

**Fact Sheet  
July 2003**

# **Public Comment Period Eagle Peak Montessori School Draft Removal Action Workplan**



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC  
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

## **WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA**

*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



### **Why am I receiving this fact sheet?**

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) are providing this fact sheet to inform nearby residences of the public comment period for the draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the proposed Eagle Peak Montessori School site (Site) located at 800 Hutchinson Road, Walnut Creek, California.

### **What is the Eagle Peak Montessori School Site?**

The Site is a vacant 4.99-acre parcel of land which prior to 1969 was used as a fruit orchard. During that time, pesticides (please refer to page 3) were used as a way to control pests from destroying the orchard.

In 1969 MDUSD obtained the Site and built Castle Rock Elementary School. The school operated from 1970 through 2002. In November 2002, the school was demolished. The Site is currently vacant except for an asphalt covered parking area, an electrical transformer, and gravel utility road.

### **Why Is The Site Being Addressed Now?**

In an effort to rebuild a school at the Site, MDUSD first needed to address possible pesticide contamination. In January and February 2003, MDUSD conducted an environmental site assessment that determined elevated concentrations of pesticides existed in the soil. The Site needed to be cleaned up to a level acceptable for its intended use as a school. In March 2003, MDUSD entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC which stated that MDUSD would cleanup the Site and DTSC would provide regulatory oversight during the cleanup. MDUSD, and their environmental contractor, Shaw Environmental, Inc. developed a draft RAW to

### **Public Review and 30-Day Comment Period**

DTSC encourages the public to review and comment on the Draft RAW being proposed. DTSC will conduct a 30-day Public Comment Period which begins on Saturday, July 19, 2003 and ends on Monday, August 18, 2003.

Mail written comments to: DTSC, Attn: Al Dehaze, Project Manager, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826 or via e-mail at [adehaze@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:adehaze@dtsc.ca.gov) All mail must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 2003. E-mailed comments must be sent to DTSC no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same date.

DTSC may hold a public meeting for this project if one is requested or there is significant public interest.

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outline removal of pesticide contaminated soil from the Site.

### **What Is Being Proposed In The Draft RAW?**

The draft RAW proposes excavation and off-Site disposal of contaminated soil. If the draft RAW is approved, pesticide contaminated soil will be removed up to one foot below ground surface on approximately 1.4 acres (totaling about 2300 cubic yards of soil) of the 4.99-acre Site. The contaminated soil will be transferred by truck to an approved off-site disposal facility. Between 125 and 150 truck loads of soil will be removed in approximately five days. After contaminated soil has been removed from the Site, confirmation soil samples will be taken in the excavated areas to ensure that the contamination was not left in place.

The draft RAW proposes three cleanup alternatives: no further action; excavation and off-site disposal, or placement of an on-site asphalt cap. Of the three alternatives proposed in the draft RAW, the excavation and off-site disposal alternative was chosen as being the most effective and cost-effective. It is the most protective of human health and environment.

However, before DTSC approves, denies, or amends the draft RAW, it is available during a 30-day public comment period for public review and comment. All comments received during the comment period are considered by DTSC before making a final decision. Once a decision has been made, a document called a Response To Comments is made available to anyone who submitted comments, anyone requesting a copy, and to all of the information repositories that have been established for this Site. The Response to Comments addresses all of the comments received by DTSC.

In addition to the draft RAW, this project must also be evaluated under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed cleanup option outlined in the draft RAW is considered exempt from CEQA because it is not considered to pose a risk to the environment. Therefore, the CEQA determination for this project is A Notice of

Exemption. The Notice of Exemption is also available for public review and copies can be found at the information repositories established for this Site.

### **What Will I See During Cleanup?**

During the cleanup process you will see personnel on the Site using various heavy equipment including: excavator and/or a bulldozer, a front-end loader, dump truck(s), and a water truck.

Contaminated soil will be excavated and loaded into trucks for transport and disposal off-site. Dust generated during cleanup activities will be controlled by lightly spraying water on the excavation surfaces. Water will also be misted on the contaminated soil placed in the dump trucks to reduce dust emissions. Prior to leaving the Site, all trucks will have a tarp placed over the contaminated soil to further eliminate dust during transportation.

Air monitoring will be conducted on-site and at the fence line to ensure that contamination does not exceed acceptable levels or negatively impact on-site workers.

### **What Happens After The Cleanup?**

Once DTSC determines that the cleanup is complete, it notifies MDUSD. MDUSD can then move forward and develop the Site for a school.

### **Information Repositories**

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826-3200  
Mr. Al Dehaze, Project Manager  
(916) 255-3742

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
File Room:  
Monday to Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
By appointment only (916) 255-3758

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**Ygnacio Valley Branch Library  
(Reference Desk)**

2661 Oak Grove Road  
Walnut Creek, California  
(925) 938-1481  
Monday to Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Northgate High School**

School Office  
425 Castle Rock Road  
Walnut Creek, California  
(925) 938-0900  
Monday to Friday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**For More Information**

If you would like more information or have questions on the draft Removal Action Workplan, please contact Mr. Al Dehaze, DTSC, Project Manager at (916) 255-3742 or Dr. Richard Nichol, MDUSD, Assistant Superintendent at (925) 682-8000. For questions about the public participation process, contact Ms. Michelle Trotter, DTSC, Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-6441. Members of the media should contact Ms. Angela Blanchette, DTSC, Public Information Officer at (510) 540-3732.

**Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) and ask to speak to Ms. Trotter at (916) 255-6441.

**Glossary****Aldrin & Dieldrin**

Insecticides with similar chemical structures. They are discussed together in this fact sheet because aldrin quickly breaks down to dieldrin in the body and in the environment. Pure aldrin and dieldrin are white powders with a mild chemical odor. From the 1950s until 1970, aldrin and dieldrin were widely used pesticides in agriculture and to protect buildings from termites. In 1987, EPA banned all uses. Aldrin and dieldrin may cause headaches, dizziness, irritability, vomiting, and uncontrolled muscle movements over lengthy exposures. Animals exposed to high amounts of aldrin and dieldrin also had nervous system effects.

**Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW)**

A plan of activities taken at a site to address a known or potential environmental problem.

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***Mailing List***

If you have any comments concerning the draft Removal Action Workplan for the Eagle Peak Montessori School or if you would like to be added to the site specific mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Ms. Michelle Trotter, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are considered public records and if requested may be subject to release.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200  
Attention: Michelle Trotter

**Inside:**

**The public is invited to comment on Eagle Peak Montessori School's Removal Action Workplan**

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