



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, May 2007

Cleanup Plan for the Proposed Central Region Elementary School #17 Site Available For Review

A draft plan to remove soil contaminated with lead-based paint (LBP) at the proposed Central Region Elementary School # 17 (CRES #17) is open for public review and comment. The draft plan, called a Removal Action Workplan, or RAW, was submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The site is located on Griffith Avenue between 33rd Street and Jefferson Boulevard in Los Angeles, California.

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

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- Site History and Background
- Site Investigation Results
- Proposed Cleanup Options
- Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find the Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, because exposure to elevated levels of lead contamination can cause adverse health effects, DTSC recommended that the school 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

May 14, 2007 to June 12, 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 envelope postmarked by **June 12, 2007**; or by email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Ann Chang, DTSC Project Manager, achang@dtsc.ca.gov.



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 Background

The proposed CRES#17 site consists of 22 parcels and is about 3.02 acres, including the alley through the site. The LAUSD is the current property owner. The site is bordered by 33rd Street to the north, Jefferson Boulevard to the south, Wadsworth Avenue to the east, and Griffith Avenue to the west. The site includes 18 residential properties and four light industrial or commercial businesses.

Site Investigation Results

Following State laws for proposed new school sites, environmental investigations were conducted from June 2005 through January 2007 to evaluate the site.

During the investigations, elevated concentrations of lead were found in shallow soil throughout the site. Cleanup of the lead will require soil be removed to a maximum depth of 4.5 feet. The LAUSD has prepared a cleanup plan which will guide the excavation and proper off-site disposal of the contaminated soil.

Proposed Cleanup Options

Removal action alternatives considered for this site are as follows:

Alternative 1 – No Further Action

Alternative 2 – Containment through Surface Capping

Alternative 3 – Removal and Off-Site Disposal

Alternative 3, Removal and Off-Site Disposal is the recommended remedy based on the removal action screening process. This remedy is proposed because it protects human health and the environment and follows applicable requirements. It is also feasible, permanent and has a reasonable cost. Details of the removal action alternatives are listed in Section 4 of the Draft RAW.

If Alternative 3 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 will be either temporarily stockpiled or loaded directly onto trucks and taken off-site. Onsite soil stocking for long durations is not anticipated.

About 2,958 cubic yards (or about 4,437 tons) of lead-contaminated soil will be removed and taken off-site for disposal. It will take about 220 truckloads to remove the contaminated soil from the site. Trucks leave the site going northeast on Griffith Avenue, proceed east on Washington Boulevard, then north on Naomi Avenue, on to the Golden State Freeway (I-5). The soil will be taken to a state licensed and approved disposal and/or treatment facility. This work is limited to the hours between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. daily. The cleanup process is expected to take about two weeks.

Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

The following actions will be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Temporary fencing with windscreens will be installed for security and dust control
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the property
- Spraying work areas with clean water to control 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 soils and debris
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

California Environmental Quality Act

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment because of short duration, relatively small amount of contaminated soil to be removed, and the controlled way in which the contaminated soils 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 and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments Document will be mailed to anyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address. The soil removal is expected to take place in late June 2007. After the cleanup process is completed, LAUSD will conduct soil testing to confirm cleanup goals have been achieved and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed CRES#17 site are available for review at the following locations:

Wadsworth Elementary School

Main Office
981 E. 41st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90011
Phone: (323) 232-5234

28th Street Elementary School

Main Office
2807 Stanford Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90011
Phone: (323) 232-3496

Junipero Serra Library

Reference Desk
4607 South Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90037
Phone: (323) 234-1685

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
Contact: Jone Barrio, (818) 551-2886
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:

Ann Chang
DTSC Project Manager
(818) 551-2834
achang@dtsc.ca.gov

Maya Akula
DTSC Public Participation Supervisor
(818) 551-2917 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
makula@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

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

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) 551-2917 regarding the Central Region Elementary School #17 project.

