

Fact Sheet
November
2003

Public Comment Period Ramblewood Park Elementary School Draft Removal Action Workplan



San Jose, California

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



WHY AM I RECEIVING THIS FACT SHEET?

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and Franklin-McKinley School District (FMSD) are providing this fact sheet to inform nearby residences of the public comment period for the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) of Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) for the proposed Ramblewood Park Elementary School Site (Site) bounded by Dundale Drive, Lightland Road, Kinsule Court, and Highway 101 in San Jose, California.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE RAMBLEWOOD PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITE?

Based on historic aerial photographs, the western portion of the Site was planted with orchards as early as 1960 and remained orchards until the late 1970s/early 1980s. In the early 1960s, the eastern portion of the Site appeared developed with several structures, likely barns and homes. In the 1970s, the eastern portion of the Site appeared to be used for livestock.

The Ramblewood Park Elementary School will include approximately 29,000 square feet of classrooms, school facilities, administrative offices, and a parking lot for staff. The proposed Site is a 4.08 acre lot adjacent to the Ramblewood Park on the west. The FMSD indicates that the district can expect up to approximately 350 students transferring to the new elementary school by the 2005-06 school year.

30-Day Public Comment Period

DTSC invites your comments and questions about the proposed cleanup actions described in the Draft RAW. DTSC will conduct a 30-day Comment Period starting on November 19, 2003 and ending on December 18, 2003.

DTSC encourages the public to review and comment on the Draft RAW being proposed.

Mail written comments to:

Mr. Joe Hwang,
DTSC, Project Manager
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

or

via e-mail at
Jhwong@dtsc.ca.gov.

All mail must be postmarked by **5:00 p.m.** on December 18, 2003. Emailed comments must be sent to DTSC no later than **5:00 p.m.** on the same date.

A public meeting will be held if there is significant interest or if one is requested. You may contact Kim Rhodes, Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3651 or e-mail Krhodes1@dtsc.ca.gov, to request a public meeting.

WHY IS THE SITE BEING ADDRESSED NOW?

In order to build a school at the Site, FMSD first had to address any potential environmental conditions at the proposed site. In March 2002, FMSD conducted an investigation to determine whether current or past activities at the Site impacted the environment. During the investigation, detections of NOA were found in the existing serpentine bedrock material at the site.

In August 2003, FMSD entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC which stated that FMSD would conduct an investigation and cleanup the Site and DTSC would provide regulatory oversight. DTSC determined that a response action was needed in order to reduce or minimize exposure of NOA for the site to be used as a school. FMSD and their environmental contractor developed a Draft RAW to outline methods used for the remedy and containment of the NOA at the Site.

WHAT IS NATURALLY OCCURRING ASBESTOS?

Asbestos is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a known human carcinogen. Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been found in rocks with serpentine minerals, in some soapstone (talc), and in association with faults. NOA has been identified as a potential health hazard. No amphibole asbestos such as tremolite has been identified at this Site. The primary pathway for asbestos is the inhalation of dust containing asbestos fibers.

WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED IN THE DRAFT RAW?

The Draft RAW for Ramblewood Park Elementary School site is a response action plan that summarizes the proposed remedy and cleanup activities at the site. DTSC recommends the removal of approximately 29,000 cubic yards of asbestos containing soil and rock, and transportation of the material to an off-site disposal facility. Following the excavation, a 3-foot cap of clean imported soil will be placed across the entire Site, excluding the park area.

Before DTSC approves, denies, or amends the Draft RAW, it is made available for public review and comment during a 30-day public comment period. All comments received during the comment period are considered by DTSC before making a final decision. Once a decision has been made, a "Response To Comments" document is made available to those who submitted comments, anyone requesting a copy, and to all of the information repositories that have been established for this Site. The Response to Comments addresses all of the comments received by DTSC.

In addition to the Draft RAW, this project is being evaluated under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed response action option outlined in the Draft RAW is considered exempt from CEQA because it will not impact the environment. The CEQA Notice of Exemption is also available for public review and copies can be found at the information repositories established for this Site.

WHAT WILL I SEE DURING CONSTRUCTION?

During the earthwork construction process, you will see personnel on the Site operating various heavy equipment including: bulldozers, scrapers, excavators, compactors, and water trucks. Earthwork will consist primarily of cutting into the hillside to create flat areas suitable for buildings and parking lots.

The excavated material will be loaded directly onto trucks without stockpiling. Approximately, 50 trucks per day will transport contaminated soil and rocks to the landfill for approximately 30 days. The contaminated soil and rocks will be shipped by a licensed and insured waste hauler in tarped-covered trucks under proper shipping documents to an approved Class 3 landfill for disposal. The wheels of all vehicles that have driven on the soil will be washed at special areas on the site before leaving the site to prevent tracking of soil containing NOA onto surrounding roadways.

Dust will be controlled by spraying water on all excavation and fill surfaces during construction. Air monitoring will be performed on both on-Site personnel and along the perimeter of the Site to

ensure that exposure to NOA is maintained at or below allowable levels.

Transportation will be on major streets and freeways to minimize impact on local streets and timed to avoid traffic rush hours. The trucks will exit the Site and travel southwest on Lightland Road, turn left on McLaughlin Avenue, turn left onto Yerba Buena Road, and merge onto Highway 101 southbound. The trucks will then proceed southbound on Highway 101 to the Coyote Creek Golf Drive exit. The trucks will then proceed eastbound on Coyote Creek Golf Drive and continue to the landfill.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

After DTSC determines that the removal action is complete, DTSC will approve and certify the Site for use of a school. FMSD can complete construction and develop the Site for a school.

GLOSSARY

Asbestos - Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral and a known human carcinogen as classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) - A plan of activities taken at a site to address a known or potential environment problem.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE DOCUMENTS?

Information Repositories

The Draft RAW and other documents for Ramblewood Park Elementary School are available for review at the following locations:

Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Mr. Joe Hwong, Project Manager
(714) 484-5406
Email: Jhwong@dtsc.ca.gov

Franklin-McKinley School District

645 Wool Creek Drive
San Jose, California 95112
(408) 283-6076
Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Seventrees Branch Library

3597 Cas Drive
San Jose, California 95111
(408) 629-4535
Mon-Tue 12:00-9:00
Wed-Sat 9:00-6:00

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information or have questions on the Draft RAW, please contact Mr. Joe Hwong, DTSC, Project Manager, at (714) 484-5406. For questions about the public participation process, contact Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC, Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3651. Members of the media should contact Ms. Angela Blanchette, DTSC, Public Information Officer, at (510) 540-3732.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

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

Mailing List Coupon

If you would like to be placed on or taken off the Site specific mailing list for Ramblewood Park Elementary School site, please take a moment to complete the information below and mail it to Ms. Kim Rhodes, DTSC, Public Participation Branch, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826.

Please place me on the distribution list for future materials related to this site.

Please remove my name from the distribution list.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: Fax Number: _____

E-Mail: _____

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records, and, if requested, may be subject to release.