

Treva Miller, Public Participation Specialist
California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Toxic Substances Control
1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201-2205

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INSIDE: Information on East Valley Area
New High School #3 Site

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

Panorama City Branch Library
14345 Roscoe Boulevard
Panorama City, CA 91402
Contact: Catherine Ortiz
Phone: (818) 894-4071
Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
Friday – Saturday 10:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

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.

Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Communications
450 North Grand Avenue Room H-174
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2123
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: Tom Davis
Phone: (213) 633-8258
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Fact Sheet
March 2002

Proposed East Valley Area New High School #3



SITE INVESTIGATION COMPLETED

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
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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this fact sheet is to inform the Panorama City community of the findings and results of the environmental investigation conducted on a new school site planned for your neighborhood. The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) has completed an environmental investigation called a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) on the property site for the proposed East Valley Area New High School #3, with the oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a regulatory agency for the California Environmental Protection Agency.

The proposed school site is located on approximately 18 acres in Panorama City. The site is bounded by Lanark Street on the north, Van Nuys Boulevard on the east, and single-family residences on the west and on the south (see map on page 3).

The PEA was conducted to determine if any harmful hazardous substances are present on the school site that pose a threat to public health or the environment. The Final PEA Report recommended that additional soil investigation activities be conducted. The results of those additional studies were summarized in a Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI) Report.

The complete PEA and SSI reports are available for public review at the repositories listed on the last page of this fact sheet. The PEA report is available for public review as required by the California Education Code.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION

The environmental investigation of the proposed school site is now complete. The results indicate that chemicals found at the site do not pose excess risk to human health or the environment, or are within the range of background levels (average concentration levels) for the area.

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.

OVERVIEW

In September 2000, prior to the environmental investigation at the site, DTSC sent 416 information letters with a community survey to parents, residents, and other interested parties within a one-quarter mile radius of the site. The purpose of the letter and community survey was to inform the community of the site investigation and to determine the level of community interest. Both the letter and survey were distributed in English and Spanish.

Seventeen surveys were completed and returned to DTSC. Surveys returned to DTSC contained comments from the public expressing concerns about site specific issues, peripheral issues and school district issues. None of the comments were related to the environmental investigation.

State and local agencies were consulted for historical information regarding the site. This included the search of historical records on file with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region; the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; and the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The records of these agencies indicated that one portion of the proposed school site had been used for residential and agricultural purposes until 1953. From 1953 to 2000, the site was used for industrial activities associated with food research and food distribution. The remaining portion was vacant except for a residence until the 1940s, when it became agricultural land until the early 1960s. After the 1960s, various businesses have occupied this portion of the site. These businesses include a gas station, a dry cleaner, an automobile transmission and auto repair facility, restaurants, offices, and retail businesses. Given the historic land use of the site, a sampling program was designed to characterize the site.

SCOPE OF THE INVESTIGATION

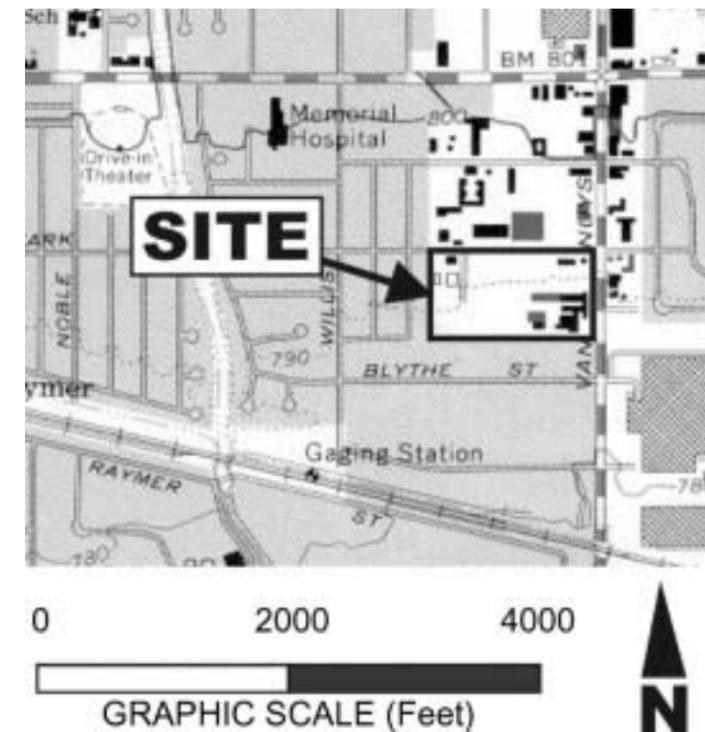
Evaluation of the site occurred in two phases. The first phase included the PEA site assessment activities, consisting of soil gas and soil sampling conducted in November 2000 and December 2000. A report of this investigation was prepared in July 2001. The report concluded that further investigation was required to evaluate arsenic and methane in two localized areas of the site and conduct appropriate removal action if necessary. The second phase of the assessment included additional soil investigation to evaluate arsenic and any possible methane impacts in these two areas. The results of the additional investigation are reported in the SSI Report. The SSI Report was submitted to DTSC in February 2002.

SITE INVESTIGATION RESULTS

Results from the environmental investigations at the proposed school site indicate that arsenic levels detected onsite are within the range of background levels. The results also indicate that the methane gas detections were most likely due to the biological decomposition of organic-rich “fill” soils. These fill soils were placed in this area during recent grading and compaction activities on the vacant portions of the property.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Based on the results of the PEA and the SSI, the DTSC has issued a “No Further Action” letter for the proposed East Valley Area New High School #3 to the Los Angeles Unified School District. DTSC concurs with LAUSD’s recommendation that chemicals detected at the site do not pose an excess health risk and no further investigation or cleanup is required at the proposed school site. The LAUSD can now proceed with the school construction process.



WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

If you have questions regarding the environmental investigation please contact:
Trevia Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, (818) 551-2846
Shahir Haddad, DTSC Project Manager, (714) 484-5368
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:
Tom Davis, Project Manager, LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety, (213) 633-8258.

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con la: Sra. Beth McCarthy, Oficina de Alcance a la Comunidad del LAUSD (LAUSD Community Outreach Office), al (213) 633-8978 o por correo electrónico: bmccarth@laschools.org.