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Department of Toxic Substances Control

Removal Action Workplan

FACT SHEET, June 2005

Soil Cleanup planned for East Los Angeles High School No. 2 Site

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) is proposing to build a new high school in East Los Angeles (see map on page 3). This fact sheet describes the environmental investigations and proposed cleanup activities at the site. You are invited to review and comment on the site cleanup plan known as the **draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW)**.

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

Inside this fact sheet:

- What We Found
- How It Got There
- Cleanup Options
- How the LAUSD Plans to Clean It Up
- What Happens Next
- Who To Contact For More Information

COMMUNITY MEETING

DTSC will hold a community meeting to provide the community with information about the findings of the environmental investigation and the proposed method to clean up the East Los Angeles High School No. 2 site. Spanish interpreters will be provided.

Date: June 29, 2005 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.

Location: Belvedere Middle School Auditorium
312 N. Record Avenue, Los Angeles 90063

For information on meeting accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Jesus Cruz at (818) 551-2875.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

June 17, 2005 – July 18, 2005

The draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for East Los Angeles High School No. 2 is available for review and public comment. The draft RAW and other site documents are available for review at the locations listed on page 4. Written comments must be emailed no later than 5:00 p.m. or postmarked by July 18, 2005, and sent to:

Ms. Laura Zaremba, DTSC Project Manager
Dept. of Toxic Substance Control
1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201
lzaremba@dtsc.ca.gov



Site Description and Background

The new high school is proposed to help relieve overcrowding at Garfield High School. The proposed school site is bordered by Brannick Avenue on the west, Hammel Street on the north, East Cesar E. Chavez Avenue and Dozier Street on the south, and Marianna Avenue and residences to the east. The site is currently occupied by Hammel Elementary School, Hammel Early Education Center, City of LA Independent Study, Los Angeles Conservation Corps, residential properties, and commercial properties.

What We Found

The LAUSD tested the soil during a Preliminary Environmental Assessment in 2004. During the investigation, metals were found in soils at three areas in concentrations exceeding DTSC health risk levels for school sites. Arsenic was found two to three feet underground at 4240 Hammel Street (LA Conservation Corp). Lead was found one to two feet underground at 4153 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue (La Princesita Market) and in the planter area of Hammel Elementary School.

How the Chemicals Got There – Why a Cleanup is Needed

The 4240 Hammel Street property has historically been used for agriculture, which may have included the use of pesticides, herbicides, or other chemicals that could have contributed to the arsenic found in the soil. The 4153 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue property was formerly used as an automobile repair facility that may have contributed to the lead found the soil. In addition, localized lead-based paint residue was detected in some landscaped planters at the Hammel Elementary School.

While there is no immediate risk to the public, DTSC recommended that LAUSD prepare a RAW or cleanup plan to remove the impacted soil to protect the students and staff who will attend the school. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not result in any harm to people or the environment.

Cleanup Options

Three cleanup options are identified in the draft RAW. These options were evaluated based on effectiveness, ability to implement and overall cost. The three cleanup options are:

- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – Soil Excavation and Off-Site Disposal
- Option 3 – Partial Excavation with Barrier and Deed Restriction

Any cleanup plan must protect public health and the environment, have reasonable cost, and be shared with the community. The best plan recommended in the draft RAW that meets these goals is Option 2, Excavation and Off-Site Disposal. This option was selected because it is protective of human health and the environment, feasible, permanent, and has a reasonable cost.

How LAUSD Plans to Clean It Up

The impacted soil will be dug out using construction equipment such as excavators, backhoes, and front-end loaders. The soil will be loaded onto trucks and hauled off-site. Approximately 2,601 cubic yards (3,901 tons) of soil will be removed, including 2,347 cubic yards from 4240 Hammel Street and 234 cubic yards from 4153 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue and 20 cubic yards from the planters at Hammel Elementary School. After the soil is removed, clean soil will be brought to fill the holes.

It will take about 162 truckloads to remove the soil. Trucks will enter the work areas from East Cesar E. Chavez Avenue, Hammel Street, or Dozier Street. Approximately 60 to 80 truckloads will exit the site on a daily basis. The trucks will take either Eastern Avenue to Floral Drive or East Cesar E. Chavez Avenue to Ford Boulevard to get to the northbound 710 Freeway. The soil will be transported to State approved disposal facilities in Adelanto and Buttonwillow, California.

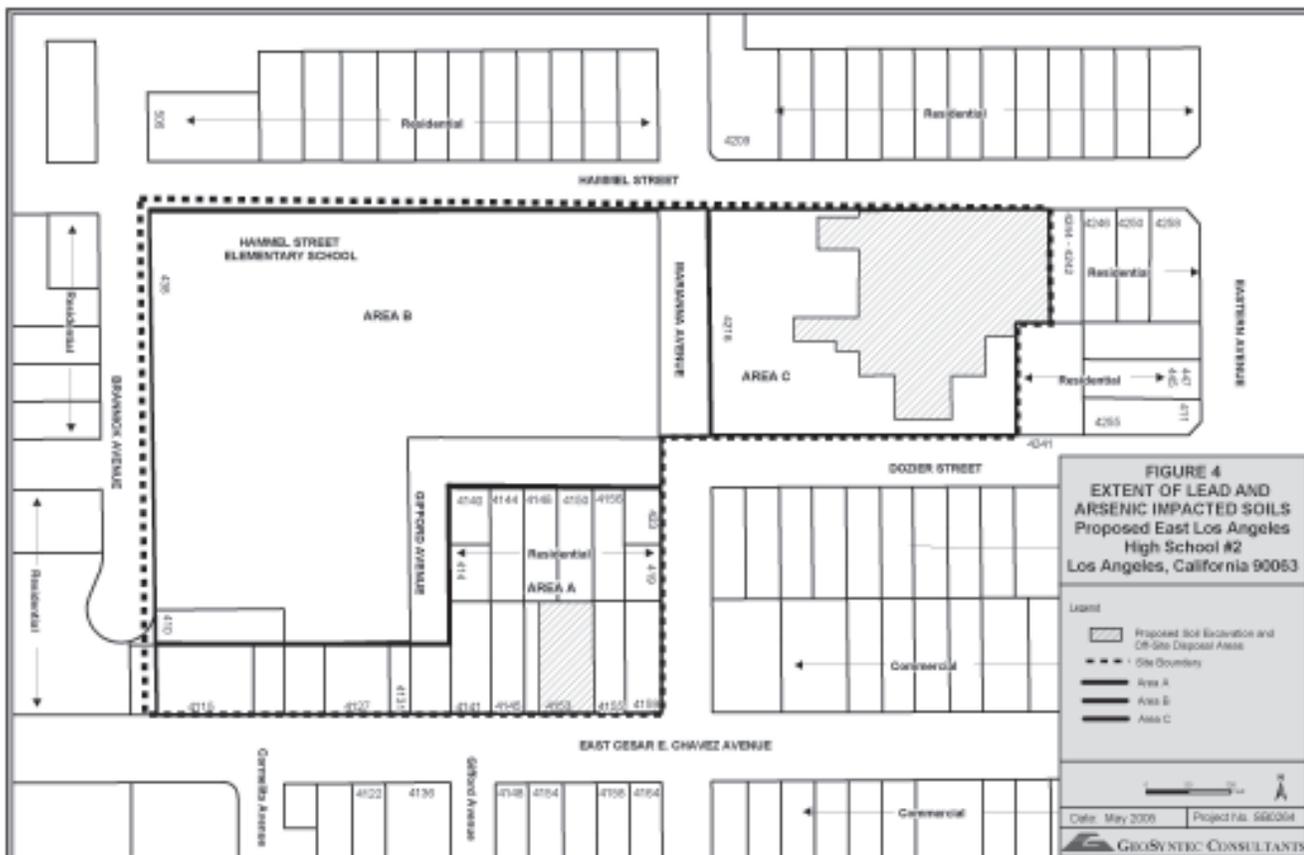
Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup

Some of the actions LAUSD will take to ensure safety of the public and to minimize dust include:

- Temporary fencing with windscreens installed for security
- 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
- Water will be sprayed on soil after it is loaded into the trucks to prevent further 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
- The excavation areas will be covered with plastic sheets between working hours
- Plastic sheets will be used to cover soil that may be left in place prior to off-site transport
- Work adjacent to the existing school and childhood development center will take place when school is not in session

What Happens Next

Once the Comment Period ends, DTSC will evaluate all comments received. If necessary, LAUSD will make any necessary revisions and DTSC will approve the RAW for implementation. The soil removal will begin within 30 days after completion of site acquisition and preparation activities, including tenant relocations and building demolition. The cleanup process is expected to take approximately four weeks to complete. This includes soil removal, transportation, and follow-up soil sampling and analysis. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will submit a Removal Action Completion Report to DTSC for review and approval. A copy of this report will be available at the locations identified on page 4.



Where to Find Site Documents (Technical Reports)

The draft RAW and other site documents are available for your review at the following locations:

Anthony Quinn Public Library

3956 E. Cesar E. Chavez Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Phone: (323) 264-7715
Hours: Monday: 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday:
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday: 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday

East Los Angeles Library

4837 East Third Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022
Phone: (323) 264-0155
Hours:
Monday through Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hammel Street Elementary School

438 N. Brannick Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Phone: (323) 263-9461

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
355 South Grand Avenue, 15th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Contact: Thomas L. Watson
Phone: (213) 633-8242
Hours: Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

District Web Site:

www.laschools.org

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.

Who to Contact for Information

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

Mr. Jesus Cruz, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2875

Ms. Laura Zaremba, DTSC Project Manager, at (818) 551-2183

For media inquiries, please contact:

Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (818) 551-2176

For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con el: Sr. Jesús Cruz, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (818) 551-2875.

If you need information in any other language, please contact Mr. Jesus Cruz at (818) 551-2875.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Jesus Cruz, at (818) 551-2785.