



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

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



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, November 2007

Soil Cleanup Plan for Proposed South Region Elementary School #7 Available for Review

A draft plan to remove soil contaminated with lead, organochlorine pesticides (OCPs), and poly aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) at the **proposed South Region Elementary School #7** is open for public review and comment. The draft plan, called a Removal Action Workplan, or RAW, was submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The site is located on the northeast corner of Compton Avenue and East 90th Street in Los Angeles, California.

Why Cleanup is Necessary

There is **no** immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, because exposure to elevated levels of lead, organochlorine pesticides (OCPs), and poly aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) contamination could cause adverse health effects, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) recommended the school district prepare a cleanup plan that ensures that students and staff are not exposed to the contaminated soil. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will make certain it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup
- Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

November 15, 2007 to December 17, 2007

The Draft RAW and other related project documents for this school site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. We will make a final decision on the RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope **postmarked by December 17, 2007**; or by email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Tim Chauvel, Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
tchauvel@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Javier Hinojosa al (818) 551-2172



Lead occurs naturally in Southern California soils. In addition, lead is used in various manufacturing processes and was used in paint until 1978, when federal laws changed to restrict its use. The elevated levels found at this site may have resulted from the use of lead-based paint on the buildings. The sources of OCPs may be due to the historical application of termiticides used to exterminate termites in wooden structures. The source of PAHs is believed to be from auto repair activities in the alley at the site.

History and Operations at the Site

The proposed site includes approximately 5.08 total acres, approximately 0.35 acres of which is from street and alley properties. The site is bordered by East 89th Street to the north, residences to the east, East 90th Street to the south, and Compton Avenue to the west. The site is currently occupied by 24 parcels: 17 single family residential parcels, five multi-family residential parcels, and two commercial parcels. Businesses that previously operated at the site include cleaners, a metal products manufacturer, a machine shop, a market, and a restaurant.

Environmental Investigations

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2006. The investigations found that 15 properties had elevated levels of lead and OCPs; and one location had elevated levels of PAHs.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following four cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Further Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and Onsite Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal

Based on careful analysis of the options, Excavation and Offsite Disposal is recommended because it protects human health and the environment, is permanent and has a reasonable cost. Details of the removal action alternatives are listed in Section 4 of the Draft RAW.

Proposed Plan

If Alternative 4 is selected, the contaminated soil will be dug out using a backhoe, bulldozer, shovels or other types of earth moving equipment, as necessary to depths of up to five feet below ground surface. The soil will be either temporarily stockpiled or loaded directly onto trucks. About 361 cubic yards (or about 541 tons) of contaminated soil will be removed and taken off-site for disposal at a State approved/licensed facility. After the contaminated soil is removed, confirmation soil samples will be taken to verify that the clean up goals are met. The cleanup process is expected to take about eight days.

Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installing temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Brushing tires of trucks entering and exiting the site to remove soils and debris
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Transportation Route for Work Trucks

About 28 truckloads will be used to remove the contaminated soil from the site. Excavation will be conducted between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Trucks will enter the site from E. 89th Street. To minimize potential impacts on the local neighborhood, trucks will leave the site going west on E. 89th Street, then proceed north on Compton Avenue, then west on Firestone Boulevard, and enter the 110 Freeway north.

California Environmental Quality Act

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a

significant negative effect on human health and the environment because of short duration, relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, and the controlled way in which the contaminated soils will be dug out, loaded onto trucks and taken away to an approved/permitted facility for lawful disposal.

Next Steps

At the close of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review and consider all public comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments Document will be mailed to anyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address. The soil removal is expected to begin in December 2007. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct soil testing to confirm cleanup goals have been reached and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find Site Documents

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed South Region Elementary School #7 site are available for review at the following locations:

Ascot Branch Library

Reference Desk
120 West Florence Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90003
Phone: (323) 759-4817

96th Street Elementary School

Main Office
1471 East 96th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90002
Phone: (323) 567-8871

Russell Elementary School

Main Office
1263 East Firestone Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90001
Phone: (323) 582-7247

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630

Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Please contact the records coordinators at (714) 484-5337 or (714) 484-5336 for an appointment.

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1055 W. 7th Street, 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017

Contact: Joe Sevrean, (213) 893-7421
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

The documents are also available online at the LAUSD web site: www.laschools.org/find-a-school

Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact:

Amit Pathak
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5468
apathak@dtsc.ca.gov

Tim Chauvel
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5487 or toll free 1-866-495-5651, press option 4
tchauvel@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 8775378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Tim Chauvel at (714) 484-5487 regarding the South Region Elementary School #7 project.

For more information about DTSC, please visit our Web site at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public

