

New Laura G. Rodriguez Elementary School Site San Diego, California



Additional Environmental Investigation and Removal Action Update

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



INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet provides an **update** on the environmental investigations and removal actions underway at the new Laura G. Rodriguez Elementary School site located on the corner of 32nd Street and Greely Avenue in the Logan Heights Community of San Diego.

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) conducted environmental investigations and soil removal at the new school site under the oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

WHAT'S NEW

During the removal action activities, glass and miscellaneous debris with lead contamination was found on a larger area than originally estimated during the investigation. To date, approximately 2,500 cubic yards of soil has been removed. An anticipated 50-100 cubic yards of soil is expected to be removed by the end of May 2005.

Once the soil is removed, confirmation samples will be collected to ensure cleanup goals are met.

SITE DESCRIPTION

This approximately 6.5 acres site is currently vacant. The site is located between Martin Avenue to the north, an alley to the south (situated between Greely and Logan Avenues) and bounded by 31st Street on the west and 32nd Street on the east in San Diego, California.

Prior to acquiring the property and demolishing on-site buildings, the site consisted of single- and multi-family residential parcels, vacant property, and learning center. See map (Page 3).

SITE INVESTIGATION

SDUSD has completed the following environmental investigations:

- Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA)
- Supplemental Site Investigation (SSI)
- Removal Action Workplan (RAW)
- Additional Investigations

The PEA and SSI were conducted for portions of the site owned by SDUSD at the time of the investigation. Following is a summary of the environmental investigations:

PEA (URS, November 11, 2002)

Results of the human health screening evaluation completed as part of the PEA indicated that arsenic and lead detected in soil samples pose a potential health risk.

Based on the PEA, further investigation was conducted to assess potential impacts associated with: lead from lead-based paint, arsenic, landfill gases migrating from the suspected former dumpsite, and dioxins and furans from the former incinerator.

SSI (URS, June 25, 2003)

During the SSI, areas where elevated concentrations of lead and arsenic were detected during the PEA were further investigated.

Based on the findings of the SSI, DTSC required SDUSD to clean the site where soil concentrations were greater than 255 mg/kg of lead and 7mg/kg of arsenic.

RAW (URS, July 30, 2003)

Prior to initiating soil cleanup activities at the site, SDUSD prepared a RAW. The RAW outlines the cleanup activities (control measures, air monitoring, and transportation plan) necessary to remove an estimated 363 cubic yards of metal-contaminated soils.

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATIONS (June 2004- March 2005)

To address community concerns an additional environmental investigation was conducted to confirm previous environmental findings. Soil samples were collected south of Greely Avenue in the vicinity of former structures, a former incinerator, fill material and areas of loose fill and debris. The conclusions of this investigation supported previous findings.

During the soil removal, additional soil samples were collected to evaluate elevated metals concentrations. Based on the results, the estimated soil removal was increased to 500 cubic yards.

Residential properties acquired by SDUSD since the preparation of the RAW were assessed for potential impacts from the weathering of lead-based paint from residential structures. Analytical results indicated that elevated concentrations of lead existed that would require additional soil to be removed. As a result, an additional 2,000 cubic yards of soil have been removed.

Confirmation samples from the soil removal as well as visible pockets of debris indicate that contamination on site comes from lead based paint from buildings and potentially historical residential dumping on the properties.

SAFETY AND DUST CONTROL DURING CLEANUP

The soil will continue to be removed in manner consistent with the RAW. SDUSD will implement the following to ensure safety and minimize the impact of dust generated during the cleanup:

- Access to the site will be restricted to authorized personnel
- Where necessary, wind screens will be attached to the temporary fencing prior to start of the onsite activities.
- During excavation activities, work hours will be limited to reduce impacts to local traffic.
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the site.
- The excavated soils/materials will be loaded into transport trucks and the trucks will be covered.
- The work areas will be lightly sprayed or misted with clean water to control dust
- Water will be sprayed on soil after it is loaded into the trucks to further control dust
- 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 stockpiled soil that may have to be left on site prior to transporting it off-site.

Once the removal is complete, a Removal Action Completion Report will be prepared by SDUSD for DTSC review and approval. DTSC will review the document, certify the site and provide approval for SDUSD to move forward with the construction.

For More Information

If you have questions regarding the DTSC environmental investigation, please contact:

Laura Zarembo, DTSC Project Manager, at (818) 551-2183

Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2917

Jeanne Garcia, Media Contact, at (818) 551-2176

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con:

Mr. Javier Hinojosa, Branch Chief at (818) 551-2172

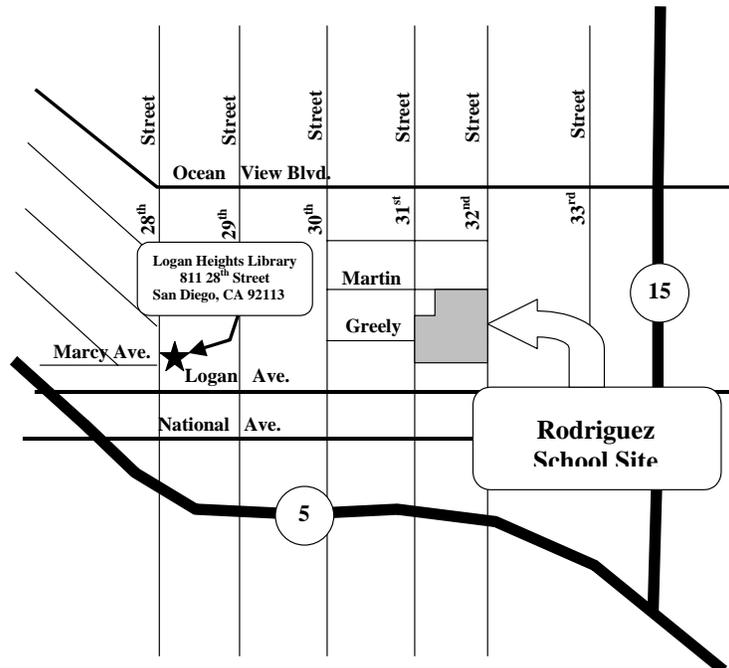
SDUSD Contact:

Jim Bray, Civil/Environmental Engineering Coordinator, at (858) 573-5773

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

<p>Logan Heights Branch Library 811 South 28th Street San Diego, CA 92113 Phone: (619) 533-3968 Hours: Monday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Tues, Thursday, Friday, & Sat 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Department of Toxic Substances Control Regional Records Office 1011 North Grandview Ave. Glendale, California 91201 Contact: Jone Barrio Phone: (818) 551-2886 Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 pm., M - F</p>	<p>San Diego Unified School District Facilities Management Maintenance and Operations Center 4860 Ruffner Street San Diego, CA 92111-1522 Contact: Jim Bray Phone: (858) 573-5773 Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. M.-F.</p>
---	---	--

S I T E L O C A T I O N M A P



Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the Site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD) or by calling Ms. Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2917.