

Fact Sheet, February 2009



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



Cal/EPA

The Draft Removal Action Workplan for the Wasco Union High School Proposed Sports Complex is Available for Review and Comment

(Public Comment Period: February 27 to March 30, 2009)

Para información en Español llame a Jesús Cruz 1 (866) 495-5651

Introduction

The Wasco Union High School District (WUHSD) is planning an expansion project for the Wasco Union High School located Southwest of the intersection of Palm Avenue & 5th Street, Wasco, California (see map on page 4). During an environmental investigation for the Sports Complex Area, elevated levels of pesticides were found in the soil in the southwestern portion of the expansion area. The WUHSD has submitted 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 3 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

DTSC is accepting public comments on a cleanup proposal for the Wasco Union High School Proposed Sports Complex. The cleanup proposal is called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW). The comment period runs from:

February 27 through March 30, 2009

All comments must be received and / or postmarked no later than midnight on March 30, 2009 and should be addressed to Ms. Rana Georges, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, California 90630, (714) 484-5320, or by email to RGeorges@dtsc.ca.gov.

**For information about DTSC and this project, please visit our
Website at: www.Envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public**

Para información en Español, llame a Jesús Cruz, sin cobro al 1 (866) 495-5651.



Site History and Background

The majority of the proposed 19-acre Sports Complex area is currently idle, while the northeastern portion is being used as a grassy athletic field. Portions of the site were utilized for agricultural purposes prior to 1985. The northeastern portion of site has been utilized by the WUHSD as an athletic field. Structures were present in the northeastern portion of the site from prior to 1956 to at least 1967 and in the southwestern portion of the site from 1956 to 2008. The small house, garage, and shed structures that were present in the southwestern corner of the site that have been recently demolished leaving only the foundation footings.

Environmental Investigations

Based on environmental investigations that took place between May 2008 and July 2008, DTSC issued a partial site approval for 17.62 acres of the 19-acre site that included the idle field areas. Investigation results on the remaining acres show that organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) exist in shallow soils in the area of the former house and out-buildings located in the southwestern corner of the project area. Maximum concentrations for the chemicals of concern that were detected in soil are presented in the cleanup goals table on Page 3.

The Draft Remedial Action Workplan

The draft RAW evaluates cleanup alternatives and identifies recommended alternatives for the proposed removal action that would prevent or reduce potential risks to public health and the environment. 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.

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

DTSC's Cleanup Recommendation

DTSC recommends Alternative 4, Excavation and Offsite Disposal of Contaminated Soil. If this alternative is approved, about 408 cubic yards of contaminated soil would be excavated from the former house area. 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 areas would be tested to ensure that all of the contaminated soil has been removed to levels below the removal action cleanup goals (RACG). After removal of the OCP-contaminated soil, clean soil would be used to backfill all excavation areas.

Proposed RACGs for this project are identified in the table on page 3

DTSC will review and consider comments received during the public comment period before making a final decision to approve, amend, or deny the recommended cleanup alternative.

Safety & Dust Control during Soil Cleanup

Large equipment, such as excavators and backhoes, will be used to excavate and stockpile the contaminated soil. Large soil transfer trucks will be used to haul contaminated soil to the off-site disposal facilities. The following actions will be implemented during the soil clean up process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Installing temporary fencing for security
- Driving all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site and cleaning the tires.
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a 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, along with other supporting documents.

Next Steps

After receiving evaluations and comments from the community on the activities proposed in the draft RAW, DTSC will prepare a "Response to Comments" at the completion of the public comment period. Anyone who submits comments regarding the proposed cleanup activities will receive a copy of the "Response to Comments." Additionally, a copy of the "Response to Comments" will be placed in the information repositories.

The removal action is expected to start in April 2009, and should take about 5 days to Complete. After the cleanup process is completed, Wasco Union High School District will conduct soil testing to confirm cleanup goals have been reached and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

Persons to Contact for More Information

Please contact any of the following individuals with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the Wasco Union High School Proposed Sports Complex Draft RAW.

Questions regarding the Draft RAW contact: Ms. Rana Georges, DTSC Project Manager, at (714) 484-5320 or e-mail her at: RGeorges@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions regarding the Public Participation process: Mr. Jesus Cruz, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, toll-free 1 (866) 495-5651 or (916) 255-3315 or e-mail him at JCruz@dtsc.ca.gov.

For questions from the Media, please contact: Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (818) 717-6573 or e-mail her at JGarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

Where to Find Site Documents

The draft RAW and other related documents may be viewed at the following locations:

Wasco Union High School District
Attn: Mr. Martin Lonza
2100 7th St.
Wasco, CA 93280
(661) 758-8447

Kern County Library, Wasco Branch
1102 7th Street
Wasco, CA 93280
(661) 758-2114

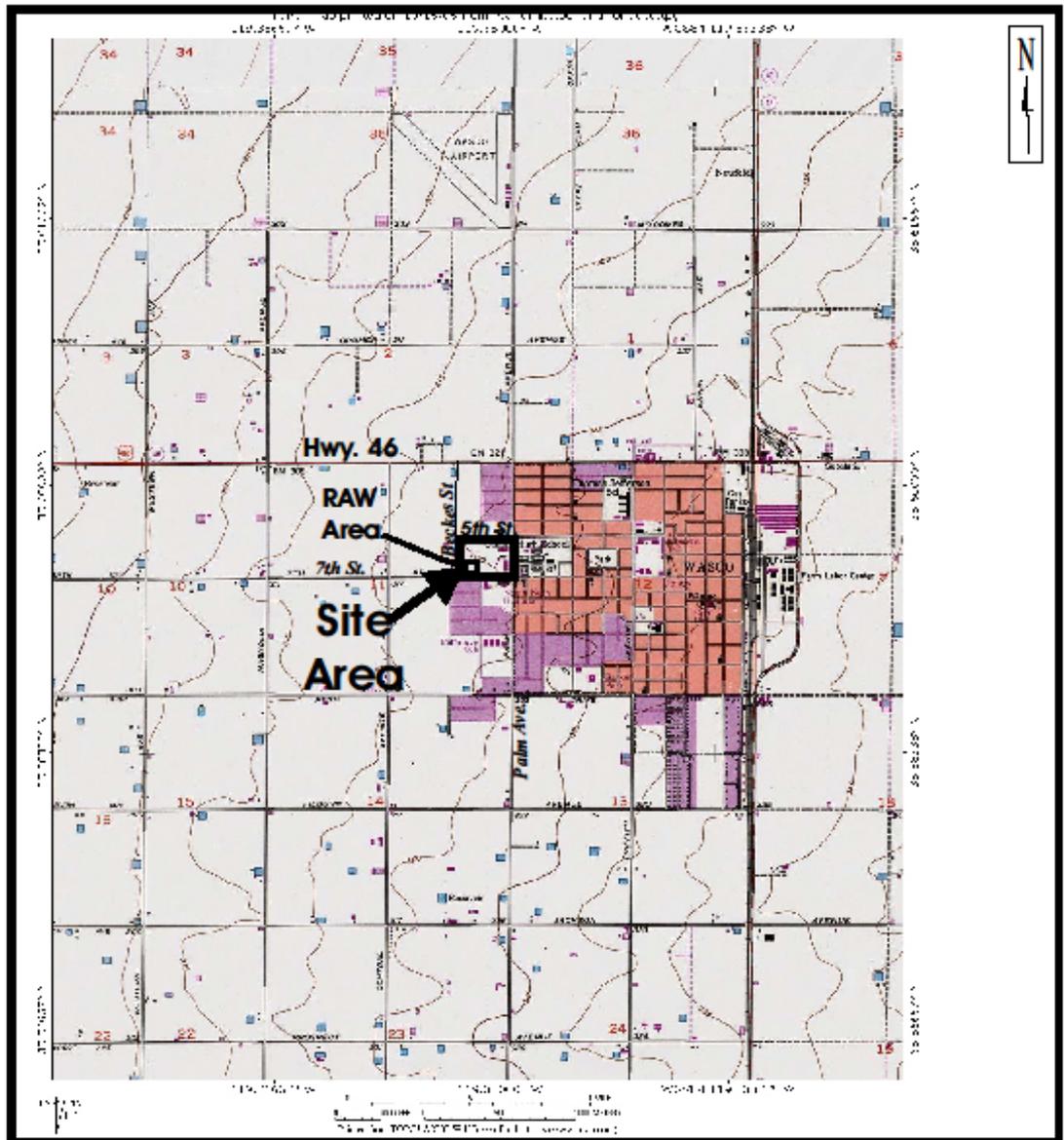
DTSC
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Please call for an appointment (916) 255-3693

Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378, please ask to speak with Mr. Jesus Cruz at (916) 255-3315

Proposed Cleanup Goals For COCs in Soil		
Chemical of Concern (COC)	Maximum On-site Concentration (ug/kg)	Proposed Removal Action Cleanup Goals (ug/kg)
Chlordane	1020	430
Dieldrin	4790	32
Toxaphene	448	430

Note: CG = Cleanup Goal concentration in ppb, ug/kg = parts per billion (ppb)



SOILS ENGINEERING, INC. 4400 Yeager Way Bakersfield, CA 93313 (661) 831 - 5100 DATE: 3/08 PROJECT: 12473	Wasco Union High School District SW Corner of 5th and Palm Wasco, CA	PLATE 1
	Location Map	