



Department of
Toxic Substances
Control

*Preventing
environmental
damage from
hazardous waste,
and restoring
contaminated
sites for all
Californians.*



State of California



California
Environmental
Protection Agency

Fact Sheet, April 2007

Cleanup Plan for the Proposed Central Region Elementary School #14

We invite you to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) to remove and dispose of lead-based paint (LBP) contaminated soil from the proposed Central Region Elementary School #14 (CRES #14) site located on Alvarado Street and Santa Ynez Street. The proposed CRES #14 will relieve overcrowding at Commonwealth, Rosemont and Union Elementary Schools, and at Lafayette Park and Lake Street Primary Centers.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), a department within the California Environmental Protection Agency, is responsible for overseeing the site environmental investigation and ensuring that mitigation and cleanup activities are conducted in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- Site History and Location
- Site Investigation and Results
- Proposed Plan
- Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup
- Notice of Exemption
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Who to Contact
- Next Steps

Community Meeting Announcement

Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 6 p.m.

Rosemont Elementary School Auditorium
421 N. Rosemont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026

The DTSC will host a community meeting to provide information on the proposed Removal Action Plan of the Central Region Elementary School #14 Site.

The DTSC recommends that you attend this meeting to participate actively in the issues that affect the cleanup activities at the school site. Spanish interpreting will be available at the public meeting.

Public Comment Period

April 26, 2007 to May 25, 2007

Your participation is encouraged. The Draft RAW and other related project documents for this school site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 3. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid return envelope post-marked by May 25, 2007; or email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to: Angela Ortega, DTSC Project Manager, aortega@dtsc.ca.gov.



Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk since the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, since exposure to elevated levels of lead contamination could cause adverse health effects, DTSC recommended that the District prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose the contaminated soil to protect the future occupants, students and staff who will attend the new school. DTSC will oversee the removal action 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.

Lead occurs naturally in Southern California soils. In addition, lead is used in various manufacturing processes and was used in paint until 1978, when federal laws changed to restrict its use. The elevated levels found at this site may have resulted from the use of lead-based paint on the buildings.

Site History and Location

The proposed CRES #14 site is 3.23 acres in size. The Site is bordered by residential lots and Mohawk Street to the northwest, residential or commercial property to the northeast, by Alvarado Street to the southeast, and by Santa Ynez Street to the southwest. The LAUSD has acquired the properties that make up the Site. The properties are now vacant and the Site is surrounded by a chain-link fence. The Site formerly consisted of 21 parcels with 34 addresses and a total of 54 buildings: 6 single family residential units, 44 multi-family residential units, four commercial units, and one parking lot.

Site Investigation and Results

In compliance with State laws for proposed new school sites, environmental investigations were conducted in 2005 and 2006 to evaluate the site for potential environmental hazards and contaminants. To share results, a Public Hearing was conducted by the LAUSD in August 2005.

During the investigations, elevated concentrations of lead were found in shallow soil. Lead was detected around 29 properties that require cleanup. Cleanup of the lead will require soil be excavated to a maximum depth of 5 feet. The LAUSD has prepared a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) which will guide the excavation and proper offsite disposal of the contaminated soil.

Cleanup Options

Removal action alternatives considered for this Site are as follows:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment On-site

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and Onsite Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Off-Site Disposal

The recommended remedy based on the removal action screening process is Alternative 4, Excavation and Off-Site Disposal. This remedy is proposed because it is protective of human health and the environment; in compliance with applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements; feasible; permanent; and has a reasonable cost.

Proposed Plan

If alternative 4 is selected, the contaminated soil will be dug out using a backhoe, bulldozer, tracked excavator, shovels or other types of earth moving equipment, as necessary. The soil may be temporarily stockpiled or loaded directly onto trucks and taken off-site. A total of about 1,852 cubic yards (2,778 tons) of soil will be removed.

It will take approximately 93 truckloads to remove the soil. Trucks will access the load-out area through the driveways on Santa Ynez Street, Mohawk Street, Marathon Street, and Alvarado Street. When leaving the Site, trucks will take Alvarado Street to access the 101 Freeway North. Truck loading will take place between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. The soil will be transported to a State-approved disposal facility. The cleanup process is expected to take approximately 30 days to complete. Our proposed work activity will involve:

- Removal of contaminated soil
- Transportation of contaminated soil
- Confirmation of cleanup effectiveness through samples taken after excavation of the soil

Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup

Some of the actions the LAUSD will take to ensure safety of the public and to minimize dust include:

- Temporary fencing with windscreens will be installed for security
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the property
- The work areas will be lightly sprayed or misted with clean water to prevent dust

- The trucks will be secured with covers as they leave the site
- Truck tires entering and exiting the site will be brushed to remove soil and debris
- The air will be monitored at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Notice of Exemption on Lead Cleanup

DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for the cleanup aspect of this project, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment because of the short duration, relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, and the controlled way in which the contaminated soil will be dug out, loaded onto trucks and taken away to an approved/permitted facility for lawful disposal.

Next Steps

At the end of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments received. If necessary, LAUSD will make any necessary revisions to the draft Plan prior to final approval. A Response to Comments document will be mailed to people who provide contact information with their comment submission. The soil removal is expected to take place as early as June 1, 2007. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct soil testing to confirm cleanup goals have been achieved and will submit a Removal Action Completion Report to DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find Site Documents

Copies of the Draft RAW and other site documents are available at the following locations:

Rosemont Elementary School

Main Office
421 North Rosemont Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90026
Phone: (213) 413-5310

Edendale Branch Library

Reference Desk
2011 West Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90026
Phone: (213) 207-3000
Mondays & Wednesdays: 12:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Fridays & Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Closed Sundays

For more information about DTSC, see our Web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Echo Park Branch Library

Reference Desk
1410 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90026
Phone: (213) 250-7808
Mondays & Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
5795 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: Julie Johnson, (714) 484-5337
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1055 W. 7th St., 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: Rachel Handbury, (213) 893-7416
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

The documents are also available online at the LAUSD web site: www.laschools.org/find-a-school

Who to Contact for Information

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

Cynthia Miller
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(818) 551-2846 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
cmiller@dtsc.ca.gov

Angela Ortega
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5490
aortega@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Leticia Hernandez, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (714) 484-5488.

For Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
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 (888) 877-5378 (TDD), or by calling Cynthia Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846.