

**Fact Sheet  
June 2003**

**PUBLIC TO COMMENT ON THE DRAFT  
REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN AT  
STONEMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA**



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC  
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

**30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD**

*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 California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is providing this fact sheet to inform nearby residences of the public comment period for the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) being submitted by the Pittsburg Unified School District for the Stoneman Elementary School Site in Pittsburg, California. The 10.5 acre school site is located on Loveridge Road, between Stoneman Avenue and East Leland Road in Pittsburg.

**What this fact sheet tells you:**

- Overall site history and background
- What was found at the site
- What is the draft RAW
- Proposed cleanup remedy
- Future activities

**Overall site history and background**

During the construction of the Stoneman Elementary School in 1990, Sierra-Crete® was used as a base material beneath asphalt at the school bus turnaround lane and beneath portions of the parking lot and playground. Sierra-Crete® is a structural road-base material that was manufactured at the former DuPont facility located in Oakley, California, between the years 1988-1997. In early 2002 when it

**Public Review and  
30-Day Comment  
Period**

DTSC encourages the public to review and comment on the Draft RAW being proposed. DTSC will conduct a 30-day Public Comment Period which begins on Monday, June 16, 2003 and ends on Tuesday, July 15, 2003.

Mail written comments to: DTSC, Attn: Jennifer Jones, Project Manager, 1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201 or via e-mail at

[jjones@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jjones@dtsc.ca.gov). All mail must be postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2003. E-mailed comments must be sent to the Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on the same date.

DTSC may hold a public meeting for this project if there is significant public interest.

was discovered that Sierra-Crete® contained traces of dioxins, DuPont contacted DTSC, Contra Costa County Health Department, and the cities of Antioch, Oakley, and Pittsburg. A Human Health Risk Assessment was conducted and further investigation was determined to be needed. The Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) entered into a Voluntary Cleanup Agreement with DTSC and conducted a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA). In May 2003, PEA results based on conservative assumptions that Sierra-Crete® was uncovered and people exposed over long periods of time showed that the chemicals in Sierra-Crete® exceeded the DTSC health risk standards set up for school properties. As a result of these findings, the PEA concluded a RAW was needed to remove and eliminate the potential risks posed by Sierra-Crete®. However, it should be noted that Sierra-Crete® does not exist uncovered anywhere on the school property. Once the cleanup at the school takes place and the Sierra-Crete® is removed, the potential risk associated with this material is gone.

### **What was found at the site?**

The results of testing samples of Sierra-Crete® from beneath the pavement at the school by both PUSD and the County Health Department's Task Force indicated the presence of low levels of dioxins (237 picograms per gram) and several metals, including hexavalent chromium (286 milligrams per kilograms). Currently conditions at the school, where the Sierra-Crete® is covered, does not pose a health risk. However, based on the results of the PEA conservative (uncovered) evaluation, these levels were deemed to present a potential safety hazard if exposure was not prevented. PUSD determined, and DTSC agreed, that the Sierra-Crete® should be removed and any impacted subsoil be removed as well.

### **What is the Removal Action Workplan? (Proposed Cleanup Activities)**

The Draft RAW is a cleanup plan summarizing the proposed removal of the Sierra-Crete® and cleanup activities at the site. The following cleanup methods are proposed:

- The asphalt and underlying Sierra-Crete® will be removed from around the school bus turnaround lane, portions of the parking lot, and playground.
- Approximately 1700 cubic yards of material will be removed and transported to an approved disposal facility.
- Dust control measures will be implemented.
- Approximately 110 truck loads of material will be removed.
- The removal action will be completed in 21 days.

### **What will I see during the cleanup?**

You will see personnel on the site using standard backhoe machinery as well as safety gear. As the Sierra-Crete® is dug up, it will be direct-loaded onto trucks for transport and disposal. Any stockpiled material will be placed on plastic and immediately covered to prevent wind erosion or contact with rain. The removed material will be put on covered trucks and taken to the Keller Canyon Landfill in Pittsburg.

A low visibility/permeability windscreen will be installed around the perimeters of the excavation areas, and dust will be controlled by spraying water on the excavation areas. Air will be monitored for dust levels at the site perimeter and worker breathing zones.

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Trucks will leave the site to proceed north on Loveridge Road, west on California Avenue, west on the 4 Freeway and south on Bailey Road to the Keller Canyon Landfill.

## **Future Activities**

After the public comment period has ended, DTSC will review all comments received and make any relevant changes to the cleanup plan. At the same time DTSC accepts or denies the Draft RAW, anyone who submitted comments will receive DTSC's Response to Comments document. This document provides all of the comments submitted during the comment period and DTSC's response to those comments. A copy of the Response to Comments will be placed in the repositories below which have been established for the site and will be mailed to those who submitted comments. If the Draft RAW is approved, the Sierra-Crete® cleanup plan will be put into action.

## **Where can I find the documents?**

The PEA and the draft RAW can be reviewed at these locations:

**California Environmental Protection Agency**  
**Department of Toxic Substances Control**  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200  
Ms. Jennifer Jones, Project Manager  
(818) 551-2973

File Room:  
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
By appointment only (916) 255-3758

**Pittsburg Unified School District Office**  
2000 Railroad Avenue  
Pittsburg, CA 94565

**Stoneman Elementary School**  
**Administrative Offices**  
2929 Loveridge Road, Pittsburg, CA 94565

**Pittsburg Library**  
80 Power Avenue  
Pittsburg, CA 94565

## **For More Information**

If you would like more information or have questions on the draft Removal Action Workplan, please contact Ms. Jennifer Jones, Project Manager at (818) 551-2973 or Mr. Reed McLaughlin, Superintendent at (925) 473-4231. For questions about the public participation process, contact Ms. Michelle Trotter, Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-6441. For media questions, please contact Ms. Angela Blanchette at (510) 540-3732.

## **California Environmental Quality Act**

This removal action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because it will not have a significant impact on the environment. A Notice of Exemption is included in the Removal Action Workplan.

## **Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) and ask to speak to Ms. Trotter at (916) 255-6441.

## **Glossary**

**DIOXIN** – A group of organic compounds associated with a variety of health effects, including cancer.

**HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM** – A form of chromium, a naturally occurring metal in the environment used in the metal, tanning and paint industries. In this form, it is a cancer-causing agent, if inhaled.

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**PRELIMINARY ENDANGERMENT ASSESSMENT (PEA)** – Provides basic information for determining if there has been a release of a hazardous substances that presents a risk to human health or the environment.

DTSC, please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)

**REMOVAL ACTION WORKPLAN (RAW)**- A plan of activities taken at a site to address a known or potential environmental problem, and prepared after completion of a PEA.

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*Mailing List*

If you have any comments concerning the Stoneman Elementary School’s Removal Action Workplan or if you would like to be put on the site specific mailing list, please take a moment to fill out the information below and mail it to Ms. Michelle Trotter, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California 95826.

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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826-3200  
Attention: Michelle Trotter

**Inside:**

**The public is invited to comment on the Stoneman Elementary School's Removal Action Workplan**

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