

Fact Sheet  
January 2005

# Central Los Angeles High School #11 (Formerly Belmont Learning Center) Los Angeles, California



## DRAFT REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL LOS ANGELES HIGH SCHOOL #11 ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION UPDATE

*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



The Central Los Angeles High School #11 Project (formerly known as the Belmont Learning Center) has reached a new milestone in the environmental review schedule.

**On January 19, 2005, DTSC will present information and will listen to public comments on the cleanup plan known as a Remedial Action Plan (RAP). This plan presents the proposed clean up for the school portion of the site (School Site). The public comment period for the RAP begins January 7, 2005 and ends February 7, 2005.**

The proposed School and Park are located at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Beaudry Avenue near downtown Los Angeles. Construction of the School and the adjacent Vista Hermosa Park are running on separate schedules. DTSC approved the RAP for the Park portion of the Site after input from the community in June 2004.

### This Fact Sheet tells you:

- What was found at the School Site
- How potential risks will be controlled at the proposed School
- What happens next

### Community Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 2005

6:30 PM

Plasencia Elementary School –  
Auditorium

1321 Cortez Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

DTSC will host a community meeting to provide you with information about the findings of the environmental investigation and the proposed methods for mitigation of the Central Los Angeles High School #11 Site.

DTSC encourages you to take an active role in the issues affecting the cleanup activities at the School site by attending this meeting. *Spanish translation will be provided at the meeting.*

### Public Comment Period

The 30-day public review and comment period on the Draft RAP for the School Site is scheduled for:

**January 7, 2005 to  
February 7, 2005**

The complete cleanup plan and other related documents are available at the local information repositories listed at the end of this Fact Sheet.

## What was found at the School Site

In a Fact Sheet dated April 2004, investigations of the School Site showed the following:

- Hydrogen sulfide and methane was found beneath the School Site.
- Naturally occurring crude oil is the major source of the chemicals found.
- Control measures are recommended for possible risks associated with methane and hydrogen sulfide gases beneath the proposed School Site.
- The potential health risks associated with being on the School Site can be controlled with the technologies described below.

Hydrogen sulfide is a gas that can be toxic at low levels and can build up in enclosed spaces like buildings and utility vaults. Hydrogen sulfide was found in the athletic field area and in the School campus area, and presents a potential health hazard at the School Site.

Although methane does not cause cancer and is not a toxic chemical, it can be a hazard because it can catch fire, explode, and cause asphyxiation (not being able to breath) if it builds up in buildings and other enclosed

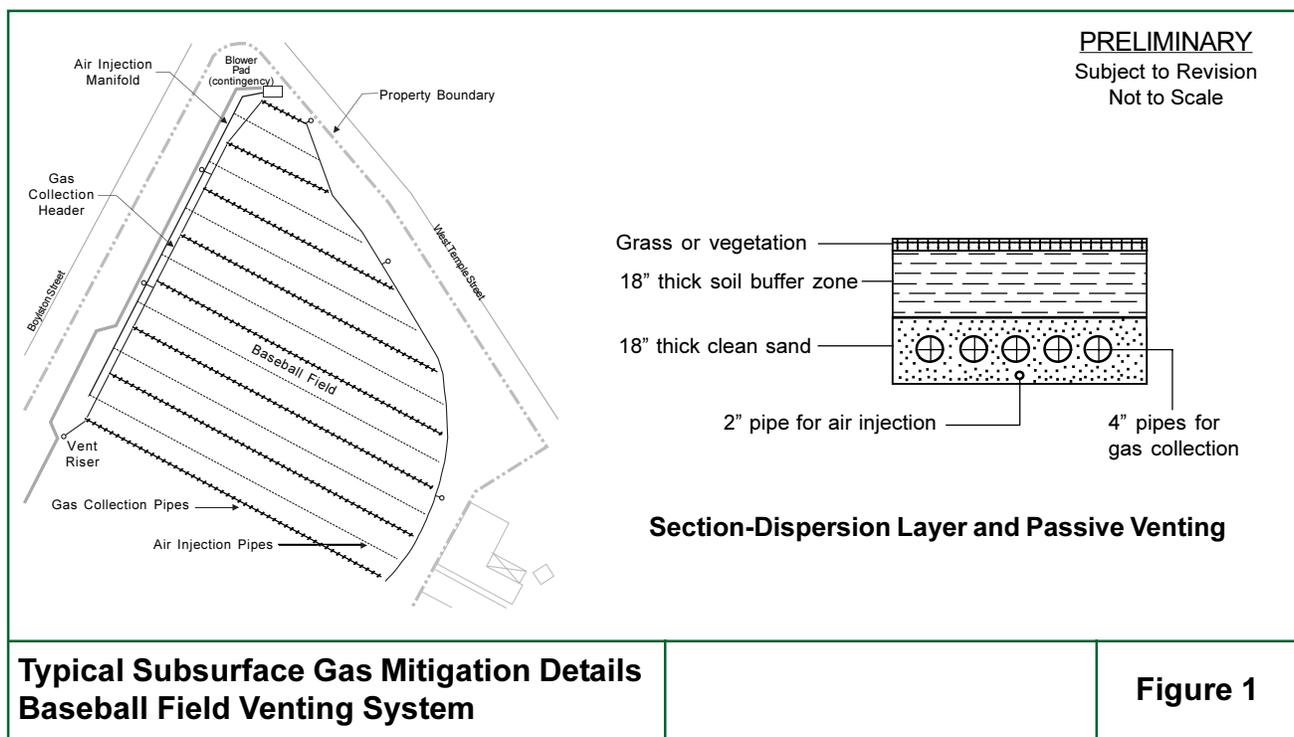
spaces. Elevated levels of methane were found in the athletic field area and the school campus area, but not beneath the planned buildings.

A report known as a Feasibility Study (FS) was prepared for the entire Site (Park and School). The FS looked at several options to reduce the risk from methane and hydrogen sulfide. DTSC approved the FS in February 2004.

## How possible risks can be controlled at the proposed school

The proposed plans presented in the School RAP include a combination from the options listed below:

1. Passive venting system with air sweep – A system of pipes placed in the soil underneath the buildings to vent gases coming up from the soil. A continuous gas monitoring system will trigger blowers (powerful fans) to inject air through the pipes if gas is detected at levels considered a risk. A passive venting system will also be installed in the area of highest gas concentrations (baseball field) and paved areas over 5,000 continuous square feet (See Figure 1).



2. Gas Barrier – a thick flexible plastic liner is placed underneath building foundations to prevent the passage of gases into the buildings.
3. Utility Trench Dam – a barrier around electrical, gas, water, and sewer lines located in trenches under the buildings to prevent gases from entering the buildings.
4. Conduit Seal – a barrier around openings for electrical and cable lines to prevent gases from entering the buildings.
5. Gas Dispersion Layer – a layer of sand used below the soil and vegetation in the exterior landscaped areas to help prevent gases from building up slowly over a large area (See Figure 1).
6. Gas Monitoring – gas concentrations will be monitored inside school buildings, in passive vent pipes, and in the soil.
7. Institutional Controls – the use of fences, landscaping, steep slopes, and monitoring to restrict access to some parts of the school campus.

## What happens next?

Prior to making a final decision on the School RAP, DTSC would like to hear from the community during the 30-day public comment period, which begins on January 7, 2005 and ends on February 7, 2005. Comments may be submitted in writing to: Ms. Jennifer Jones, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California 91201. Comments must be postmarked by February 7, 2005.

Upon completion of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments and make any necessary revisions to the School RAP prior to final approval. Upon approval, fieldwork may begin. When the clean-up is over, a Completion Report will be submitted to DTSC. After reviewing the Completion Report, DTSC will certify that the School Site is safe. After construction of the School is complete, and prior to opening the School, DTSC will enter into a legal agreement with LAUSD to establish the roles and responsibilities of both parties to ensure the long term Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of the new gas mitigation system. This will require LAUSD to inspect and monitor the system on a regular basis and following any earthquake activity. LAUSD will submit O&M reports to DTSC documenting the performance of the gas mitigation system.



**Proposed Central Los Angeles High School #11**

**Figure 2**

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### DTSC Contacts:

If you have any questions regarding the investigation, please contact:

Eloy Florez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, (714) 484-5320, [eflorez@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:eflorez@dtsc.ca.gov)

Jennifer Jones, DTSC Project Manager, (818) 551-2973, [jjones@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jjones@dtsc.ca.gov)

Jeanne Garcia, Media Contact, (818) 551-2176, [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con el: Sr. Eloy Florez, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (714) 484-5320*

### LAUSD Contacts:

Thomas L. Watson, Project Manager, LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety, (213) 633-8242

Marina Pérez, LAUSD Community Outreach Office, (213) 633-3886

### Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals:

TDD users can use the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist Eloy Florez at (714) 484-5320.

### Meeting Accessibility:

For information on meeting accessibility, please call Eloy Florez at (714) 484-5320 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

## DTSC's approved project documents are available for public review at the following locations:

Website: [www.laschools.org/vista-hermosa](http://www.laschools.org/vista-hermosa)

### 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.

### Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

355 South Grand Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90071

Contact: Thomas L. Watson

Phone: (213) 633-8242

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Echo Park Branch Library

1410 W. Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90026

Phone: (213) 250-7808

Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays 10:00 am – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, Thursdays Noon – 8:00 p.m.

Fridays, Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays

### Belmont Senior High School

Administration Office

1575 W. 2nd Street

Los Angeles, CA 90026

Phone: (213) 250-0244