



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

## The Draft Cleanup Plan For The Strathmore High School Expansion is Available for Review and Comment

The Porterville Unified School District (PUSD) is planning an expansion project for Strathmore High School located at 19429 Road 228, Strathmore, California ([see map on page 4](#)). During an environmental investigation for the expansion project, elevated levels of pesticides and arsenic were found in the soil and petroleum products were found in the soil and groundwater. The PUSD has submitted a draft cleanup plan, also known as a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), that proposes cleanup activities for the site. The draft RAW is available for your review at public information repositories listed on page 5 of this fact sheet.

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 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.

### 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 contaminants in soil can cause adverse health effects, and gasoline has negatively affected groundwater quality, DTSC recommended that the school district prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil to protect future occupants, students and staff who will attend the school, and to conduct long term monitoring of gasoline concentrations in groundwater to ensure that groundwater quality will be restored. Groundwater is not used for any beneficial purposes and drinking and irrigation water is supplied by Strathmore Public Utility District.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

DTSC is accepting public comments on a cleanup proposal for Strathmore High School. The cleanup proposal is called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW). The comment period runs from:

November 9 through December 12, 2007

All comments must be submitted by December 12, 2007 and should be addressed to Mr. Neal Hutchison, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, California, 95826, (916) 255-4369, or by email to [hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov).



## Site Information

From the 1940's through early 2007, the 20-acre site was used for agricultural purposes (supported orange orchards). The site included the following features: a house (with septic system); a maintenance shop; a former (gasoline) underground storage tank (UST); a pesticide mixing area; a water well; a storage shed; a pole-mounted transformer; and a return pump used to recycle irrigation water. The maintenance shop contained an old truck, 5-gallon oil cans, and two 55-gallon drums containing oil. The site is currently unoccupied and all structures have been removed.

## Investigation Findings

Environmental investigations that took place in 2006 show that arsenic, organochlorine pesticides, and waste oil exist in shallow soils at various locations near the farmhouse, maintenance shop, and a pesticide mixing area. Gasoline was also detected in soil and groundwater beneath the former UST located adjacent to the maintenance shop. Maximum concentrations for the chemicals of concern that were detected in soil and groundwater are presented in the cleanup goals table below.

## Draft Removal Action Workplan

In June 2007, PUSD submitted a draft RAW that proposes how cleanup of contaminated soil and groundwater should occur at the site. 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 public comment period before making a final decision to approve, amend or deny the selected cleanup alternative.

## Proposed Cleanup Options

The following four cleanup options for soil were considered for the site:

Alternative 1 – No Further Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment through Biological and/or Chemical Degradation

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and Onsite Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal

## Removal Action Cleanup Goals for Strathmore High School Expansion Project

Analyte	Maximum Soil Concentration (ppm)	Soil Cleanup Goals (ppm)	Maximum Groundwater Concentration (ppm)	Groundwater Cleanup Goals (ppm)
Arsenic	57.2	10	n/a	n/a
Chlordane	500	0.46	n/a	n/a
Dieldrin	20.2	0.032	n/a	n/a
4,4'-DDE	4.4	1.6	n/a	n/a
4,4'-DDT	2.1	1.6	n/a	n/a
Gasoline	2,800	500	230	0.05
Benzene	7.9	5.2	52	0.001
Toluene	n/a	n/a	52	0.15
Ethylbenzene	n/a	n/a	4.4	0.3
Xylenes	n/a	n/a	20	1.75
MtBE	n/a	n/a	0.27	0.005

ppm = parts per million

All four alternatives include long-term groundwater monitoring.

### **DTSC's Cleanup Recommendation**

DTSC recommends Alternative 4, excavation and Offsite Disposal of Contaminated Soil with long-term groundwater monitoring. After the soil removal is complete, long-term groundwater monitoring is proposed to evaluate and document the natural degradation of gasoline in groundwater.

If this alternative is approved, about 451 cubic yards of contaminated soil would be excavated from multiple locations at the site. The excavated soil would be stockpiled onsite until it can be loaded into trucks and transported to an appropriate offsite disposal facility. Soil in the excavated area would be tested to ensure that all of the contaminated soil has been removed to levels below the removal action cleanup goals (RACG). When it is determined that contaminated soil is no longer present at the site, clean soil would be placed in the excavated area. Groundwater monitoring wells would be installed and groundwater monitoring would continue until the RACGs for gasoline and its components have been met. Proposed RACGs for this project are identified in the table on page 2.

### **Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup**

If the proposed alternative is approved, the following activities would occur during the cleanup process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installation of temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control.
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property.
- Spraying work areas with clean water to control dust.

- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site.

- Brushing all truck tires entering and leaving the site to remove soil and debris.

- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels.

### **Truck Route**

About 25 trucks would transport the contaminated soil to a licensed disposal facility. A licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor would remove contaminated soil from the site. Soil removal activities would occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. and last about one week.

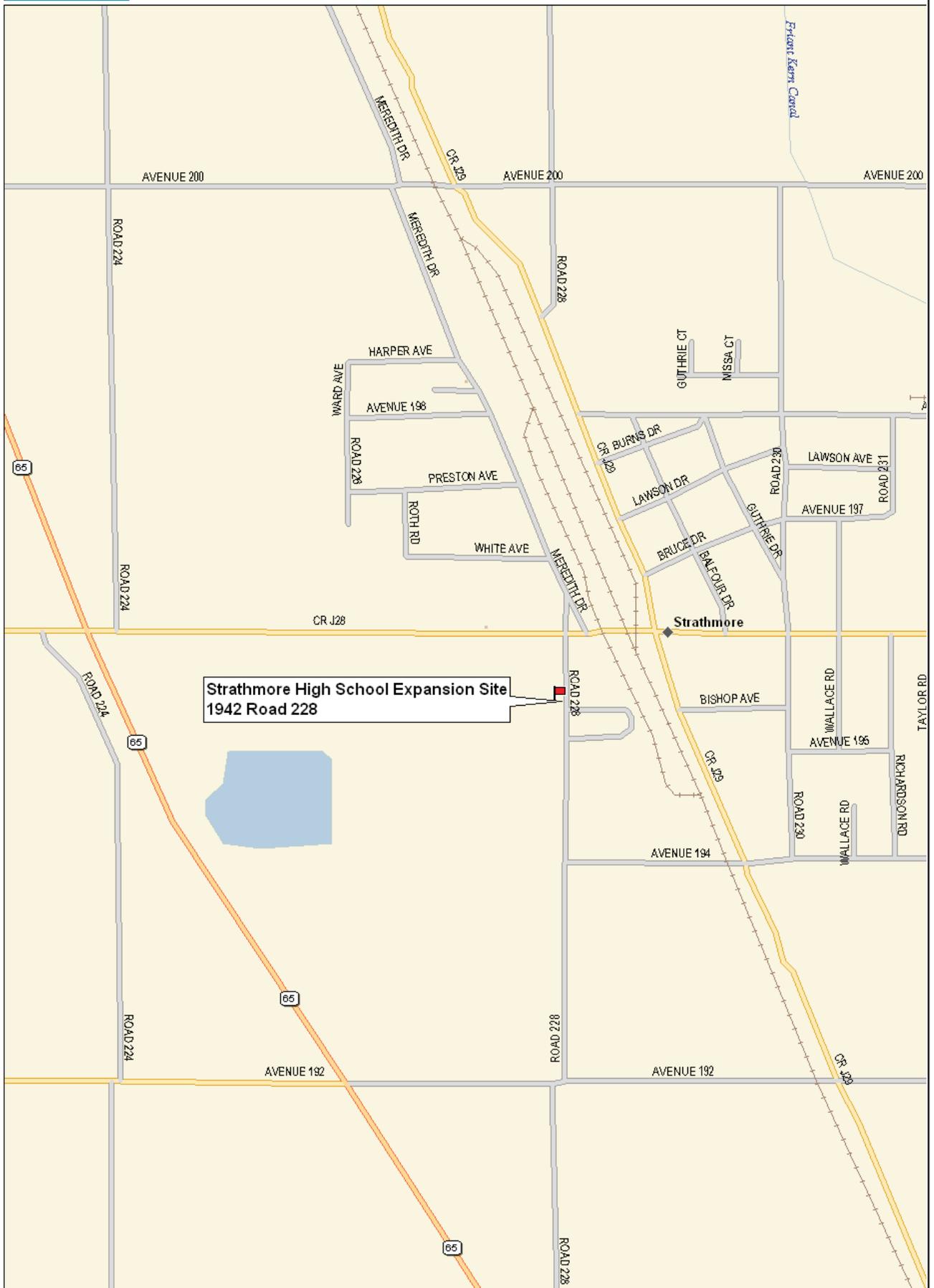
Trucks exiting the property would exit onto Road 228 and travel north 0.2 miles to Avenue 196. Trucks would turn left onto Avenue 196 traveling west for 0.5 miles to the Highway 65 intersection. Trucks would travel south on Highway 65 to Highway 99, where they would continue south to a licensed waste facility (McKittrick, Buttonwillow, or Kettleman City, California.) Depending on the concentrations of the contaminants in the excavated soil, some shipments may be sent to one of three out-of-state facilities licensed for incineration or treatment of hazardous waste. These facilities are in Aragonite, Utah, Port Arthur, Texas, and Beatty, Nevada.

### **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 draft NOE states that this removal action will not have significant impacts on the environment. The draft NOE is available for public review in the information repositories.

### **Next Steps**

DTSC will review and consider comments received during the 30-day public comment period before making a final decision to approve, modify or deny the draft RAW. If comments are received from the community on the draft RAW's proposed activities, DTSC will prepare a



“Response to Comments” at the completion of the public comment period. Anyone who submits comments will receive a copy of the “Response to Comments”. Additionally, a copy of the “Response to Comments” will be placed in the information repositories.

### **For More Information**

Questions regarding the draft RAW should be directed to Mr. Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-4369 or email [hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov). Questions regarding public participation should be directed to Ms. Heidi Nelson, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (916) 255-3575, toll-free at (866) 495-5651 or email at [hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov).

Direct questions from the media to Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (818) 551-2176 or email at [jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov).

### **Information Repositories**

The draft RAW and other related documents are available at the following locations:

Porterville Public Library  
41 W Thurman Ave  
Porterville California 93257

Porterville Unified School District  
600 West Grand Avenue  
Porterville, California 93257

Department of Toxic Substances Control  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
Please call (916) 255-3758 to setup an appointment to review the files.

### **For More Information About DTSC**

Please visit our website at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). The link to DTSC’s EnviroStor database can be found here: [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public)

### **Notice To Hearing Impaired Individuals**

TDD users can use the California Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach Ms. Heidi Nelson at (916) 255-3575.