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

California Environmental Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, August 2009

Valentine Elementary School Draft Removal Action Workplan Available for Public Review

The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Work plan for Valentine Elementary School Site (Site), a 14-acre property located at 2246-2308 North Valentine Avenue in Fresno, California. The Site map on page 4 of this fact sheet provides a description of the location of the Site. The Site consists of three former residential parcels, and soil in several areas of the Site is contaminated with various chemicals including cadmium, lead, used motor oil, chlordane, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). DTSC is overseeing the investigation and cleanup of the contamination at the Site, and encourages your participation in the cleanup decision making process.

This Fact Sheet Provides You Information About:

- Site History and Background
- The Draft Removal Action Workplan
- California Environment Quality Act (CEQA)
- Next Steps in the Cleanup Process

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

August 17 to September 17, 2009

The public comment period for the Draft RAW will run from **August 17, 2009 to September 17, 2009.** We encourage members of the community to review and comment on the Draft RAW. Written comments and comment submitted by email may be sent to:

Neal Hutchison
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC has not scheduled a public meeting for the Valentine Elementary School Draft RAW at this time. However, upon receiving requests from the public, DTSC will consider conducting a public meeting for the Draft RAW. If you have questions about the project, please contact Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-4369, or by email at the above email address. Please submit your comments on the Draft RAW by **September 17, 2009.**

Site History and Background

The proposed school site is located in the western portion of Fresno, about one mile west of Highway 99 and immediately south of West Clinton Avenue. Historical use of the site is documented back to the early 1930s and includes a single family home on each parcel, with the remaining portion of each parcel used for orchards and pasture land. Structures related to each home included storage buildings/sheds, drinking water wells, and septic systems. An above ground storage tank (used to store diesel fuel) and a storage area for used motor oil containers was located on one of the parcels. All building structures were removed from the Site in 2007 and the water wells and septic systems are planned to be properly abandoned prior to construction of the proposed school. Water for the proposed school would be provided by the Fresno municipal water supply.

Soil stains were discovered in and next to several of the former storage sheds on the Site. Environmental investigations indicated that shallow soil in several areas of the Site is contaminated with various chemicals including lead, cadmium, used motor oil, chlordane, and PCBs. DTSC believes the contamination was caused by previous agricultural activities at the Site, waste oil storage, above ground storage tank activities, application of pesticides and insecticides, and lead-based paint residue from the former structures. Approximately 250 cubic yards of soil is impacted by chemical concentrations above levels considered safe for future Site occupants.

The table below presents information from investigations at the Site. It describes the contaminants of concern found at the Site and the highest detected concentration of each, as well as the DTSC cleanup goal proposed in the Draft RAW.

Draft Removal Action Workplan

Several cleanup remedies were considered in the development of the Draft RAW. These include the following cleanup alternatives:

No Action

The No Action alternative was not considered as a cleanup option; however, it was evaluated as a baseline to which other cleanup alternatives could be compared.

Soil Treatment

Several Soil Treatment methods were evaluated as cleanup options. Soil treatment involves applying various treatment technologies to contaminated soil. For example, soil contaminated with metals (such as lead and cadmium) may be treated using chemical fixation; soil contaminated with organic compounds (such as chlordane) may treated by solvent washing; and soil contaminated with used motor oil or PCBs may be treated by thermal desorption (incineration). However, when the contaminants are mixed together they cannot be treated by any one of the treatment technologies alone, and the cost for implementing all three soil treatment technologies for such small quantities of contaminated soil is not cost effective. Therefore, Soil Treatment was not selected as a recommended cleanup option.

Institutional Controls and Capping

Institutional Controls and Capping would serve to protect people and the surrounding environment from exposure to contamination by eliminating contact with the contaminated soil. Institutional controls involve placing restrictions on land uses at the Site. Capping would involve pacing an engineered cap, such as asphalt or soil and landscaping, over the contaminated area. Given the cost to implement and maintain, and the future planned uses of the Site, Institutional Controls and Capping was not selected as a recommended cleanup option.

CONTAMINANT OF CONCERN	HIGHEST DETECTED LEVEL	DTSC CLEANUP GOAL
Cadmium	*4.2 mg/kg*	*1.7 mg/kg*
Lead	*1,064 mg/kg*	*255 mg/kg*
Used Motor Oil	*31,700 mg/kg*	*1,300 mg/kg*
Chlordane	*17.3 mg/kg*	*0.43 mg/kg*
PCBs	*0.536 mg/kg*	*0.089 mg/kg*

mg/kg = Milligrams per kilogram, or one part per million.

Excavation and Off-Site Disposal

Excavation and Off-Site Disposal was selected as the recommended cleanup option because it is an effective means for removing contaminated soil, is protective of human health and the surrounding environment, and is a cost effective remedy in comparison with the other cleanup alternatives. Contaminated soil would be removed from the top1-foot of soil with excavators, stockpiled on-site, and then loaded onto trucks to haul off-site. Confirmation sampling would then be conducted to ensure that cleanup goals have been met. The excavated areas would then be backfi lled and re-graded.

Transportation Plan

After being excavated, the contaminated soil will be retested and classifi ed as either hazardous waste or non-hazardous waste. Hazardous waste will be disposed of at a class 1 landfill, and non-hazardous waste will be disposed of at an approved facility, or a class 3 landfi ll to be recycled for other landscaping uses. A total of approximately 15 to 30 truckloads will be needed to transport the contaminated soil off-site for disposal. Trucks will avoid local and neighborhood streets by staying on main roads and highways. After leaving the Site, trucks will proceed east on West Clinton Avenue, and will enter Highway 99 where they will proceed on to the appropriate landfi ll facility.

Proposed Work Schedule

The removal action will start approximately **October 17, 2009.** Work hours at the site will start at 7:00 a.m. and end at 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Work may be conducted on Saturdays and Sundays, if required. Excavation of contaminated soil, stockpiling, and confirmation sampling will take approximately two weeks to complete. Loading and transportation of the stockpiled soil will be completed by **November 30, 2009**.

Next Steps

DTSC will review all public comments received during the public comment period prior to making a final decision on which cleanup alternative to implement. DTSC will also provide a Response to Comments, our official response to the public comments received. The Response to Comments will become part of the project Administrative Record and a copy will be placed in the Information Repositories.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In accordance with CEQA, DTSC conducted a preliminary review to assess the potential impact the cleanup project may have on the environment. DTSC has prepared D Draft Notice of Exemption (NOE), which states that the project does not have the potential to negatively impact the environment or human health. The Draft NOE is available for public review at the information repositories listed below.

Information Repositories

The Draft RAW, Draft NOE, and related project documents can be reviewed at:

Fresno County Public Library, Gillis Branch
629 West Dakota Street
Fresno, California 93705
Phone: (559) 225-0140

Central Unifi ed School District
4605 North Polk Avenue
Fresno, California 93722
(559) 274-4700

Department of Toxic Substances Control
File Room
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California 95826
(916) 255-3758
Hours: Mon– Fri, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Online at: www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public

DTSC Project Contacts

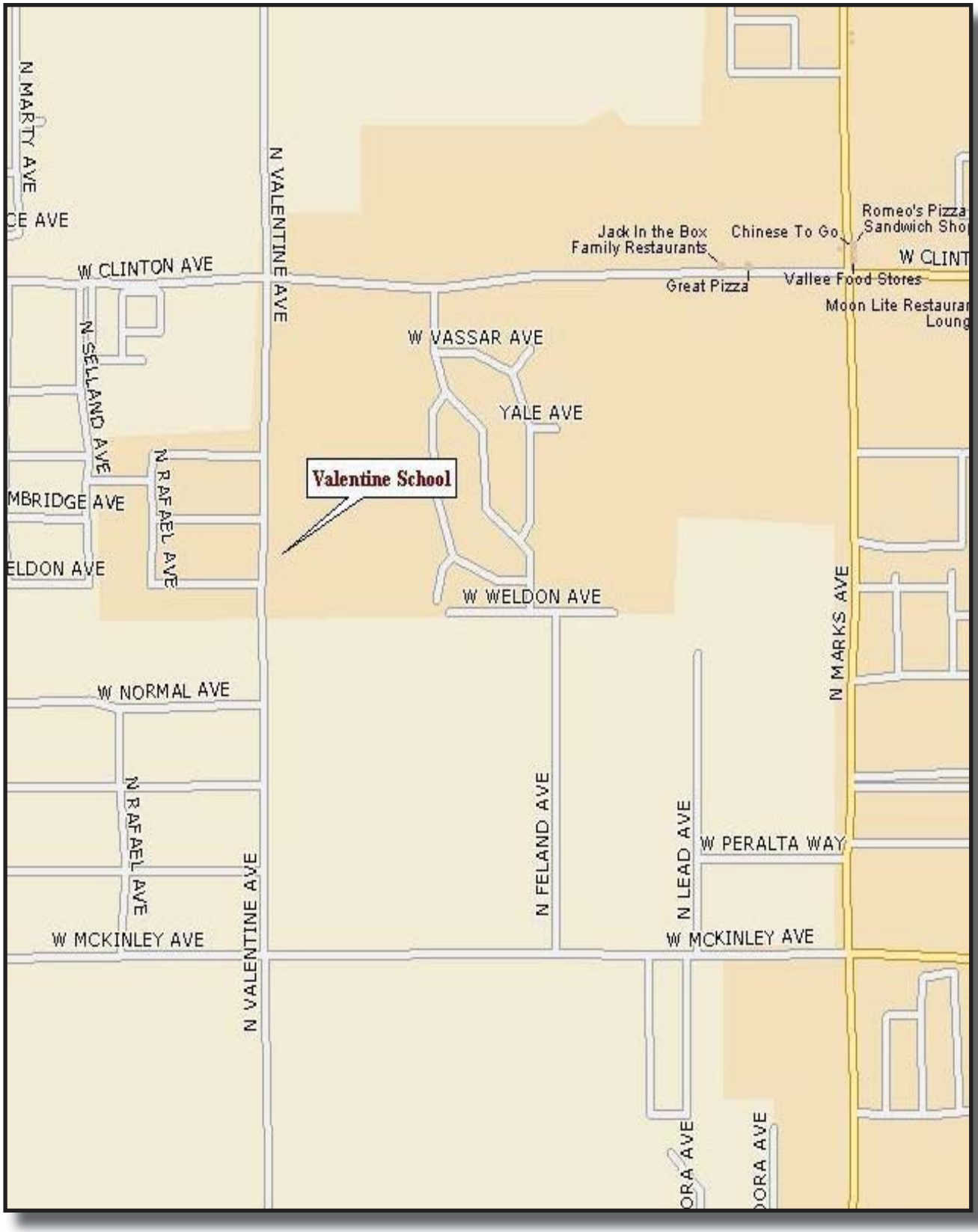
Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have about the Valentine cleanup project:

For questions regarding the Draft RAW, please contact Neal Hutchison, DTSC Project Manager, at (916) 255-4369 or by e-mail at: Hhutchis@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions regarding Public Participation, please contact Marcus Simpson, Public Participation Specialist, toll-free at 1 (866) 495-5651 or (916) 255-6683 or by e-mail at: Msimpson@dtsc.ca.gov

For questions from the media, please contact Claudia Loomis, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (916) 255-6578 or by e-mail at: Cloomis@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at: 1-888- 877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Marcus Simpson at (916) 255-6683 regarding the Valentine Elementary School cleanup project.

Valentine School Location Map