

Fact Sheet
June 2003

Hill/Redondo School Site Long Beach, California



SEEKING YOUR COMMENTS ON THE PLAN TO CLEANUP PROPOSED SCHOOL SITE

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



As you may know from our April 2003 letter and survey, the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) is proposing to build a new school at 3230 East Hill Street, Long Beach (see map on page 3). The boundaries of the site are Hill Street on the north, Redondo Avenue on the east, and Obispo Avenue on the west.

This fact sheet describes the environmental investigations and proposed cleanup activities for the proposed school site. You are invited to review and comment on the site cleanup plan known as **Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW)**.

THIS FACT SHEET TELLS YOU:

- What we found
- How it may have gotten there
- That it is not a risk to public health
- Why and how the LBUSD plans to clean it up
- How you can tell us what you think
- Who to contact for more information

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

June 23, 2003 - July 22, 2003

We invite you to provide us with your comments and questions about the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the Hill/Redondo proposed school site. The purpose of the public comment period is to give you an opportunity to submit comments on the Draft RAW. In this fact sheet, we provide information on to whom to write your comments and where to find the technical reports that provide detailed environmental information.

OPEN HOUSE

DTSC will host an **Open House** to take your comments, answer your questions, and provide information about the environmental investigation findings and the proposed soil cleanup.

Thursday, July 10, 2003, 6 PM – 8 PM

Buffum Elementary School Auditorium
2350 Ximeno Avenue
Long Beach, California 90815

*Si desea información en español,
comuníquese con el:
Sr. Eloy Florez al (818) 551-2875.*

If you need information in any other
language, please contact:
Ms. Maya Akula at (818) 551-2917.

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, or for more information about DTSC see our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

The site cleanup will be conducted by LBUSD with the oversight of our state agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). LBUSD is responsible for site selection, purchasing the property, site cleanup and construction. The school is tentatively scheduled to open in 2005. Our agency ensures the cleanup work meets state and federal standards that protect the public's health and the environment. Under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption for this project. It has been determined that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on the human health and the environment.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The LBUSD conducted an initial investigation known as a Preliminary Environmental Assessment as well as follow-up investigations at the 10.4-acre vacant lot in 2001 and 2002. The soil was tested at several locations and the investigations detected arsenic, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and lead at elevated human health risk levels for school sites. Total petroleum hydrocarbons (chemicals in fuels) and low levels of methane were also detected.

As a result of the findings, a site cleanup, known as a removal action, is being proposed to remove impacted soil. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will ensure that the removal is performed in a manner that does not result in any harm to people or the environment.

NOT A RISK TO THE PUBLIC

The soil is not currently a risk to the people who work or live near the site because it is fenced, the public is unable to access it and therefore is not exposed. Once the contaminated soil is removed, the potential risk will be reduced to levels that will be safe.

HOW THE CHEMICALS GOT THERE – WHY A CLEANUP IS NEEDED

The lead found at the site probably came from either lead-based paint and/or past industrial activities at the site. Based on historical records, past operations at this site included an auto repair shop, welding shop, blacksmith shop, machine shop, rig builders shop, woodshop, paint shop, cleaning pits, a salvage yard and several storage buildings owned/operated by Shell Oil Company and Signal Hill Petroleum Company.

Although arsenic occurs naturally in the environment, there is a possibility that the arsenic found at this site came from industrial sources such as pesticides or from oilfield operations. The petroleum hydrocarbons, along with the other chemicals onsite, most likely came from underground storage tanks or the use of hazardous materials such as oils, paints, paint thinners and fuels. The chemicals are to be removed prior to the school construction process to ensure students, faculty and the area groundwater are not exposed.

CLEANUP OPTIONS

Several cleanup options were evaluated:

- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal
- Option 3 – Cold Mix Asphalt Processing

Any cleanup plan has to protect the human health and the environment, have a reasonable cost and be shared with the community. The best plan that meets these goals is Option 2, Excavation and Offsite Disposal. This option was selected because it is protective of human health and the environment, feasible, permanent and has a reasonable cost.

HOW LBUSD PLANS TO CLEAN IT UP

The proposed plan is to use construction equipment to dig out and remove about 1340 cubic yards of soil and transport it to state approved disposal facilities in Azusa, Palmdale, and Kettleman City, California. This will be about 2000 tons of material, which will be removed in about 84 truckloads. After the soil is transported away, clean soil will be brought to fill the holes. The cleanup may last about four weeks. This includes digging out the soil, transporting it, and follow-up confirmation soil sampling and analysis. The work may begin in September 2003. In addition, LBUSD will monitor methane levels at the site (quarterly) for one year to ensure that it does not pose a risk. Although this is the cleanup we propose, we would very much like to hear your thoughts and comments (see Comment Form).

DEALING WITH SAFETY AND DUST DURING CLEANUP

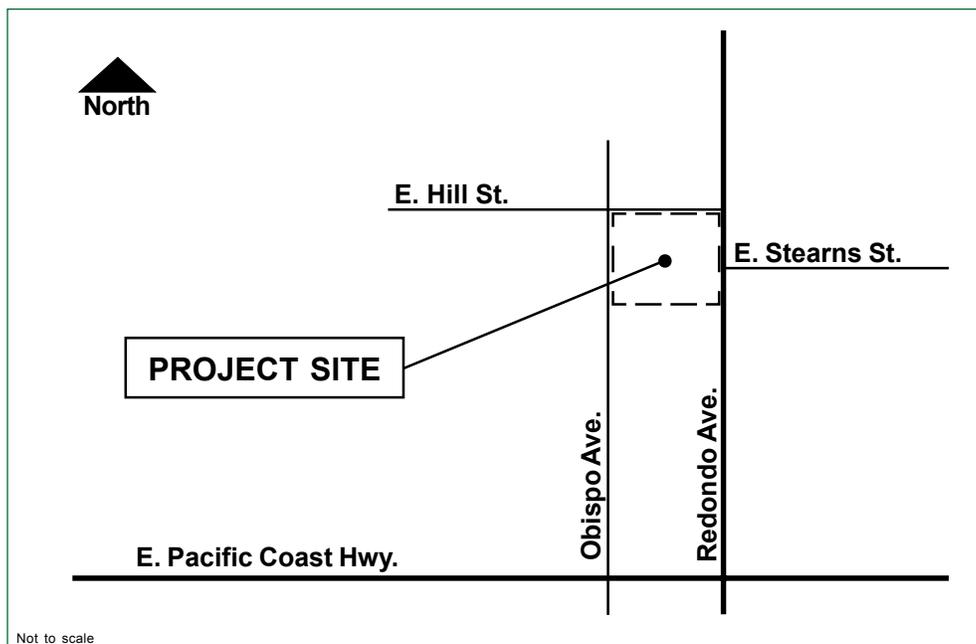
If the cleanup plan is approved as written, some noise from the soil removal equipment can be expected during the cleanup. This distraction

will be kept to a minimum. No traffic delays are expected due to the trucks traveling to and from the site. The trucks will enter and exit the site from the Hill Street entrance.

Some of the actions LBUSD will take to ensure safety on the site and minimize the impact of dust during the cleanup action:

- The entire site is secured and fenced
- Wind screens will be attached to the temporary fencing where necessary prior to start of onsite activities
- 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 further prevent 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
- Plastic sheets will be used to cover any piles of dug-up soil that may have to be left in place prior to transporting it offsite.

Site Map Proposed Hill/Redondo School Site



YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE COMMENTS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan. The **30-day public comment period** starts on June 23, 2003 and ends on July 22, 2003, during which time you can review and send comments and/or questions to us on the proposed cleanup option. Your comments must be postmarked no later than July 22, 2003. Send comments to: *Mr. Rao Akula, DTSC Project Manager, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201.*

WHERE TO FIND SITE DOCUMENTS (Technical Reports)

The proposed cleanup plan is described in detail in the document titled "Revised Draft Removal Action Workplan for the Property Located at 3230 East Hill Street (Tract 10548) Long Beach, California." This document also describes how we looked at the possible health risks. The document is available for your review at the following locations:

Brewitt Neighborhood Library

Reference Desk
4036 E. Anaheim St.
Long Beach, CA 90804
Phone: (562) 570-1040
Hours:
Tuesdays: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesdays, Thursdays: 12 noon - 6:00 p.m.
Fridays, Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed Mondays and Sundays

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 CALL FOR INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please call the following persons at our agency: Ms. Maya Akula, Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2917; or Mr. Rao Akula, DTSC Project Manager, at (818) 551-2847.

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

For media inquiries, please contact Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer, at (818) 551-2176. For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Maya Akula, at (818) 551-2917.

