

**Fact Sheet**  
**March 2004**

# Rosecrans Avenue K-8 School Paramount, California



## PLAN TO CLEANUP PROPOSED SCHOOL SITE

*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



Some chemical contamination was found in the soil during environmental investigations for the proposed Rosecrans Avenue K-8 School site (site). The site is located south of Rosecrans Avenue, east of Garfield Avenue, north of Richfield Street and west of the Southern California Edison transmission line easement, in Paramount, California, 90723.

In some areas chemicals were found in the soil above levels considered safe for the proposed school. As a result, the state Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), requested removal of the contaminated soil. Paramount Unified School District (PUSD) has prepared a site cleanup plan, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), that outlines how the site will be cleaned up. The site cleanup plan proposes to remove approximately 1,338 cubic yards (up to 134 truckloads) of soil from the site. You are invited to review and comment on this draft cleanup plan.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

March 22, 2004 – April 21, 2004

We invite you to provide us with your comments and questions about the soil removal plan for the Proposed Rosecrans Avenue K-8 School. The purpose of the public comment period is to give the community an opportunity to submit comments on the draft Removal Action Workplan.

DTSC may conduct a public meeting on the draft RAW during the comment period if there is significant community interest, or if one is requested. To request a public meeting or a briefing for a local group, please contact:

Treva Miller  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist at  
(818) 551-2846 or  
tmiller@dtsc.ca.gov

### **THIS FACT SHEET TELLS YOU**

This fact sheet will tell you about several issues:

- What we found
- Why it is not a risk to neighbors
- How chemicals got there
- How and why the site will be cleaned up
- How you can tell us what you think
- Who to contact for more information

The site cleanup will be conducted by the PUSD under the oversight of our state agency, the DTSC. PUSD is responsible for site selection, site cleanup and construction. Our agency's role is to oversee the cleanup to protect the public's health and the environment.

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## WHAT WE FOUND

The PUSD conducted a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (initial environmental investigation) and Supplemental Site Investigation at the approximately 7-acre site under DTSC oversight. They submitted the final report to DTSC in March 2004. Soil at the site was tested at several locations and depths. The investigations found chemicals in localized areas at levels that could pose a potential health risk including: Benzene (constituent of gasoline); Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH, gasoline, hydraulic and waste oils); Tetrachloroethylene (PCE, a cleaning solvent); and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs, constituent of hydraulic and transformer oil). There is no immediate risk to the surrounding community from the site contamination.

Based on these findings a site cleanup is being proposed to remove and reduce the risk posed by the chemicals in the soil on the school site. Once the contaminated soil is removed, the potential risk will be reduced to levels that will be safe for students and faculty. DTSC will oversee the removal action, and will ensure that the removal is performed in a manner that does not result in any harm to people or the environment.

## NOT A RISK TO NEIGHBORS

The contaminated soil is not an immediate risk to the people who work or live nearby. The soil was, until very recently, covered with a paved surface. The paved surface worked as a protective barrier between the chemicals and the public. Currently, the site is fenced, and inaccessible to the public. As such, contaminated areas on the site do not pose an immediate risk to the public.

Also, another document, called a Notice of Exemption, (NOE) has also been prepared for this project. The NOE explains why the proposed cleanup will not have a harmful effect on the environment.

## HOW THE CHEMICALS GOT THERE AND WHY WE NEED A CLEANUP

Portions of the site have been used for a variety of residential, agricultural/dairy, industrial and commercial uses since the early 1900s. As a result of

the historical activities on this site, soil contamination occurs in localized areas from 2 to 21 feet below ground surface. The chemicals on the site came from the commercial and industrial (light manufacturing) activities performed on the site. PCE is likely a result of cleaning solvents, PCBs possibly came from transformers formerly located on the site and fill materials. The petroleum hydrocarbons, along with the other onsite contaminants, most likely came from hydraulic oils associated with the former light manufacturing uses.

Cleanup is necessary to eliminate the potential for future contact with contamination should current conditions change (For example: contamination brought to the surface during grading and/or excavation for construction purposes). Consequently, DTSC requested PUSD to prepare a RAW to remove the contaminated soil.

## CLEANUP OPTIONS

Several cleanup options were evaluated including: No Action, Treatment, Institutional Controls and Onsite Containment (capping) and Excavation and Disposal. Protection of human health and the environment was the most important factor considered.

Any cleanup plan has to protect public health and the environment, have a reasonable cost, and be shared with the community. We think the best plan that meets these goals is Excavation and Disposal. The preferred cleanup option was selected because it was determined to be effective, feasible, permanent and have a reasonable cost.

## HOW THE SITE WILL BE CLEANED UP

The RAW proposes to remove the contaminated soil by excavating to a depth ranging from 2 to 21 feet in localized areas and transporting the soil to a state approved disposal facility. In order to meet DTSC approved cleanup targets, approximately 1,338 cubic yards of contaminated soil needs to be removed and transported for disposal. Once the contaminated soil is removed, sampling will be conducted to confirm that no contaminants are left onsite. Thereafter, clean soil will be used to fill the holes and cover the areas.

PUSD will conduct the soil removal Monday through Saturday between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. The cleanup will take place over period of approximately one month. The removal action will include digging out the soil, transporting it, follow-up confirmation soil sampling and analysis. If the RAW is approved, fieldwork for the removal action is proposed to start in early May 2004. Although this is the cleanup being proposed, we would very much like to hear your thoughts and comments (see Comment Form).

## **DEALING WITH SAFETY AND DUST DURING CLEANUP**

If the cleanup plan is approved as written, some noise from the earth-moving equipment can be expected during the removal. We will try to keep this distraction to a minimum. No traffic delays are expected while the trucks are driving to and from the site. The trucks will exit on Rosecrans Avenue and travel west directly to the 710 freeway for the landfill disposal facility. Trucks with material requiring thermal treatment will exit on east on Rosecrans Avenue and travel north on Garfield to the westbound 105 freeway. Here are some of the actions PUSD will take to ensure safety on the site and minimize the impact of dust during the cleanup action:

- Removal area will be fenced off.
- Fence covered with tarp to control dust and mitigate noise.
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the property.
- Air monitoring will be conducted to measure the dust levels during excavation.
- Area will be lightly sprayed or misted with clean water.
- Water mist will be sprayed on soil loaded into the transport trucks.
- Trucks will be secured with covers as they leave the site.
- Plastic sheets will cover the piles of soil during non-working hours.

## **TELL US WHAT YOU THINK**

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan. A 30-day

Public Comment period begins on March 22, 2004. During this time you can review and send comments to us regarding your questions and thoughts about the proposed cleanup option. Your comments must be postmarked no later than April 21, 2004. Send comments to: Ms. Angela Ortega, DTSC Project Manager, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630. All comments received during the comment period are considered by DTSC before making a final decision on approving, amending or denying the RAW. Once a decision has been made a "Response to Comments" document will be sent to those who submitted comments, or questions.

## **WHERE TO FIND SITE DOCUMENTS (Technical Reports)**

The proposed cleanup plan is described in detail in the Draft Removal Action Workplan for Rosecrans Avenue K-8 School. This document also describes how we looked at the possible health risks. All documents about this site are available for your review at the following locations:

### **Paramount Public Library**

16254 Colorado Avenue  
Paramount, CA 90723-5010

Phone: (562) 630-3171

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday,

Monday – Closed

### **Paramount Unified School District**

Business Services Office  
15110 S. California Avenue  
Paramount, CA 90723

Contact: Michael Bishop

Phone: (562) 602-6025

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### **Wesley Gaines K-8 School**

7340 E. Jackson Street  
Paramount, CA 90726

Phone: (562) 602-6962

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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

Regional Records Office

5796 Corporate Avenue Cypress, CA 90630

Contact: Julie Johnson  
Phone: (714) 484-5337  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

## WHO TO CALL FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the cleanup project or cleanup activities, please call the following persons at our agency: Ms. Treva Miller, Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846; or Ms. Angela Ortega, DTSC Project Manager, at (714) 484-5490. For media inquiries, please contact DTSC Public In-

formation Officer Jeanne Garcia at (818) 551-2176. For more information about the DTSC, please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

If you have any questions about the cleanup work schedule or onsite cleanup activities, please call Mr. Michael Bishop, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services, at (506) 602-6025.

## NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

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

## Rosecrans Avenue K-8 School Site Site Location



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