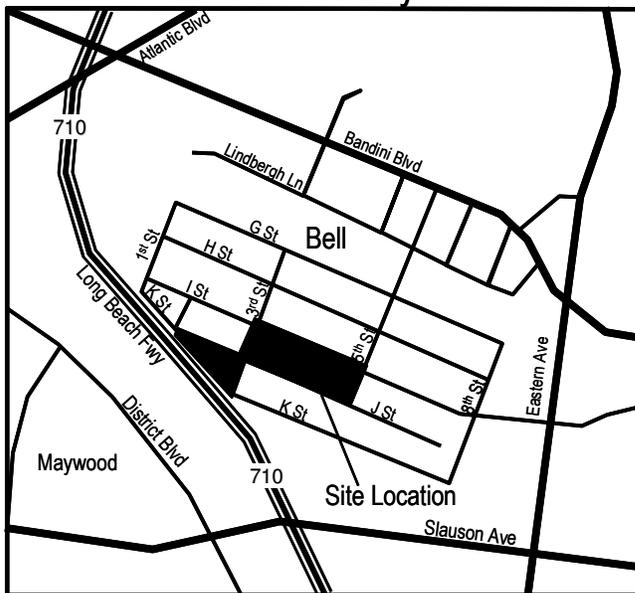
Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Christina Fu at (714) 484-5488 regarding the project.

Proposed Bell Education and Career Center Soil Removal Area



Site Vicinity



Legend

-  Proposed School Site Boundary
-  Existing Building
-  Existing Street
-  Proposed Soil Removal Area

North



Not to Scale