



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 2008

## Cleanup Plan for Proposed Valley Region Bellingham ES Addition Available for Review

A draft plan to remove contaminated soil at the **proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition** site is available for public review and comment. Organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) and lead were found in the soil above acceptable levels at the site which is located in North Hollywood, California. The draft plan, called a 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.** Long-term exposure, however, to elevated levels of OCPs and lead 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. The DTSC will oversee the cleanup that will take place prior to construction of the new school and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Lead occurs naturally in Southern California soils. However, lead is also used in various manufacturing processes and was used in paint until federal laws changed to restrict its use in 1978. The elevated levels found at this site may have resulted from the use of

### 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 (CEQA)
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**November 7 – December 12, 2008**

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 December 12, 2008**; or by email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Jeanne Matsumoto, Public Participation Specialist  
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630  
[jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov)

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



lead-based paint on the buildings. The sources of OCPs are believed to be from insecticides (for termite control) used historically on the site.

### **History and Operations at the Site**

The proposed 1.8-acre site is located between Vantage Avenue to the west, Archwood Street to the south, and alleys parallel to Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Vanowen Street to the east and north, respectively (*see map on page 4*). There are nine single-family residential properties on the site. Historical use of the property includes agricultural lands dating back to 1928 and development as residential by 1956.

### **Environmental Investigations**

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2007. The investigations found elevated levels of OCPs and lead in shallow soil that require cleanup. Elevated levels of OCPs were detected at each property at depths ranging from 0 to 2.5 feet below ground surface. The elevated levels of lead were detected at two locations on one property at depths ranging from 0 to 0.5 feet below ground surface. Based on the results of the investigations, DTSC has determined that cleanup is required at all nine properties.

### **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

After 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 879 cubic yards (1,319 tons) of soil contaminated with lead and OCPs will be removed. After the excavation is completed, clean import fill or site soils will be used to replace the contaminated soil.

### **Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup**

The following actions will be taken 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 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

### **Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks**

About 49 truckloads will be used to remove the contaminated soil from the site. Trucks will exit the site by traveling north on Vantage Avenue, turning right on Vanowen Street, turning left on Laurel Canyon Boulevard, turning left on Sherman Way, and then taking the 170-freeway North. The soil will be transported to a State-approved disposal facility.

### **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

In compliance with 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. This is due to the removal's short duration, its relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, 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. The cleanup is expected to begin in the summer of 2009 and will take 20 days to complete. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct confirmation soil sampling to verify cleanup goals have been met and submit a Removal Action Completion Report (RACR) to the DTSC for review and approval.

## Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Addition site are available for review at the following locations:

### **Bellingham Primary Center**

Main Office  
6728 Bellingham Avenue  
North Hollywood, CA 91606  
Phone: (818) 759-0119

### **Fair Avenue Elementary School**

Main Office  
6501 Fair Avenue  
North Hollywood, CA 91606  
Phone: (818) 761-5444

### **Maurice Sendak Elementary School**

Main Office  
11414 West Tiara Street  
North Hollywood, CA 91601  
Phone: (818) 509-3400

### **LAUSD Local District 2 Office**

Main Office  
5200 Lankershim Boulevard  
North Hollywood, CA 91601  
Phone: (818) 755-5300

### **Valley Plaza Branch Library**

Reference Desk  
12311 Vanowen Street  
North Hollywood, CA 91605  
Phone: (818) 765-9251  
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.  
Closed Sunday

### **Los Angeles Unified School District**

Office of Environmental Health and Safety  
1055 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Contact: Roger McCracken, (213) 972-3992

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](http://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](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) for your review.

A computer is available in the DTSC file room for your use.

### **Who to Contact for Information**

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

Juan Osornio  
DTSC Project Manager  
(714) 484-5496  
[josornio@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:josornio@dtsc.ca.gov)

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

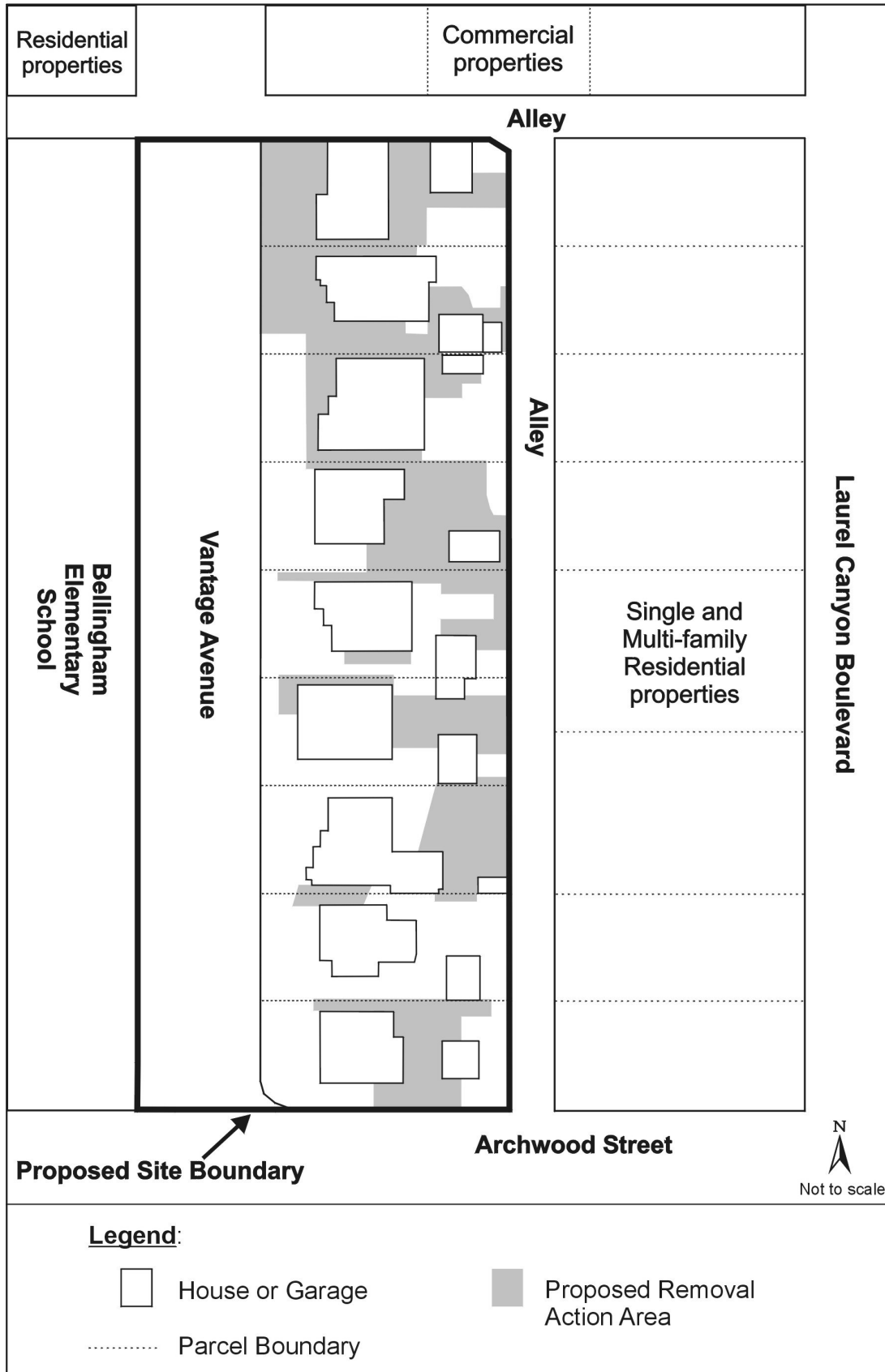
### **Media Inquiries:**

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

## Valley Region Bellingham Elementary School Proposed Addition Site



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.