



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, November 2009

Cleanup Plan for Proposed Central Region Elementary School # 13 is Available for Review

A draft plan to remove contaminated soil at the **proposed Central Region Elementary School # 13**, site is available for public review and comment. During environmental investigations, benzene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, tetrachloroethylene (PCE), vinyl chloride, and trimethylbenzene (TMB) were found in the soil, soil gas and groundwater above acceptable levels at the site which is located on the southeast corner of Washington Boulevard and 3rd Avenue in Los Angeles. The draft plan, called a Remedial Action Plan, or RAP, was submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for review by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- Environmental Investigations
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup
- Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for More Information

Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

Public Comment Period – The forty-five (45) day comment period for the draft RAP begins **November 24, 2009** and ends **January 11, 2010**. The draft RAP and other related project documents for this school site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on pages 3 and 4. The DTSC will make a final decision on the draft RAP after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please email or submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope postmarked **by January 11, 2010** to:

Maya Akula, Public Participation Specialist
9211 Oakdale Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311
Please send e-mail comments to: makula@dtsc.ca.gov

Public Hearing – DTSC will conduct a public hearing to provide a description of the project, answer questions and accept your comments about the environmental investigation and proposed cleanup.

December 8, 2009, 6:00pm
Pio Pico Span School Auditorium
1512 S. Arlington Avenue, Los Angeles

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

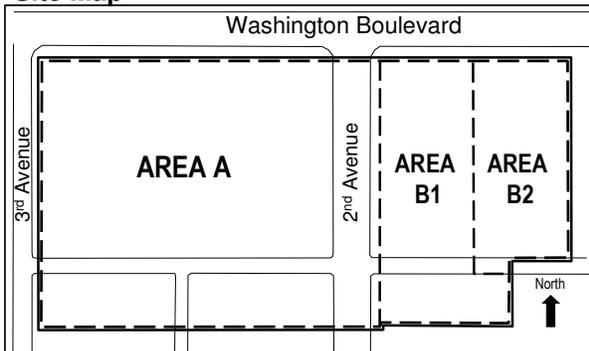


Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public was not exposed to the contaminated soil since the contaminants had been located underground, beneath asphalt and concrete.

Long-term exposure to elevated levels of benzene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, PCE, vinyl chloride, and TMB 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 and soil gas. If the plan is approved, 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.

Site Map



Description of the Site

This approximately 3.34-acre site is bordered by West Washington Boulevard to the north, the Chevron Station to the east, residences to the south, and 3rd Avenue to the west.

During the site investigation process and removal action planning, the Site was divided into sections:

Area A – includes 2nd Avenue and the area west of 2nd Avenue. The cleanup of Area A was completed in August 2008 and school construction has begun.

Area B – includes the area east of 2nd Avenue and is approximately 1 acre. Area B is divided into:

Area B1 – includes the area east of 2nd Avenue and bordering Area B2 to the east.

Area B2 – is approximately 100' by 200' and was divided into two operable units (OUs).

Operable Unit 1 (OUI) includes on-site soil and soil gas down to the first groundwater zone (A-

1 zone) (approximately 45' below ground surface).

This RAP addresses OU1 soils only, and includes an interim measure for groundwater.

Operable Unit 2 (OU2) (greater than 45 bgs) includes deeper soil, soil gas, groundwater, and potential off-site contamination. Area B OU2 will be addressed, as necessary, in a subsequent RAP and will be available for public review and comment.

Environmental Investigations

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2005. The investigations found elevated levels of benzene, ethylbenzene, naphthalene, PCE, vinyl chloride, and 1,2,4 - TMB in soil, soil gas and groundwater that require cleanup. The contamination is believed to be from past releases of gasoline and solvents from leaking underground storage tanks (USTs), found both on-site and off-site at a nearby gas station.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following three cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Excavation and Off-Site Disposal

Alternative 3 – Soil Vapor Extraction

Based on careful analysis, Alternative 2, Excavation and Off-Site 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 8,728 cubic yards (13,092 tons) of contaminated soil will be removed. After the excavation is completed, clean fill will be used to replace the contaminated soil. In addition, soil gas will be monitored while deep soil and groundwater contamination are addressed in OU2. The cleanup is expected to begin in the fall of 2009 and will take 6-8 weeks to complete.

Safety & Dust & Vapor Control During Cleanup

The following actions will be taken during the clean up to ensure public safety and minimize dust and VOC emissions:

- 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 or wetting agents to control dust, odors and VOCs

- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Brushing truck tires entering and exiting the site to remove soil and debris
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust and VOCs stay at safe levels
- Direct-load excavated impacted soils to avoid stockpiling due to the limited space available at the site.
- In the event stockpiling becomes necessary, LAUSD will adopt health and safety measures (minimizing pile size, wetting the pile, covering the pile with plastic, or use of covered bins, etc.) to protect both the workers and nearby residents from exposure to dust and VOCs.

Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

The RAP addresses removal of 490 truckloads of contaminated soil from the site. The trucks will exit by turning right and traveling east on West Washington Boulevard, turning right onto Arlington Avenue, and merging onto the West I-10 Freeway. The soil will be lawfully 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 Initial Study (IS) for this project. The IS 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, the controlled way in which the contaminated soils will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and transported 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 RAP prior to final approval. A Response to Comments document will be mailed to anyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct confirmation soil sampling to verify DTSC-

approved cleanup goals have been met and submit a Removal Action Completion Report (RACR) to the DTSC for review and approval.

Interim Measure for OU2 – Groundwater

Groundwater concerns will be addressed as part of the OU2. However, an interim remedial measure will be implemented for the groundwater in the OU1 RAP:

- Hydrocarbon absorbent well socks will be placed in selected groundwater monitoring wells. These are sponge-like devices that can absorb up to two gallons of contaminants. The socks will be replaced on an as-needed or weekly basis.

Results of this interim measure will help determine appropriate cleanup options for OU2.

Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAP and other related documents for the proposed Central Region Elementary School #13 site are available for review at the following locations:

Pio Pico Span School

Main Office
1512 South Arlington Avenue, LA, CA 90019
Phone: (323) 733-8801

Alta Loma Elementary School

Main Office
1745 Vineyard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90019
Phone: (323) 939-2113

Washington Irvine Branch Library

Reference Desk
4117 West Washington Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90018
Phone: (323) 734-6303
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.; Sun.: Closed

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
333 South Beaudry, 27th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: David Wright, (213) 241-6263
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

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. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property.

Site documents are also available online at the LAUSD web site:

www.laschools.org/find-a-school

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office

9211 Oakdale Avenue

Chatsworth, CA 91311

Contact: (818) 717-6522, Vivien Tutaan for appointment

Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

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

Site documents are also available for review at

<http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>

Who to Contact for More Information

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

Stephanie Lewis

DTSC Project Manager

(818) 717-6616

slewis1@dtsc.ca.gov

Maya Akula

DTSC Public Participation Specialist

(818) 717-6566

or toll free 1-866-495-5651, press 3, then press 1

makula@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia

DTSC Public Information Officer

(818) 717-6573

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 Maya Akula at (818) 717-6566 regarding the Central Region Elementary School #13 project.

Meeting Accessibility

For information on accessibility and to request reasonable accommodation, please call Maya Akula at (818) 717-6566 or toll free at (866) 495-5651, press 3 then press 1.

