

COMMUNITY Notice

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

Draft Cleanup Plan for Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars for Public Review and Comment

Our agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites the public to review and comment on a proposed plan to clean up groundwater contaminated with petroleum products and industrial solvents under Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars, located at 309 Lucas Avenue in Los Angeles, California. The plan, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), describes the activities proposed to address impacted groundwater at the site. Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Notice of Exemption was prepared, as the proposed cleanup activities will not have significant environmental effects.

DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates properties for potentially hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff, or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- Site Background
- Investigation Conducted
- Proposed Cleanup Plan (draft RAW)
- Safety Measures
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps & Where to Find Documents

There is **no immediate risk** to school students, faculty or staff because groundwater beneath the school property is deep and not a source of drinking water for the school or the community. However, to further reduce the concentrations of contaminants found in the groundwater, DTSC recommends a cleanup plan be developed and implemented in order to protect groundwater for beneficial uses.

Public Comment Period



**January 17, 2013
through February 19, 2013**

Your participation is encouraged. The 30-day public comment period begins January 17th and ends February 19th, 2013. Public comments must be postmarked or e-mailed by February 19th, 2013, and sent to:

Ivy Osornio, Project Manager
Department of Toxic
Substances Control
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90603-4732
E-mail: IOsornio@dtsc.ca.gov

The draft RAW is available for review electronically and at the Information Repository locations listed on page 3.

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

The DTSC identified chemicals in the groundwater from historical commercial operations at the site that included a taxi garage, auto body paint shop and a maintenance facility. However, the chemicals are at levels that are above protective health standards established by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. The DTSC requires an overall cleanup plan be developed and implemented to ensure long term public health, safety and environmental protection.

Site Background

Historically from about 1923 to 1984 one large single-story structure occupied the northern portion of the site along the south side of Third Street. This structure was used as a taxi garage and maintenance facility. The garage property contained seven underground storage tanks, four hydraulic hoists, an elevator, clarifier and spray paint booth. It is believed that historical operations contributed to soil and groundwater impacts at the site.

Investigations Conducted

Before the school was built in 1995, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) conducted environmental studies on the property. The studies showed that the soil and the groundwater under the property contained petroleum products and industrial solvents. Groundwater beneath the school property is located between 21 and 24 feet below ground surface and it is **not a source of drinking water** for the school or the community.

When the school was built, the LAUSD installed a cleanup system to remove contamination from soil and groundwater. Additionally, a barrier was installed to prevent solvent vapors from entering school buildings. The groundwater cleanup system has been in operation since 1995. Periodic soil vapor (air between soil particles) and groundwater chemical monitoring shows that contaminants are not entering school buildings.

As part of site investigation activities in 2002 a health risk assessment was conducted to evaluate any potential risks to students, staff, and community from the contaminants. The health risk evaluation concluded that there is no immediate risk to school students, staff, or the community.

Proposed Cleanup Plan (draft RAW)

The installed groundwater cleanup system and natural degradation have successfully reduced levels of groundwater contamination; however, contaminant reduction is no longer consistent. To increase the degradation of chemicals in groundwater, the cleanup plan proposes to inject bacteria into the groundwater and monitor its effectiveness over time. This proposed cleanup alternative is called “enhanced reductive dechlorination with bioaugmentation”. The DTSC recommends the implementation of this cleanup technique because the bacteria will help increase the rate of natural decomposition of chemicals and improve the effectiveness of the groundwater cleanup process. It is also considered the most protective of human health and the environment, the most effective at reducing contamination more quickly and the most cost-effective.

Safety Measures

To protect the surrounding community and on-site workers during field activities, field work will be conducted according to a site specific Health and Safety Plan. This plan includes controls to secure the site, minimize dust, odor and noise.

California Environmental Quality Act

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed injection activities will not have a significant negative impact on human health and the environment because the injection area is primarily in the garage area of the school property and the activities will not involve any construction or excavation.

Next Steps

At the end of the public comment period, DTSC will review, consider and respond to public comments received. If the draft RAW is approved, field activities will likely begin during the summer school break of 2013. Work will generally be conducted between 7:00 am and 6:00 pm during weekdays. If field work is conducted on a Saturday, work hours will be from 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. No work will be conducted on Sundays or state holidays.

Where to Find the Documents

Site-related documents are available at the information repositories listed below:

Echo Park Branch Library

1410 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90026
Telephone: (213) 250-7808

Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars

309 Lucas Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Telephone: (213) 250-2932

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health & Safety
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 28th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Telephone: (213) 241-3199
Email: environmental_review@lausd-oehs.org

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: Julie Johnson to schedule an appointment
Telephone: (714) 484-5337
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Copies of key technical reports, fact sheets and other site-related information are also available online at DTSC's website at: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov.

Who to Contact for More Information

For more information about the draft cleanup plan please contact the following DTSC representatives:

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DTSC Project Manager
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For more information about DTSC, please visit our website at: www.dtsc.ca.gov

For Media Inquiries Contact:

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Office of External Affairs
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PUBLIC COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars
Comment Period - January 17, 2013 - February 19, 2013
Removal Action Workplan

You can use this form to send your written comments on the draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW). Please include your name and address on the form with your comments. **All written comments must be postmarked or e-mailed no later than February 19, 2013, and sent to: Ivy Osornio, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, California 90630-4732.** You may also scan and e-mail a copy of this form to IOsornio@dtsc.ca.gov.

Name: _____
Agency or Organization (if applicable): _____
Address: _____
Telephone #: _____

- Please add me to the site mailing list
- Please delete me from the site mailing list

Comments: _____

DTSC mailings are solely for the purpose of keeping people informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Jacqueline Martinez, Public Participation Specialist

5796 Corporate Avenue

Cypress, CA 90630-4732

Inside: Information on Gratts Learning Academy for Young Scholars, Los Angeles, California

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