



DEPARTMENT OF
TOXIC SUBSTANCES
CONTROL

*The mission of the
Department of Toxic
Substances Control is
to provide the
highest level of safety,
and to protect public
health and the
environment from
toxic harm.*



State of California



Cal/EPA

Fact Sheet, July 2009

Cleanup Plan for Proposed South Region Elementary School #11 Available for Review

A draft plan to remove contaminated soil at the **proposed South Region Elementary School #11** site is available for public review and comment. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), organochlorine pesticides (OCPs), lead, and total petroleum hydrocarbons as carbon chain (TPH-cc) were found in the soil, and tetrachloroethene (PCE) was found in the soil gas above acceptable levels at the site which is located at 929 West 69th Street in Los Angeles. The Removal Action Workplan, or RAW, was submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for review and approval by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil, since the contaminants are located underground beneath concrete, asphalt, or landscape. Long-term exposure, however, to elevated levels of lead, VOCs, OCPs, TPH-cc, and PCE contamination can cause adverse health effects. In order to protect future students and staff of the new school, the DTSC recommended that the school district prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil prior to construction of the new school. The DTSC will oversee the cleanup that will take place and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

July 2, 2009 – August 1, 2009

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. The DTSC will make a final decision on the draft RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope postmarked **by August 1, 2009**; or by email before the deadline date to:

Jeanne Matsumoto, Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jeanne Garcia al (818) 717-6573



Lead-based paint and historical application of insecticides for termites are possible sources for the identified lead and OCPs around residential and commercial properties at the site. Sources of TPH and VOCs are likely caused by former activities at the car wash facility located onsite.

History and Operations at the Site

The proposed site is a 4.01-acre rectangular-shaped area consisting of 26 parcels, including single- and multi-family residential properties, a vacant lot, and commercial properties including a car wash, pre-school, truck parking lot, and an auto repair shop (*see map on page 4*). The site is bordered by West 68th Street to the north, South Vermont Avenue to the west, West 69th Street to the south, and Menlo Avenue to the east. The site has historically been mixed land use consisting of both residential and commercial properties.

Environmental Investigations

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2008. The investigations found elevated levels of lead, OCPs, VOCs, and TPH-cc in shallow soil and PCE in soil gas that require cleanup. During the investigations, elevated levels of contaminated soil were detected at depths up to approximately 18 feet below ground surface. Six properties (6801 and 6807 Menlo Avenue; 908, 922, and 928 West 68th Street; and 901 West 69th Street) could not be evaluated during the PEA investigation, therefore average soil removal volume was estimated for those remaining properties. Based on the results and recommendations of the investigations, DTSC has determined that cleanup is required at 25 of 26 parcels.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following four cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and On-site Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Off-site Disposal

Based on careful analysis, Alternative 4, Excavation and Offsite Disposal is recommended because it is protective of human health and the environment, is permanent, and has a reasonable cost. If this alternative is approved, an estimated 4,919 cubic yards (7,379 tons) of contaminated

soil will be removed. After the excavation is completed, clean imported fill or site soils will be used to replace the contaminated soil. The cleanup is expected to begin in the fall of 2009 and will take approximately 64 days to complete.

Safety & 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 and streets
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Brushing truck tires entering and exiting the site to remove soil and debris
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

If approved, about 340 truckloads will be used to remove the contaminated soil from the site. To minimize potential impacts on the local neighborhood, trucks will exit the site by traveling north on South Vermont Avenue, turning right onto West Gage Avenue, and taking the Harbor Freeway (I-110) north. The soil will be lawfully transported to a State-approved disposal facility.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In compliance with 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. This is due to the removal's short duration, its 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. A Response to Comments document will be mailed to anyone who makes a comment and provides

their name and address. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct confirmation soil sampling to verify cleanup goals have been met and then submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed South Region Elementary School #11 site are available for review at the following locations:

68th Street Elementary School

Main Office
612 West 68th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90044
Phone: (323) 753-2133

Loren Miller Elementary School

Main Office
830 West 77th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90044
Phone: (323) 268-1128

John Muir Branch Library

Reference Desk
1005 West 64th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90044
Phone: (323) 789-4800
Hours: Mon. & Wed.: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.: 12 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Fri. & Sat.: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sun.: Closed

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1055 W. 7th Street, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: Corey Jones, (213) 893-7460
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Site documents are also available online at the LAUSD web site:

www.laschools.org/find-a-school

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: (714) 484-5337, Julie Johnson for appointment
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Site documents are also available at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov for your review. A computer is available in the DTSC file room for your use.

Who to Contact for More Information

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

Aslam Shareef
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5308
ashareef@dtsc.ca.gov

Jeanne Matsumoto
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5338 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 717-6573
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

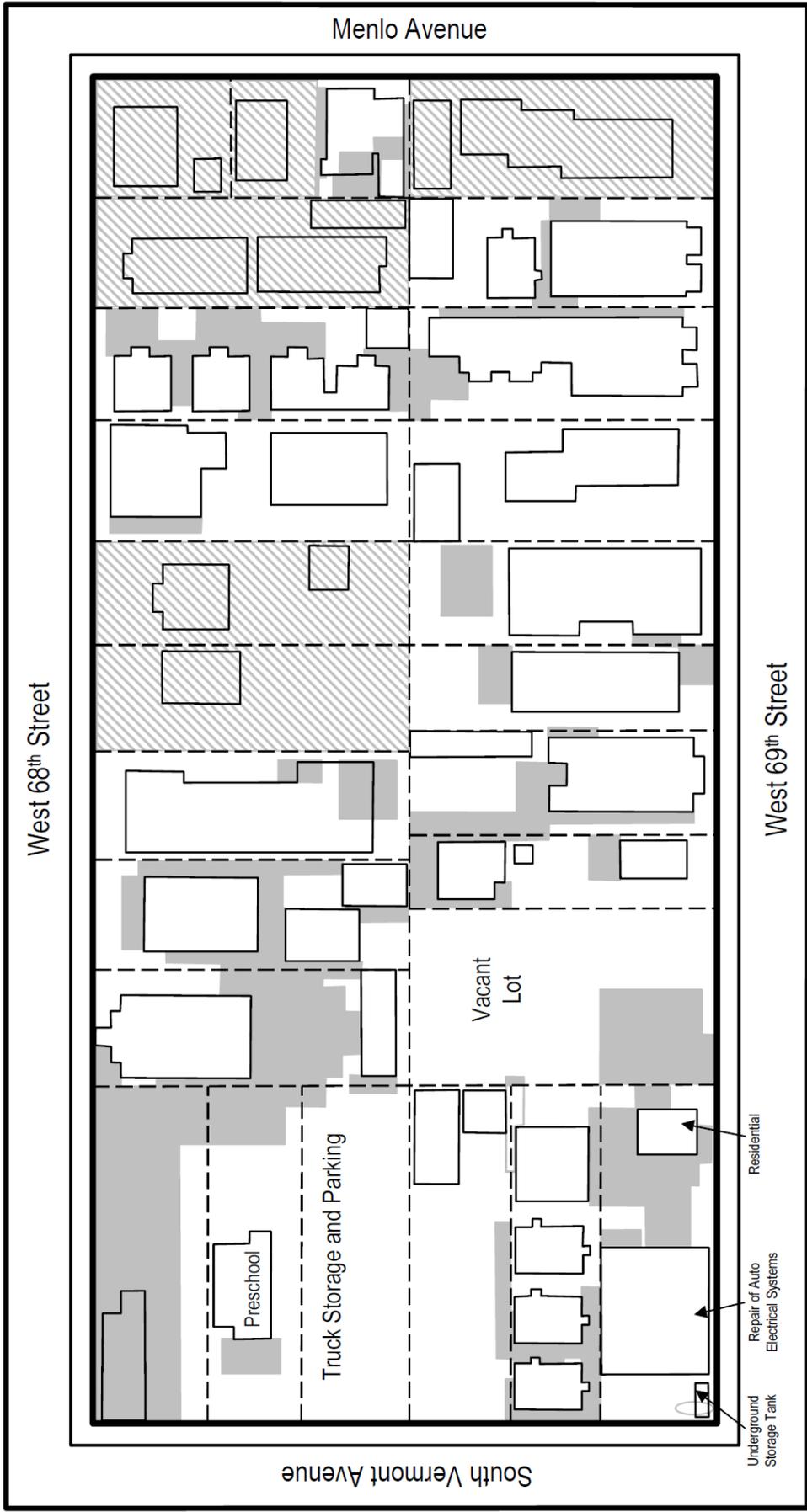
Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Jeanne Matsumoto at (714) 484-5338 regarding the project.

DTSC is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property.

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

Proposed South Region Elementary School #11



Legend

- Proposed School Site Boundary
- - - Existing Property Boundary
- Existing Building
- Former Gasoline Dispenser Island
- Proposed Soil Removal Area
- ▨ No Access Granted

North

Not to Scale