



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

Public Involvement, October 2006

The Draft Removal Action Workplan For The New Proposed Alex G Spanos Elementary School Is Available For Your Review

The Stockton Unified School District (SUSD) plans to build a new elementary school, known as Alex G Spanos Elementary School (Site) in Stockton, California. The site is bounded by East Church Street on the north, East Hazelton Street to the south, South California Street to the west, and South American Street to the east in the city of Stockton. (See site map on page 3 and 4.) The proposed new school will consist of 19 classrooms, a multi-purpose room, amphitheater, an administrative building, staff offices, and playground facilities. The school is planned to house up to approximately 450 students.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates sites 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.

During an investigation of the proposed school property, elevated levels of metals (primarily lead, with isolated areas of arsenic and mercury), PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyl's), and chemicals associated with motor oil (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons - PAHs) were found in the soil. SUSD submitted a draft Removal Action Workplan (draft RAW) to DTSC for review and approval. The draft RAW describes the investigation, contamination found, and proposed activities for cleanup of the site. The draft RAW is available for your review at the information repositories listed on page 4 of this fact sheet.

If you have questions about the draft RAW, please contact Mr. Jose Luevano, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-3577 or by e-mail at jluevano@dtsc.ca.gov.

Public Comment Period

We encourage you to review and comment on the draft RAW for the new Alex G. Spanos Elementary School Site. DTSC will hold a 30-day public comment period beginning October 20, 2006 and ending on November 20, 2006. All e-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5 p.m. on November 20, 2006. Please submit your written comments to:

Mr. Jose Luevano, DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
or by e-mail to jluevano@dtsc.ca.gov



This fact sheet provides you information about:

- Site History and Background
- Investigation Findings
- Summary of Proposed Draft Removal Action Workplan
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps for Cleanup

Site History and Background

The Site is just south of downtown Stockton. The Site consists of one city block with 20 adjoining parcels and covers 2.79 acres. Previous uses have included mixed residential and commercial properties since the 1870's. In August 2006, the city of Stockton gained ownership of all 20 parcels, at which time SUSD demolished all the structures on the proposed school site.

Investigation Findings

Site investigations were conducted between March 2006 and June 2006. Elevated levels of PCBs and PAHs were found in Site soils that could pose a threat to human health. Lead was found site-wide, while arsenic, mercury, PCBs and PAHs were found in isolated areas.

The total volume of impacted soil is estimated to be approximately 6,000 cubic yards. The chart below lists the chemicals, likely source, maximum levels detected and the DTSC required cleanup level.

Chemical of Concern	Likely Source of Chemical	Maximum Detected Level	DTSC Cleanup Level
Lead	Lead-based paint flaking from houses	5,500 ppm	255 ppm
Arsenic	Unknown,	27 ppm	4.8 ppm
Mercury	Miscellaneous items discarded in trash pits	24.12 ppm	2 ppm
PCBs	Power Transformer	0.081 ppm	0.046 ppm
PAHs (benzopyrene equivalents)	Motor oil and vehicle maintenance activities	0.79 ppm	0.019 ppm
ppm – parts per million			

Draft Removal Action Workplan

The draft RAW evaluates cleanup alternatives and identifies preferred alternatives for the proposed removal action that would prevent or reduce potential risks to public health and the environment. The draft RAW summarizes previous investigations and outlines available cleanup alternatives. Cleanup alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to be implemented and cost.

DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 30-day public comment period before making a final decision to approve, modify or disapprove the selected cleanup alternative.

Summary of Proposed Draft Removal Action Workplan

In addition to the excavation and removal of the confined and isolated «hotspots» for PCBs and arsenic, the RAW recommends excavating 18 inches of soil from the entire Site.

If the plan is approved, you may expect to see the following removal activities at the Site:

- Large equipment, such as excavators and backhoes, will be used to excavate and stockpile approximately 6,000 cubic yards (approximately 300-350 truckloads) of contaminated soils;
 - Stockpiled soils will be temporarily placed on heavy plastic sheeting at the Site until loaded on trucks;
 - During Site activities, soils will be lightly sprayed with water from water trucks to reduce or prevent dust;
 - Air monitoring will take place to protect workers; and
 - Field work activities will take approximately six weeks to complete.

Truck Route

Approximately 300 to 350 trucks will transport the contaminated soils to a State-licensed disposal facility. The trucks will be operated by a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor and will travel between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Trucks exiting the Site will:

- Exit onto South California Street heading north for two or three blocks depending on destination
- Trucks will take the Cross-town Freeway (Highway 4) west to I-5 South for Class I designated waste and Highway 4 to Highway 99 South for all other waste

Dust Suppression

Dust control measures, including water spraying, will reduce dust during the cleanup activities. Air and dust monitoring will be conducted and work stopped and corrective actions taken, if acceptable levels are exceeded. Before leaving the Site, truck tires will be cleaned.

Public Access

The area is fenced and there is restricted public access and no pedestrian traffic in the areas where removal action will take place.

California Environmental Quality Act - Notice of Exemption

DTSC evaluated any possible impacts of the Removal Action for this project, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. DTSC prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) which states that this removal action will not have significant impacts on the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review, along with other supporting documents.

Next Steps

If comments are received by the community, DTSC will prepare a «Response to Comments» at the completion of the 30-day public comment period. Anyone who submits comments regarding the proposed cleanup activities will receive a copy of the «Response to Comments.» Additionally, a copy of the «Response to Comments» will be placed in the information repositories. If comments are not received, DTSC will approve the RAW and it will be implemented as specified in the draft RAW.



