

*Preventing environmental damage from hazardous waste, and restoring contaminated sites for all Californians.*



State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control



# Public Involvement

FACT SHEET, May 2005

## The Proposed Cleanup Plan For Pittman Elementary School Site Is Available For Review

The Stockton Unified School District is proposing to build a new school, Pittman Elementary School located at 701 East Park Street, Stockton, California 95202. During the site investigation for the site, soil containing lead-based paint residue and pesticides (dieldrin) were found (**see site map on page two**). When levels are found above the established standards, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requires school districts to clean up the soil to a safe level before building a school.

The school district has proposed a cleanup plan to remove the contaminated soil from the site. We encourage you to review and comment on the plan. The proposed cleanup plan, called a Draft Removal Action Workplan (Draft RAW), is available for your review at the information repositories listed on page four. If you have questions about this site, please contact Mr. Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-4369 or e-mail [Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov).

### This fact sheet will provide you:

- History and background of the site
- Findings of the investigation
- Proposed cleanup plan (Draft RAW)
- California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption
- Next Steps

### Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the Cleanup plan. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning **May 24, 2005** and ending **June 22, 2005**. All e-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5 p.m. on June 22, 2005. Mail written comments to:

Mr. Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
e-mail [Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov)



## History and background of the site

The 14 acre site was used as the State of California Insane Asylum from 1853 through the 1970's. It was known as the Stockton Developmental Center or the Stockton State Hospital when it was used as a mental health facility. The site was previously occupied by nine buildings ( Grant House, Delta Center, Rehabilitation Center, Sewage Pump Station and several houses). It is currently owned by California State University Stanislaus Stockton Multi-Campus (CSU). CSU took possession of the site in 1996, at which time some buildings were used for the CSU Stanislaus, Stockton Multi-Campus and others were leased to local organizations. As of May 2005, all buildings have been removed from the site.

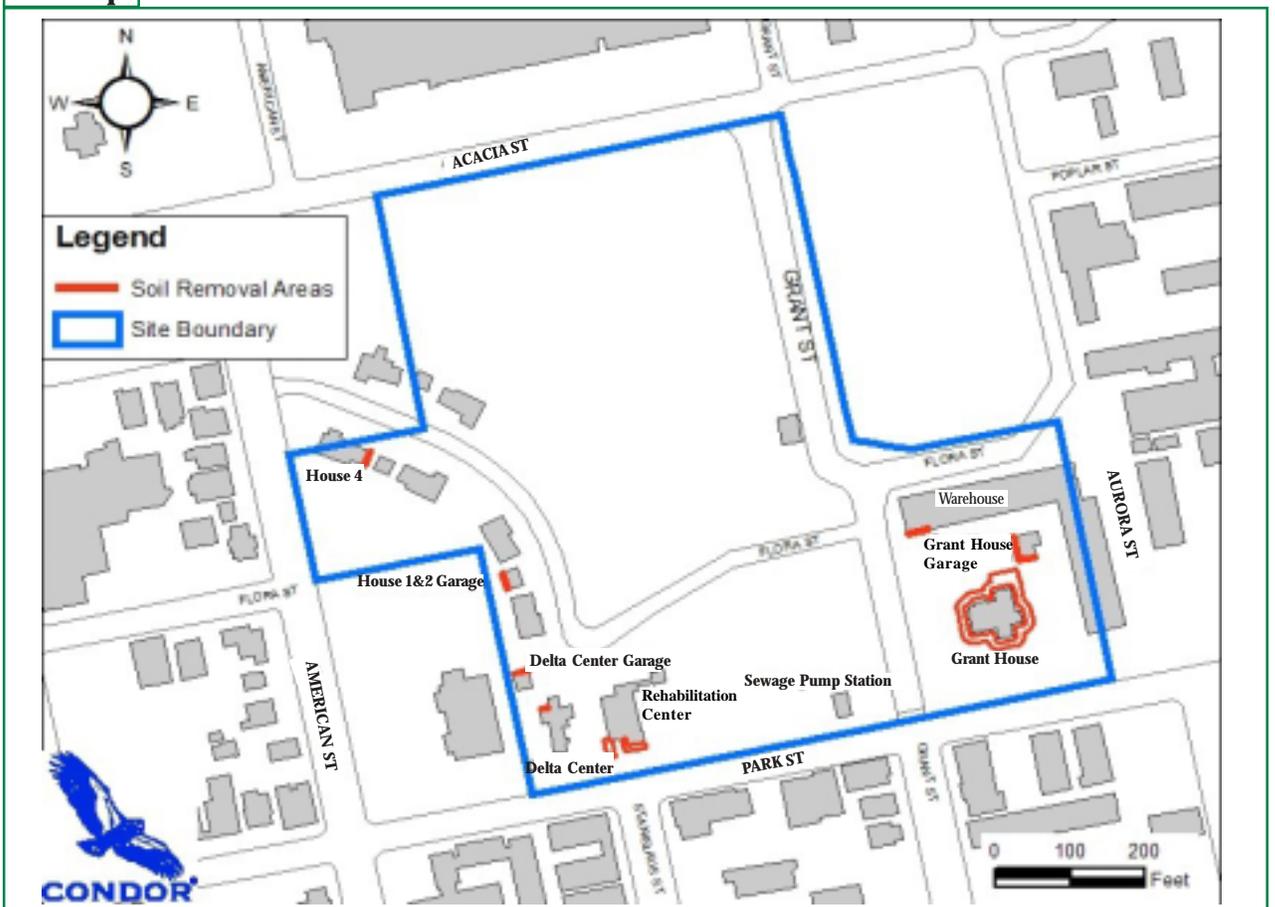
## Findings of the investigation

In August 2003, an environmental investigation was conducted to ensure the site was safe to build an elementary school. During the investigation, lead-based paint residue levels were found as high as 9,200 parts per million (ppm). It is likely that lead-based residue came from the walls and garages of the former Grant House, Delta Center and Rehabilitation Center. In addition, dieldrin was found as high as 0.078 ppm. Dieldrin was commonly used on crops, home lawns and gardens to control termites.

Children can get lead in their bodies from eating lead-based paint chips or from playing in soil containing lead. Children can get dieldrin in their bodies through ingestion of soil, direct contact with soil, or inhalation of dust containing dieldrin.

Because the elevated levels pose a potential threat to human health and the environment, DTSC is requiring the school district cleanup the lead to a level of 255 ppm and the dieldrin to 0.045 ppm before building the school.

### Site Map



## Cleanup Plan

The primary objective of the cleanup is to prevent or reduce potential risks to public health and the environment. The Cleanup Plan summarizes previous studies, outlines available cleanup activities and proposes removal options. Cleanup alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement and cost.

DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 30-day public comment period before making final decision to approve or deny the proposed cleanup activities.

## Proposed cleanup method

- Remove approximately 600 cubic yards (60 truckloads) of soil containing lead-based paint residue and dieldrin.
- Transport contaminated soil, using a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor, to a State-licensed disposal facility
- Backfill with clean imported soil, if necessary

## Cleanup activity

If the plan is approved, you can expect to see the following cleanup activities for approximately four days:

- Personnel using standard Front End Loader Tractor machinery and safety gear
- Stockpiled contaminated soil on site
- Stockpiles covered with tarps to protect them from wind and rain
- Covered trucks removing soil from the site to a State-licensed landfill
- Airborne dust monitoring

## Dust suppression

Dust Control measures, including water spraying, will reduce dust during the cleanup activities. Airborne dust monitoring will ensure that efforts to reduce dust are working. Before leaving the site, truck tires will be cleaned and soil containing lead-based paint residue and pesticides will be covered with tarps so that soil will not spill out of the trucks while they are on the road.



*Example of a Front End Loader Tractor*

## Fencing

The areas where the digging will occur will be secured with fencing so that unauthorized personnel cannot enter the work area.

## Truck route

A variety of truck types will be used to remove contaminated soil from the site on an as needed basis. Trucks will travel between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Trucks exiting the site will:

- Exit on Grant Street and travel one block west to Stanislaus Street, then proceed south onto Highway 4
- Proceed westbound on Highway 4, then merge onto Interstate 5 heading southbound to Kettleman City in Kings County

## California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. The Draft NOE states that the project will not have effects on the environment or human health because of the relatively small volume of soil, the short duration of the cleanup, and the controls in place during the excavation of soil containing lead-based paint residue and pesticides.

### **Next steps**

Confirmation sampling of the soil will be conducted after the removal to verify that the contaminated soil has been properly removed and that the site is safe for a school.

DTSC will prepare a “Response to Comments” at the completion of the 30-day public comment period. Anyone who submits comments regarding the cleanup activities will receive DTSC’s “Response to Comments.” Additionally, a copy of the “Response to Comments” will be placed in the information repositories.

### **For More Information**

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have.

For questions regarding the Cleanup Plan, please contact Mr. Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-4369.

For questions regarding the public participation process, contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC, Public Participation Specialist at (916) 255-3651.

For media questions, please contact Ms. Lisa Gray, DTSC Public Information Officer at (916) 324-0936.

## **Information Repositories**

The Draft RAW and other related documents may be viewed at the following locations:

### **City of Stockton’s Caesar Chavez Central Library**

605 N El Dorado Street  
Stockton, California 95202  
(209) 937-8415

### **Stockton Unified School District**

701 N. Madison  
Stockton, California 95202  
(209) 933-7000

### **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826

File Room:

Monday-Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
By appointment only (916) 255-3758

### **Notice to the Hearing Impaired Individuals**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 and ask to speak with Ms. Kim Rhodes at (916) 255-3651.