



comments during the 30-day public comment period, which begins on April 26, 2002. Comments may be submitted in writing to: Mr. Sunil Kesavapillai, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California 90630. Comments must be postmarked by May 25, 2002.

After the public comment period, DTSC will evaluate all of the submitted comments. If the

RAW is approved, fieldwork will begin in late May or early June 2002. The removal action, including soil excavation, transportation of excavated soil, confirmation soil sampling and analysis, and site restoration will last approximately two weeks. After reviewing the Removal Action Completion Report, DTSC will certify that the site is safe and the LAUSD can proceed with the school construction process.

### Project documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Felipe De Neve Branch Library  
2820 W. 6th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90057  
Phone: (213) 384-7676  
Monday and Thursday 12:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday and Friday 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Closed Sunday

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Regional Records Office  
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630  
Contact: Julie Johnson  
Phone: (714) 484-5300  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Commonwealth Elementary School  
Administrative Office  
215 S. Commonwealth Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90004  
(213) 384-2546

Los Angeles Unified School District  
Office of Communications  
450 North Grand Avenue, Room H-174, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Contact: Susie Solano  
Phone: (213) 625-6766  
Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Los Angeles Unified School District  
Office of Environmental Health and Safety  
355 South Grand Avenue, Sixth Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90071  
Contact: Christine Trimble  
Phone: (213) 633-8404  
Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fact Sheet  
April 2002

## Proposed Belmont New Elementary School No. 6



### PROPOSED REMOVAL ACTION

*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



#### Introduction

This fact sheet describes an environmental investigation and proposed hazardous substance cleanup activities for a new school site planned for your neighborhood. The Proposed Belmont New Elementary School No. 6 Site is located on the northwestern corner of North Vermont Avenue and West 1st Street in Los Angeles. The site cleanup will be conducted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) under the oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

The new school is being proposed to ease overcrowding at the Commonwealth Elementary School and other neighborhood elementary schools. As part of its planning process, the LAUSD conducted an environmental investigation called a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) at the proposed site under the oversight of the DTSC, a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA). The site investigation detected concentrations of lead in soil samples that exceed DTSC health risk levels. Exposure to this level represents a potential health hazard to children. As a result of the PEA findings, LAUSD is proposing a site cleanup known as a removal action. DTSC agreed that a removal action should be con-

#### COMMUNITY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

**Commonwealth Elementary School**  
Multi-Purpose Room  
215 S. Commonwealth Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90004  
**May 9, 2002**  
**9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.**

In conjunction with the Commonwealth Elementary School Parents Advisory Council, DTSC will conduct a community meeting to provide you with information about the proposed Removal Action Workplan and findings of the environmental investigations for this proposed school site.

DTSC encourages you to take an active interest in the issues affecting the hazardous substance cleanup activities at this school site by attending this meeting and submitting your comments on the removal action plan. Spanish and Korean interpreters will be provided at the meeting.

#### Public Comment Period

You can review and comment on the draft Removal Action Workplan for the Proposed Belmont New Elementary School No. 6 during a 30-day public comment period from:

**April 26, 2002 to May 25, 2002**

Written comments on the draft Removal Action Workplan must be postmarked by May 25, 2002. A comment form and postage paid envelope are provided for your convenience.

The complete RAW report and other related project documents are available at the local Information Repositories listed on page 4.

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).*

ducted to remove and eliminate the risk posed by the lead in soil at the proposed school site. Once the contaminated soil is removed, the potential risk associated with this compound will be reduced to levels that will be safe for students and faculty.

Earth Tech, on behalf of the LAUSD has prepared a draft Removal Action Workplan for the cleanup of the contaminated soil in response to the findings of the PEA. The DTSC is accepting comments on the proposed removal action during the 30-day public comment period starting April 26, 2002.

### Site Description

The proposed site is generally bounded on the north by Council Street, West 1st Street on the south, North Vermont Avenue on the east and North New Hampshire Street on the west. The site consists of approximately three acres of mixed residential and commercial property with three commercial buildings along Vermont Avenue and six apartment buildings fronting New Hampshire Avenue. An alley divides the site, with the commercial properties on the east and the apartment buildings on the west. The commercial properties on the site are currently, or were most recently, occupied by the Korean Cultural Center (101 and 141 North Vermont Avenue) and ACE Furniture, a retail store and its adjoining paved parking lot (151 and 155 North Vermont Avenue). The Korean Times (owners of the Korean Cultural Center) vacated its portion of the commercial property in February 2002. Except for small areas of landscaping, the ground surface is generally covered with asphalt or concrete. The investigation report identified the following three Areas of Concern (AOC) at the site:

- AOC 1 – Occupied by a portion of the ACE parking lot at 155 North Vermont Avenue
- AOC 2 – Occupied by a portion of the Korean Cultural Center at 141 North Vermont Avenue and a portion of the public alley west of the Korean Cultural Center
- AOC 3 – Comprised of a portion of the parking lot north of the Korean Cultural

Center's theater at 101 North Vermont Avenue.

### Site Investigation

The LAUSD conducted the investigation at the proposed site to determine if any harmful hazardous substances were present that posed a threat to public health or the environment. The investigation activities, including soil sampling, were conducted from January through February 2001. As part of a Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI), additional sampling was conducted in August 2001, February, and March 2002 to further evaluate the three areas of concern identified in the investigation. A final PEA Report incorporating the comments from DTSC was submitted to DTSC in December 2001 and approved in February 2002. Sample results from the investigation report identified an isolated area containing chemicals of potential concern in shallow soils on the site.

### Environmental Investigation Results

Based on the results of the SSI, no further action was recommended for AOC 1 and AOC 2. In AOC 3, concentrations of lead were found above DTSC health risk levels in the soil to a maximum depth of two feet below ground surface. The total in-place volume of soil that will be excavated from AOC 3 is estimated as 50 cubic yards.

### Removal Action Workplan (RAW) Scope

The draft Removal Action Workplan, prepared in March 2002, identifies and screens possible removal action alternatives. Removal action alternatives were screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, feasibility, and cost. Screening of several cleanup techniques using these criteria was conducted to select removal actions for further evaluation. Based on this screening, three possible alternatives were selected for further evaluation:

- Alternative 1 – No Action
- Alternative 2 – Ex-Situ Solidification/Stabilization (soil removal, treatment, and replacement)
- Alternative 3 – Excavation and Offsite Land Disposal

Based on the removal action selection process, Alternative 3, Excavation and Offsite Land Disposal, has been selected as the preferred cleanup alternative for AOC 3. This alternative was selected because it was determined to be effective, feasible, and cost effective. In addition, it is permanent and protective of public health and the environment.

### Proposed Removal Action Activities

The soil removal activities will be conducted under DTSC oversight. Prior to any excavation, the contaminated soil area will be marked using stakes or marking paint to identify the surface boundaries of the contaminated soil areas, to identify any subsurface utility lines, structures or other obstructions, and to facilitate the excavation process. The site will be secured and fenced to reduce the potential for unauthorized personnel to enter the excavation area. Conventional construction equipment, such as an excavator and front-end loader, will be used to excavate the soil and place the soil in stockpiles on plastic sheeting or in lined roll off bins, near the excavation.

Dust control measures will be taken during the removal action. The soil stockpiles will be secured and covered during periods of inactivity exceeding 30 minutes. The roll-off bins will be closed during

periods of inactivity that exceed 30 minutes. The soil will be loaded onto the transport trucks, covered, and transported to an approved offsite disposal facility the same day as the removal action is implemented.

The lead-contaminated soil will be excavated, to the extent possible, in a manner that reduces the potential to generate dust. While on the property, all vehicles will maintain slow speeds for safety purposes and for dust control. Dust control will be obtained by lightly spraying or misting the work areas with water. Water mist may also be used on soil placed in the transport trucks. Additionally, after the soil is loaded into the transport trucks, the soil will be covered to prevent soil from spilling or blowing out of the truck during transportation to the disposal facility. Airborne dust monitoring will be conducted to verify and document dust control effectiveness. Air monitoring will be conducted during excavation and soil handling activities to measure for potential emissions.

When the excavation work is complete, confirmation sampling will be conducted to verify that all the lead-contaminated soil found at concentrations above DTSC health risk levels has been removed. Once this verification has been approved by DTSC, the excavated areas may be backfilled and compacted with certified clean material, consistent with school construction specifications. A completion report will be prepared and submitted to DTSC.

### Notice of Exemption (NOE)

DTSC has prepared a draft NOE for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The draft NOE document states that the project will not have a significant negative effect on the environment because of the relatively small volume, short project duration, and the controlled manner in which lead-contaminated soils will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken offsite for disposal.

### What Happens Next?

Prior to making a final decision on the Proposed Belmont New Elementary School No. 6 Draft Removal Action Workplan, DTSC will receive

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have questions regarding the DTSC investigation or the proposed removal action please contact:  
Treva Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846  
Sunil Kesavapillai, DTSC Project Manager, (714) 484-5334  
Jeanne Garcia, Media Contact, (818) 551-2176  
*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Sr. Eloy Florez, Especialista en Participación Pública de el DTSC, al (818) 551-2875*

### LAUSD Contact:

Chris Ingalls, Project Manager, LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety, (213) 633-8309  
For information related to the school addition design and construction please call: Marina Perez, LAUSD Community Outreach Office, at (213) 633-3886.  
*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Sra. Marina Perez, Oficina de Alcance a la Comunidad del LAUSD (LAUSD Community Outreach Office), al (213) 633-3886 o por correo electrónico: mperez@laschools.org.*