

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Schools Unit - Sacramento
School Property Evaluation and Cleanup
Division
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826

Project Title: Remedial Action Workplan, proposed Jefferson Elementary School for remediation of 7.5-acre site with lead and organochlorine pesticide contamination.

Project Location – Specific: 14311 Lark Street

Project Location – City: San Leandro

Project Location – County: Alameda

Description of Project:**Background:**

The Jefferson Elementary site consists 7.5-acre and is characterized by flat terrain. Jefferson Elementary School, a public elementary school for kindergarten through fifth grade, currently occupies the site. The school is comprised of five single story buildings, some portable buildings and a child care center. Two new classroom buildings are currently under construction on the site. The center of the property contains a children's playground with extensive asphalt blacktop and a wood chip area around play apparatus. The area in front of the school along Lark Avenue consists of landscaping and sidewalk; and the area around the buildings is generally asphalt or concrete pavement, landscaping and bare ground.

Orchards were present on the site until 1948 when the original school was constructed. Based on previous sampling during a Phase II investigation, elevated concentrations of lead are present in shallow soils near the building wall, likely due to weathering of lead-based paint. Elevated levels of organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) are present in the shallow soils along the perimeter of the original school buildings due to historic termite abatement activities.

A Supplemental Site Investigation identified lead and organochlorine pesticides (dieldrin, total chlordane, heptachlor epoxide, and total DDT) as the chemicals of concern. DTSC executed the School Cleanup Agreement with the San Leandro Unified School District on November 29, 2004. The following are the OCPs and metal and their concentrations found on-site:

Chemical of Concern	Maximum Concentration found
Chlordane, Total	27.00 mg/kg
DDT, Total	1.89 mg/kg
Dieldrin	11.00 mg/kg
Heptachlor Epoxide	.15 mg/kg
Lead	310.00 mg/kg

Project Activities:

The Removal Action Workplan (RAW) identifies procedures to remove 365 cubic yards (in-situ volume) of contaminated soils throughout the site utilizing excavation and offsite removal. Excavation includes using loaders, backhoes, and other appropriate equipment. The soil will be excavated to a maximum depth of three feet below grade. As soil is excavated, it will be temporarily stored at staging areas on-site until off-Site transportation and disposal. At the staging areas, excavated soil will be placed inside the designated stockpile

area on an impermeable barrier and covered with tarps to prevent migration of contaminated soil.

The storage area will be included in a secured exclusion zone and watering of the soil will be used to control any fugitive dust when contaminated soil is moved. Loading will be coordinated so that transport trucks will not have to drive on contaminated soil, thereby avoiding the creation of dust in the air or contaminated soil adhering to the truck tires. Spray-applied water will be utilized during excavation and workers will be required to use personal protective equipment to limit exposure to contaminants of concern.

Jefferson Elementary School is an active community school. Therefore the construction will take place during the summer months when facility, staff and students are at a minimum on the campus. Construction fencing will be erected around the perimeter of the contaminated areas to further reduce access to the excavation zone. The closest play area to the construction zone is approximately 120 feet, and the play area is separated by the fence surrounding the excavation zone.

Confirmation soil sampling and analysis will be conducted to verify that cleanup goals were met at the excavation bottom and perimeter. The following are the cleanup goals for chemicals of concern:

Chemical of Concern	Clean up Goals
Chlordane	.31 mg/kg
DDT, Total	1.17 mg/kg
Dieldrin	.025 mg/kg
Heptachlor Epoxide	.072 mg/kg
Lead	255 mg/kg

Except for lead, the cleanup goals are based upon health based standards and utilize numbers and methods outlined in the DTSC guidance documents. The cleanup goal for lead derives from DTSC's guidance "Interim Guidance for Evaluating Lead-Based Paint and Asbestos Containing Material at Proposed School Sites – July 2001" Following sampling, 365 cubic yards of certified clean fill (meeting DTSC's clean fill guidance standards) will be imported to backfill the excavation. The backfill will be compacted to meet construction standards and leveled to grade.

Areas targeted for excavation will be watered down prior to initiation of dirt moving activities and throughout the project to suppress dust and ensure that air quality is not adversely impacted. The Bay Area Air Management District (BAAQMD) requirements will be met for monitoring and/or controlling fugitive dust during site grading. As the BAAQMD's rules which address sources emitting volatile organic compounds do not apply at this site (the chemicals of concern are not volatile), only nuisance emissions is applicable and is met by "best management practices". A permit is not required.

Air monitoring will be performed during all removal activities. The Air Monitoring Officer will be present during removal actions. The Air Monitoring Officer will maintain on site portable anemometer (to monitor wind speed), three real-time dust monitors (1 upwind and 2 downwind at the property boundaries). The wind speed action level for work stoppage will be any sustained wind velocity of 25 mph or greater and instantaneous dust measurements of greater than 50 micrograms per cubic meter.

Excavated soil will be profiled on site prior to shipment to the appropriate disposal site. Soil profiled as hazardous waste will be documented with the Uniform Hazardous Waste Manifest form to track the movement of waste soils from the point of generation to the point of ultimate disposition at Kettleman City, a Class I facility. Non Hazardous waste will be taken to Altamont, a Class II facility. All waste soil will be shipped by a licensed waste hauler in tarped trucks. (Although the highest concentration for lead for this Site was 310 ppm, if any samples have detections greater than 350 ppm, the soil will be disposed of at a Class I facility.) All vehicles will be decontaminated prior to leaving the work area. Transportation of waste soils will be on arterial streets and/or freeways, minimizing any potential impact on the local neighborhood. Trucks will be staged to avoid impacts on the local streets and timed to avoid rush traffic hours. The excavation and removal action is scheduled to take 14 days to complete.

Access within the project Site shall be limited by the exclusion zone. The exclusion zone shall include the excavation, stockpile area, and excavation equipment. Temporary fencing will be installed prior to beginning the excavation process to ensure public and worker safety. A checkpoint will be established at the Site's periphery to regulate the flow of personnel and equipment into and out of the area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Leandro Unified School District

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(A));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15330
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____
- General Rule (Sec. 15061(b)(3))

Exemption Title: Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate or Eliminate the Release or Threat of Release of Hazardous Waste to Hazardous Substances

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

This section specifies that small or medium removal actions, costing \$1 million dollars or less, can be taken to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of a hazardous waste or hazardous substance. The project is consistent with this exemption since:

1. This removal action is intended to eliminate the threat of a release that could expose sensitive populations at a school site and will cost approximately \$206,885 to implement.
2. The site is not on the Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65262.5 and is not in an area of biological or cultural resource significance.
3. This small removal action will not have a significant effect on the environment because:
 - a. Best Available Control Technology standards of the air quality management district for excavations will be met by controlling and monitoring fugitive dust during the remediation. No site specific air permit will be required. Areas targeted for excavation will be watered down prior to and during excavation activities to suppress dust. Work will be temporarily suspended if fugitive dust emissions exceed the criteria established by the air pollution control district.
 - b. Any stockpiled soil will be placed on an impermeable barrier, surrounded by a berm and covered during storage.
 - c. Approximately 30 truckloads of pesticide and metal contaminated soil will be removed from the site. All loaded trucks will be inspected, decontaminated and tarped prior to leaving the site. Following characterization, wastes will be transported under manifest by a registered hauler to an appropriate disposal facility. The trucks will exit the site on Lark Street heading southeast, and then turn right onto 146th Avenue heading southwest. The trucks will then turn left onto Hesperian Boulevard heading south. Highway 238 will be accessed from Hesperian Boulevard approximately 1.5 miles south of the site. Trucks will enter onto Highway 238 east to Interstate 580 east, and on to the appropriate landfill.
 - d. Verification sampling will occur to assure that the removal cleanup levels have been achieved in order to eliminate human health risks.
 - e. The nearest receptor is the residential area, approximately 120 feet away from the excavation.

Lead Agency Contact Person

Phone #

DTSC Branch Chief Signature

Date

Branch Chief
School Property Evaluation and Cleanup
Division

Javier Hinojosa

DTSC Branch Chief Name

DTSC Branch Chief Title

TO BE COMPLETED BY OPR ONLY

Date Received For Filing and Posting at OPR: _____