

Removing contaminated soil from the Valle Lindo High School El Monte, CA



*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



What this fact sheet contains:

- What was found at the site
- Overall site history and background
- What is a Draft RAW
- Proposed cleanup remedy
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Future activities
- Project contacts

Public Comment Period November 12 to December 15, 2004

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) encourages the public to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for the Valle Lindo High School Site. The Site is located at 12347 Ramona Boulevard in El Monte, CA. 91731

Please mail or email comments to the following address no later than December 15, 2004:

Ms. Shawna Chambers
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, California 91201
(818) 551-2845
Email: Schamber@dtsc.ca.gov

What was found at the site?

Soil sampling results showed elevated levels of arsenic at the Site. Historical operations at the Site resulted in a release of this hazardous substance that may pose a threat to public health or the environment. Therefore, the Department of Toxic Substances Control has proposed to remove the contamination.

Site History

The Site has historically been used as a gas station, an auto repair shop and as a rail line. Presently, the Site is a paved parking lot at the Valle Lindo High School in El Monte. Soil investigations at the Site found elevated levels of arsenic. Arsenic has the potential to harm human health and the environment over the long term. The El Monte Union High School District plans to clean up the Site and expand the high school facilities.

Proposed cleanup remedy

The following methods are recommended for cleanup:

- Removal of approximately – 3,900 cubic yards of contaminated soil (270 truckloads) and backfill with clean soil. Based on results of confirmation soil sampling, the excavation depth and width may be increased.
- Transport of the contaminated soil to a state licensed disposal facility by a properly licensed trucking contractor.

In addition to the cleanup methods, the Draft RAW identifies the possible removal alternatives. Removal alternatives are screened and evaluated. Based on this screening, three possible alternatives were selected for further evaluation:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Institutional Controls and Onsite Containment (Capping)

Alternative 3 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal

Alternative 3– Excavation and Offsite Disposal has been recommended as the preferred cleanup alternative. This alternative was identified because it was determined to be the most protective of human health and the environment, easily implemented and most cost effective.

What can I expect to see in my neighborhood?

If the Draft RAW is approved, you can expect to see the following during cleanup activities:

- Before the soil removal activities take place, the community will be notified by means of a work notice.
- On-site construction equipment will be in operation during city approved working hours
- Personnel on the Site will be using standard soil removal machinery as well as safety gear.
- As the contaminated soil is dug up, it will be placed directly on the truck and immediately covered to prevent wind erosion or contact with direct precipitation.
- Dust will be controlled by spraying water over the soil and reducing the speed of vehicles and equipment.

**Department of Toxic Substances
Control**
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201 (818) 551-2886

California Environmental Quality Act- Notice of Exemption (NOE)

DTSC has prepared a Draft NOE for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The NOE document states that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment because of the relatively small volume, short project duration, and controlled manner in which contaminated soils will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken off-site for disposal.

Future Activities

After the public comment period has ended, DTSC will review and consider all comments received and make a final determination to either approve, make changes, or disapprove the Draft RAW. Anyone who submits their comments and address will receive DTSC's Response to Comments. A copy of "The Response to Comments" will be placed in the Information Repositories which have been established for the site.

Where can I find site related documents

**El Monte Union High School District
Administrative Offices**
3537 Johnson Avenue
El Monte, CA 91731 (626) 444-9005

For More Information

If you would like more information or have questions on the Draft RAW, please contact:

Ms. Shawna Chambers, DTSC
Project Manager, at (818) 551-2845,
e mail Schamber@dtsc.ca.gov

Mr. Jesus Cruz, DTSC Public
Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-
2875 or email Jcruz@dtsc.ca.gov.

For media questions, please contact
Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public
Information Officer at (818) 551-2176
or email JGarcia@dtsc.ca.gov.

**Para Informacion en Espanol, favor
de llamar a Jesus Cruz al-
(818) 551-2875**

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay
Service at 1-888-877-5378) and ask to
speak to Mr. Jesus Cruz at
(818) 551-2875