

Fact Sheet, July 2009



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Our mission 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

Valley Oaks Charter School Expansion Project Cleanup Plan available for Review and Comment

A draft plan called the Removal Action Workplan (RAW) to remove soil contaminated with methane, arsenic, lead and total petroleum hydrocarbons at the proposed **expansion project** (see figure) for the Valley Oaks Charter School is open for public review and comments. The draft plan was submitted by the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office (District). The site is located at 3505 through 3601 Chester Avenue in Bakersfield, California.

This fact sheet provides a brief summary of:

- ❖ Why Cleanup is Necessary
- ❖ Site History
- ❖ Site Investigations & Results
- ❖ Proposed Cleanup Options
- ❖ Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup
- ❖ California Environmental Quality Act
- ❖ Next Steps
- ❖ Where to Find the Documents
- ❖ Who to Contact for more information

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is **no** immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil as the site is fenced, covered with asphalt. However, since future exposure to elevated levels of these contaminants can cause adverse health effects, the Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) recommended that the District prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose the contaminated soil to protect the current and future occupants. DTSC will oversee the removal action and ensure that the cleanup is performed in a manner that it is protective of human health and the environment.

Public Comment Period: July 15, 2009 to August 15, 2009

The draft Plan and other project related documents for this site are available for review and public comments at locations listed on page 4. DTSC will make a final decision after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit your comments by e-mail or in the enclosed postage paid envelope postmarked by August 15, 2009 to:

Maya Akula, Public Participation Specialist,
9311 Oakdale Avenue,
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone number (818) 717-6566
E-mail: makula@dtsc.ca.gov

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

Site History

Until the mid 1990's, the approximately 1.85 acre proposed site for the Valley Oaks Charter School Expansion Project was used for multiple purposes, including residential, a gasoline station, an indoor shooting range, and an oilfield tool manufacturing facility. In 1998 the site was acquired by the Kern County Board of Education. On-site structures were demolished and the site is vacant and undeveloped. Land use in the surrounding area is a mixture of commercial, industrial and residential.

Site Investigations & Results

During environmental investigations, soil contamination was found in amounts that are above levels acceptable by DTSC for school sites. The contaminants found in shallow soils include lead, arsenic and total petroleum hydrocarbons.

The possible sources of contamination are: former shooting range, lead based paint, machining and fabrication, and waste disposal methods.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The draft Plan evaluates cleanup alternatives and identifies recommended alternatives for the proposed removal that would prevent or reduce potential risks to public health and the environment. The draft Plan summarizes previous investigations and outlines available cleanup alternatives. Cleanup alternatives are screened and evaluated based on their effectiveness, ability to be implemented, and cost.

The following three options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 No Action

Alternative 2 Institutional Controls

Alternative 3 Excavation and Off-Site

Disposal of Contaminated Soils

Based on careful analysis of the options, Alternative 3, Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Contaminated Soils is proposed as a cleanup remedy because it protects human health and the environment, is feasible, permanent and has a reasonable cost. Details of the removal action alternatives are listed in Section 4 of the draft Plan

The remedy selection process will not be finalized until the community has an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Plan, and DTSC approves the remedy for site cleanup.

If Alternative 3 is approved, the contaminated soil will be dug out using backhoe, bulldozer, shovels or other types of earth moving equipment, as necessary. About 4,900 cubic yards (approximately 75 truckloads) of contaminated soil would be removed. The excavated soil will be directly loaded onto trucks or if required temporarily stockpiled onsite, then loaded onto trucks and transported to an appropriate offsite disposal facility.

Soil in the excavated areas will be tested to ensure all the contaminated soil has been removed and the cleanup goals have been met. Then clean soil will be used to backfill all the excavated areas. It will take about 20 days to complete the work.

Safety and Dust Control during Soil 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 low speeds while on the property
- Spraying work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Cleaning the truck tires before they leave the site
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the dust stays at safe levels
- Work will be conducted Monday to Friday and will be limited to hours between 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (as per the permit issued by the City).

Proposed Truck Route

Trucks will leave the Site going onto Chester Avenue heading south to Golden State Avenue. They will turn right (west) onto Golden State Avenue and proceed west to State Highway 99 proceeding to the state licensed and approved disposal and/or treatment facility. This route is preferable as it will avoid residential neighborhoods, traffic, and traffic controls (i.e., traffic lights, stop signs, etc.). The transportation route map is available in the draft Plan – transportation plan section.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In compliance with the CEQA, DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The draft NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have significant negative effect on human health and the environment due to short duration of the project, relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, and the controlled way in which it will be implemented. The document is available for public review, along with other supporting documents.

Next Steps

At the close of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review the comments and if required make necessary revisions to the draft Plan prior to final approval for implementation. Also, DTSC will prepare a “Response to Comments” document and mail to everyone who submits a comment and provided their name and address. A copy of the “Response to Comments” will be placed in the information repositories.

The removal action is expected to start mid to end August 2009

After the cleanup is completed, the District will test the soil to confirm cleanup goals have been met and submit a Removal Action Completion Report (RACR) to the DTSC for review and approval. The approved RACR will be placed at the information repositories.

Where to Find the Documents

The draft plan and other related documents are available for review at the following locations:

Kern County
Superintendent of Schools Office
1300 17th Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Facilities Department, Sixth Floor
Phone: (661) 636-4385
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Valley Oaks Charter School
3501 Chester Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301
Phone: (661) 633-5288
Hours: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The administrative record for this project is available at:

DTSC Regional Records Room

9211 Oakdale Ave
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone: (818) 717-6621
Contact: Viven Tutaan for an appointment
Monday – Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For information on DTSC and this project, please visit:
www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public

Who to Contact for Information

Please contact any of the following individuals with questions or concerns you may have regarding cleanup activities at the Valley Oaks Charter School Expansion:

Chand Sultana

9211 Oakdale Ave
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone: (818) 717-6552
or email: Csultana@dtsc.ca.gov

Maya Akula

9211 Oakdale Ave
Chatsworth, CA 91311
Phone: (818) 717-6566
or email: Makula@dtsc.ca.gov
Toll Free #: 1-866-495-5651, press 3 then 1

Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
Public Information Officer
(818) 717-6573 or JGarcia@dtsc.ca.gov

Notice to hearing impaired individuals:

You can obtain information by using the California State Relay Service at: 1-888-877-5378. Please ask them to contact Ms. Maya Akula at (818) 717-6566 regarding the Valley Oaks Charter School Expansion.

