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Department of Toxic Substances Control

Site Investigation Continues

FACT SHEET, March 2005

Investigation planned for groundwater below Los Angeles Academy Middle School

An investigation will soon be under way to determine the extent of contamination in deep groundwater (more than 145 feet deep) in the vicinity of the Los Angeles Academy Middle School (formerly Jefferson New Middle School). This groundwater investigation is part of the continuing environmental studies at the school located at 644 E. 56th Street in Los Angeles, CA 90011. Previous studies have determined the deep soil underneath the school is contaminated by industrial solvents, and the groundwater underneath the school is contaminated by industrial solvents and metals. This groundwater is not used as drinking water.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is the lead regulatory agency overseeing the investigations at the school, which are being conducted by the responsible parties (Jefferson Site PRP Group LLC). The DTSC recently approved an environmental report for deep soil (40 feet to about 145 feet deep), concluding that there is no potential health risk for students or faculty at Los Angeles Academy from the chemicals in the deep soil. In 2003, the DTSC approved a shallow soil investigation (ground surface to 40 feet deep) at the school, which also demonstrated there is no potential health risk for students or faculty. The soil studies found that the chemicals were not getting inside the buildings or to surface anywhere at the school, and the school is safe for students and faculty. The only remaining concern is the threat to the groundwater below the school since the contaminants are moving downward.

Inside this fact sheet:

- Site history
- Current and potential risks
- Upcoming activities
- Where to get more information
- Project contacts

COMMUNITY MEETING

DTSC will hold a community meeting to explain this project and answer your questions. This is your opportunity to talk to DTSC staff about health risks, environmental issues and the upcoming drilling of wells on nearby residential streets for this project. Spanish interpreters will be provided.

Date: March 17, 2005 **Time:** 6:30 p.m.

Location: Los Angeles Academy Middle School -- Multipurpose Room
644 E. 56th Street, Los Angeles

Parking will be available in the school's underground parking lot.
Enter on 56th Street.

For information on meeting room accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Treva Miller at (818) 551-2846.



The groundwater investigation will determine the type of contamination and how far it extends in the groundwater. The objective is to prevent the contamination from seeping down into deep groundwater zones (about 500 feet below ground, parts of which are used for drinking water) in the future. The proposed groundwater investigation will also determine the extent of soil contamination, if any, outside of the school property boundaries from past releases of chemicals underneath the school property.

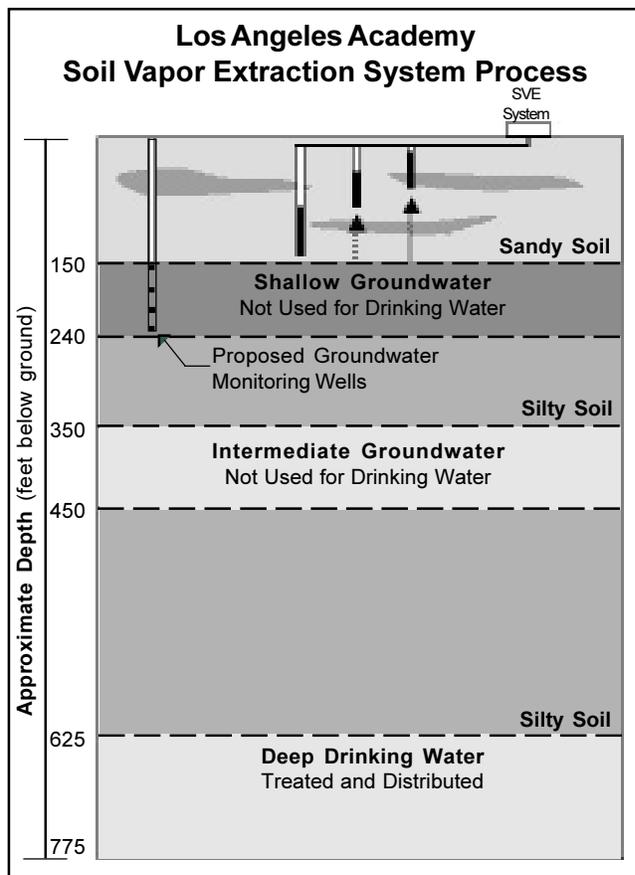
Site History

Industrial and commercial businesses operated on the current school site property until 1990, when the Los Angeles Unified School District purchased the property. During the demolition of the former business structures in 1995, leaking underground storage tanks were found and removed from the site. Some contaminated soil around the former tanks was also removed from the property. Early environmental investigations found chemical contamination in the deep soil and groundwater. In 1997, a soil treatment unit called a Soil Vapor Extraction System (SVE) was installed to cleanup the deep soil contamination and the DTSC began oversight of the investigations and site cleanup.

Soil Vapor Extraction systems draw chemicals in vapor form out of the contaminated soil and clean the contamination from the vapor before releasing it into the air. The initial system did not adequately meet air quality standards and was shut down in 1998. Air sampling tests conducted between 1998 and 2002 demonstrated that there was no upward movement of contaminants in the subsurface toward the school. A larger and better designed SVE treatment system was installed in 2002.

Since 1998, the extensive investigations of the shallow to deep soil have included analysis for more than 100 chemicals. Indoor and outdoor air, groundwater, and soil vapor have been analyzed. The shallow soil investigation at the school (ground surface to 40 feet deep) was completed in 2002 and the deep soil investigation (40 feet to about 145 feet deep) was completed in 2004.

The redesigned SVE system, successfully started during August 2002, was an interim measure to slow down further contamination of groundwater and to prevent movement of contaminants to the surface. Recent environmental testing at the site has confirmed that the cleanup of soils beneath the site by soil vapor extraction has been successful. The contaminant levels in soil have been reduced significantly. In addition, the sample analysis indicates that some chemicals have entered the shallow groundwater and have moved offsite. This condition will be investigated further.



Current and Potential Risks

Four Health Risk Assessments (studies) have been conducted to evaluate potential health risks to children and adults from potential exposure to chemical contamination at the Los Angeles Academy. All of those health risk studies concluded that the site does not pose a health risk to students, staff, or to nearby residents.

The investigation of deep soil (40 feet to about 145 feet deep) began in 2003. The investigation concluded that minor quantities of industrial solvent compounds in the deep soil remain as a threat to the groundwater. The groundwater contamination (below 145 feet) poses no health risk to the students or faculty above since there is no exposure to it. The deep soil investigation reconfirmed that the school is safe. You can learn more about how the DTSC evaluates health risks on the DTSC Web site at: http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/ScienceTechnology/HERD_FLY_Overview.html.

*Not to Scale

While the shallow groundwater contamination poses no health risk to the people above, it could harm the environment further if it were to seep down into the deep groundwater, which is about 500 feet below ground. *This groundwater is not used for drinking water at the school.* Drinking water at the school is provided by the city water agency. The drinking water at the school from fountains and faucets has been tested and found to be safe. No contaminants were found in the school's drinking water.

The remedial investigation also identified offsite sources of soil vapor and groundwater contamination, which will require further investigation.

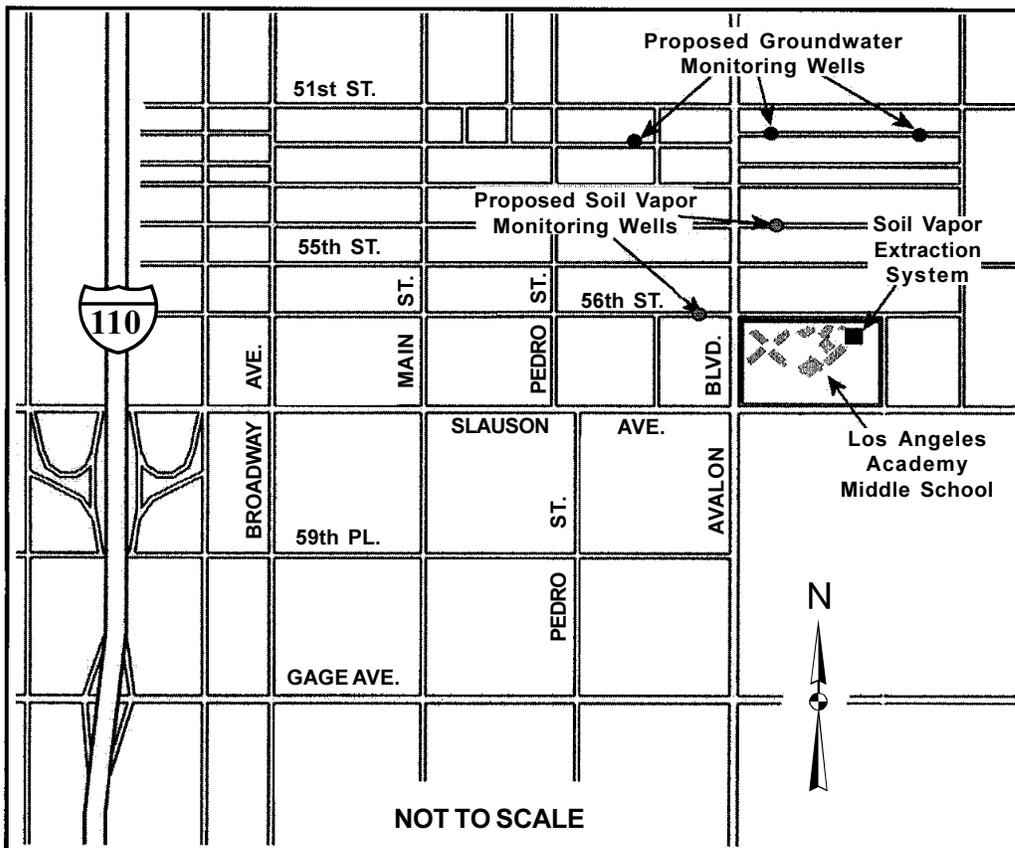
Upcoming Activities

To investigate chemicals in soil vapor and groundwater that have moved from the school site, the DTSC has requested that additional monitoring wells be installed north of the school at several locations. The planned

groundwater monitoring well locations are on 52nd Street between Towne and McKinley avenues. Two new soil vapor monitoring wells will also be installed in 56th and 54th streets near Avalon Boulevard. This work will begin in March 2005 and should be concluded in 45 days. Efforts will be made to minimize noise and traffic disruptions. A work notice with more detail will be distributed to the neighborhood adjacent to the work areas.

A test to evaluate the progress of the cleanup of chemicals in the soils beneath the school and the effectiveness of the SVE system has also been approved by the DTSC. This test, called a “rebound test,” will be used to determine if the SVE system is adequate as the final solution for the soil contamination removal. Once the DTSC determines that there is no more threat to the groundwater, the SVE system will be shut down.

**Los Angeles Academy
Site Location Map**



Where to Get More Information?

The Groundwater Remedial Investigation Workplan for the Los Angeles Academy describes in detail the activities necessary to install the monitoring wells. This workplan and other site related documents are available for your viewing at the following locations:

Vernon Branch Public Library

4504 S. Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90011
(323) 234-9106

Los Angeles Academy Middle School Library

644 E. 56th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90011
(323) 232-7820

DTSC Regional Records Office

1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
Contact: Jone Barrio, (818) 551-2886

More detailed information on how soil vapor extraction systems operate can be found at this website: <http://sve.ucdavis.edu/index.htm>.

Project Contacts

If you have any questions about the workplan or other project activities, please call the following persons at our agency:

Ms. Jennifer Jones
DTSC Project Manager
(818) 551-2973
Email – jjones@dtsc.ca.gov

Ms. Treva Miller
Public Participation Specialist
(818) 551-2846
Email – tmiller@dtsc.ca.gov

For media questions, please call Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176, or email JGarcia@dtsc.ca.gov. *Si desea información en español, comuníquese con el: Sr. Jesús Cruz, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (818) 551-2875.* For more information about DTSC, see our Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions about the groundwater investigation work schedule or activities, please contact Thomas Watson, Project Manager, Los Angeles Unified School District, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, at (213) 633-8242.

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach Treva Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846.