

*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, June 2005

## The Proposed Cleanup Plan For Plum Valley Elementary School Site Is Available For Your Review

The Plum Valley School District (PVSD) is proposing to build a new school, Plum Valley Elementary School (Site) located on Plum Creek Road in Paynes Creek, California. During the site investigation, soil containing lead and arsenic was found on the Site (**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 PVSD has proposed a Cleanup Plan to remove the contaminated soil from the Site. 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 Ms. Kamili Siglowide, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-6527 or e-mail [Ksiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Ksiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov).

### This fact sheet will provide you:

- History and background of the site
- Findings of the investigations
- 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 **June 2, 2005** and ending **July 1, 2005**. All e-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5 p.m. on July 1, 2005. Mail written comments to:

Ms. Kamili Siglowide, Project Manager  
Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
or e-mail [Ksiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Ksiglowi@dtsc.ca.gov)



### History and background of the site

The Site is approximately 8.16 acres and is located in the southwest corner of a 74 acre parcel. There have been no structures on the Site since the 1960's, and it is currently used for livestock grazing.

### Findings of the investigations

An environmental investigation was conducted from May through June 2004 to ensure that the Site was safe for a new elementary school. During the investigation, arsenic and lead were found in a burned debris pile located on the southern end of the Site. Arsenic was detected as high as 160 parts per million (ppm) and lead as high as 980 ppm. The Site cleanup goal for arsenic is 10 ppm and the cleanup goal for lead is 255 ppm.

Children can get lead and arsenic in their bodies by eating foods, drinking water, breathing air or playing in soil or burned debris piles containing lead and arsenic.

Because the elevated levels pose a potential threat to human health and the environment, DTSC recommends the soil be removed before building the school.

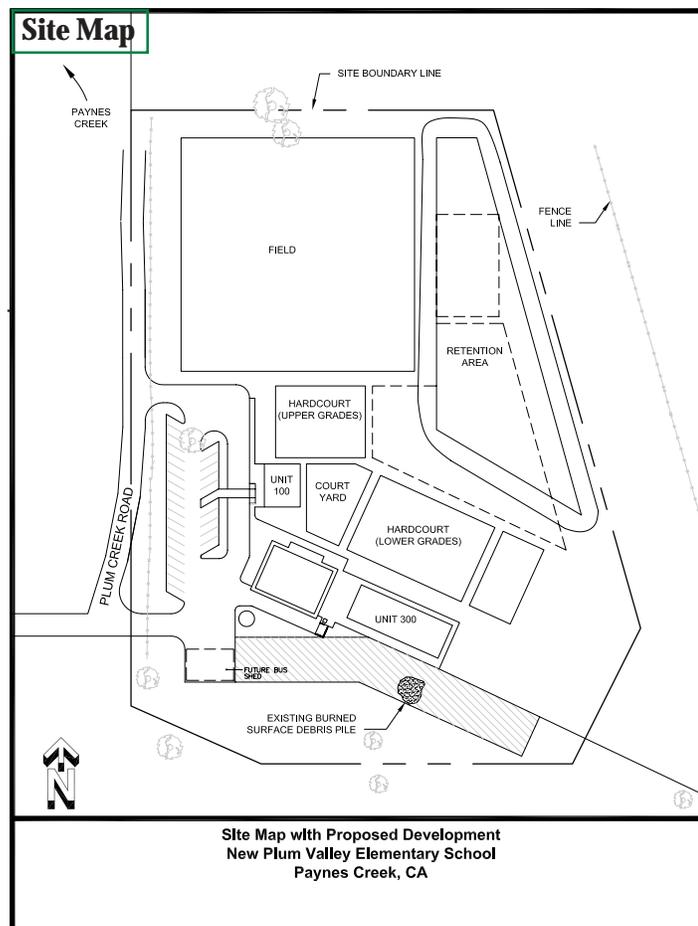
### Cleanup Plan (Draft RAW)

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 a final decision to approve or deny the proposed cleanup activities.

### Proposed cleanup method

- Remove approximately 12 cubic yards (1 or 2 truckloads) of soil containing lead and arsenic.
- Transport soil containing lead and arsenic, 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 10 days:

- Personnel using standard Front End Loader Tractor machinery and safety gear
- Stockpiled contaminated soil on site
- Stockpiles underlined and covered with tarps to reduce further spread of contamination from wind and rain while confirmation samples are collected
- 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 and arsenic will be covered with tarps so that soil will not spill out of the trucks while they are on the road.

### **Fencing**

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

### **Truck route**

Equipment such as transfer trucks or dump trucks will be used to haul contaminated soil from the site on an as needed basis. Trucks will travel between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Trucks exiting the Site will:

- Exit on Plum Creek road and proceed north onto Highway 36.
- Travel west on Highway 36 then merge onto Interstate 5 and proceed to Altamond Landfill Facility located in Livermore, California.



*Example of a Front End Loader*

### **California Environmental Quality Act - Draft Notice of Exemption**

DTSC has prepared a Draft 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 the soil containing lead and arsenic.

### **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 to build 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 Ms. Kamili Siglowide, DTSC Project Manager at (916) 255-6527.

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

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

**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.

**Information Repositories**

**The Draft RAW and NOE can be reviewed at the following locations:**

**The Paynes Creek Post Office  
(Original Paynes Creek Store)**

29791 Paynes Creek Loop  
Paynes Creek, California 96075  
(530) 597-2296.

**Plum Valley School District**

29840 Plum Creek Road  
Paynes Creek, California 96075  
(530) 597-2890

**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