

Fact Sheet, April 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

Cleanup Plan for Proposed Central Region Elementary School #21 Available for Review

A draft plan to remove contaminated soil at the **proposed Central Region Elementary School #21** site is available for public review and comment. Arsenic, lead, organochlorine pesticides (OCPs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found in the soil above acceptable levels at the site which is located on the southwest corner of 45th Street and Central Avenue in Los Angeles. The draft plan, called a Removal Action Workplan, or RAW, was submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for review and approval by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. The contaminants are located beneath asphalt, grass, or enclosed within a chain-link fence. Long-term exposure, however, to elevated levels of arsenic, lead, OCPs, and PCBs 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. DTSC will oversee the cleanup that will take place prior to construction of the school and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- Environmental Investigations and Results
- 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

April 14, 2009 – May 18, 2009

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. The DTSC will make a final decision on the draft RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope postmarked **by May 18, 2009**; or by email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Jeanne Matsumoto, Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue, Cypress, CA 90630
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

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



The source of the lead and OCPs are the result of historical use of lead-based paint and pesticides probably used to control termites. The source of the PCB concentrations were reported from an area near the underground truck scale; possibly resulting from the underground hydraulic lifts. The historical source of the high arsenic levels has not been determined.

History and Operations at the Site

The proposed site is a 2.74-acre rectangular-shaped area consisting of 12 parcels, including single and multi-family residential properties, a recycling center, a vacant former commercial lot, a public park, and a commercial market (*see map on page 4*). The site is bordered by East 45th Street to the north, South Central Avenue to the east, East 46th Street to the south, and residential properties to the west. Historical uses of the site include residences, coal and grain storage, a fuel facility, auto body works, a hardware store, a water heater manufacturing facility and repair shop, a lumber warehouse, cement works, a cement laundry tray manufacturing facility, Christmas tree lot, cleaning facilities, a furniture store, and various markets, retail businesses, offices, and restaurants.

Environmental Investigations and Results

Site investigations began in 2008. The investigations found elevated levels of arsenic, lead, OCPs, and PCBs in shallow soil that require cleanup. The elevated levels of contaminated soil were detected at depths up to approximately six feet below ground surface at 24 areas around the site. Based on the results of the investigations, the DTSC has determined that cleanup is required at all 12 parcels.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following four cleanup options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and On-site Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Off-site Disposal

Based on careful analysis, Alternative 4, Excavation and Offsite 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

1,008 cubic yards (1,513 tons) of contaminated soil will be removed. After the excavation is completed, clean site soils will be used to replace the contaminated soil. The cleanup is expected to begin in the summer of 2009 and will take six months or more to complete.

Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

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

- 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 to control dust
- 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 stays at safe levels

Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

During the RAW, about 76 truckloads will be used to remove the contaminated soil from the site. To minimize potential impacts on the local neighborhood, trucks will exit the site by traveling north on South Central Avenue to the 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), the 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. This is due to the removal's short duration, its 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 close of the public comment period, the DTSC will review and consider all public comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW 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 cleanup goals have been met and submit a Removal Action Completion Report (RACR) to the DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find the Documents

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed Central Region Elementary School #21 site are available for review at the following locations:

Harmony Elementary School

Main Office
899 East 42nd Place
Los Angeles, CA 90011
Phone: (323) 238-0791

49th Street Elementary School

Main Office
750 East 49th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90011
Phone: (323) 234-9045

Vernon Branch Library

Reference Desk
4504 South Central Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90011
Phone: (323) 234-9106
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
1055 W. 7th Street, 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: Diana Barron Padilla, (213) 893-7432
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday
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
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: (714) 484-5337, Julie Johnson for appointment
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

Site documents are also available at www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov for your review. A computer is available in the DTSC file room for your use.

Who to Contact for More Information

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

Ivy Guaño
DTSC Project Manager
(714) 484-5433
iguano@dtsc.ca.gov

Jeanne Matsumoto
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(714) 484-5338 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries:

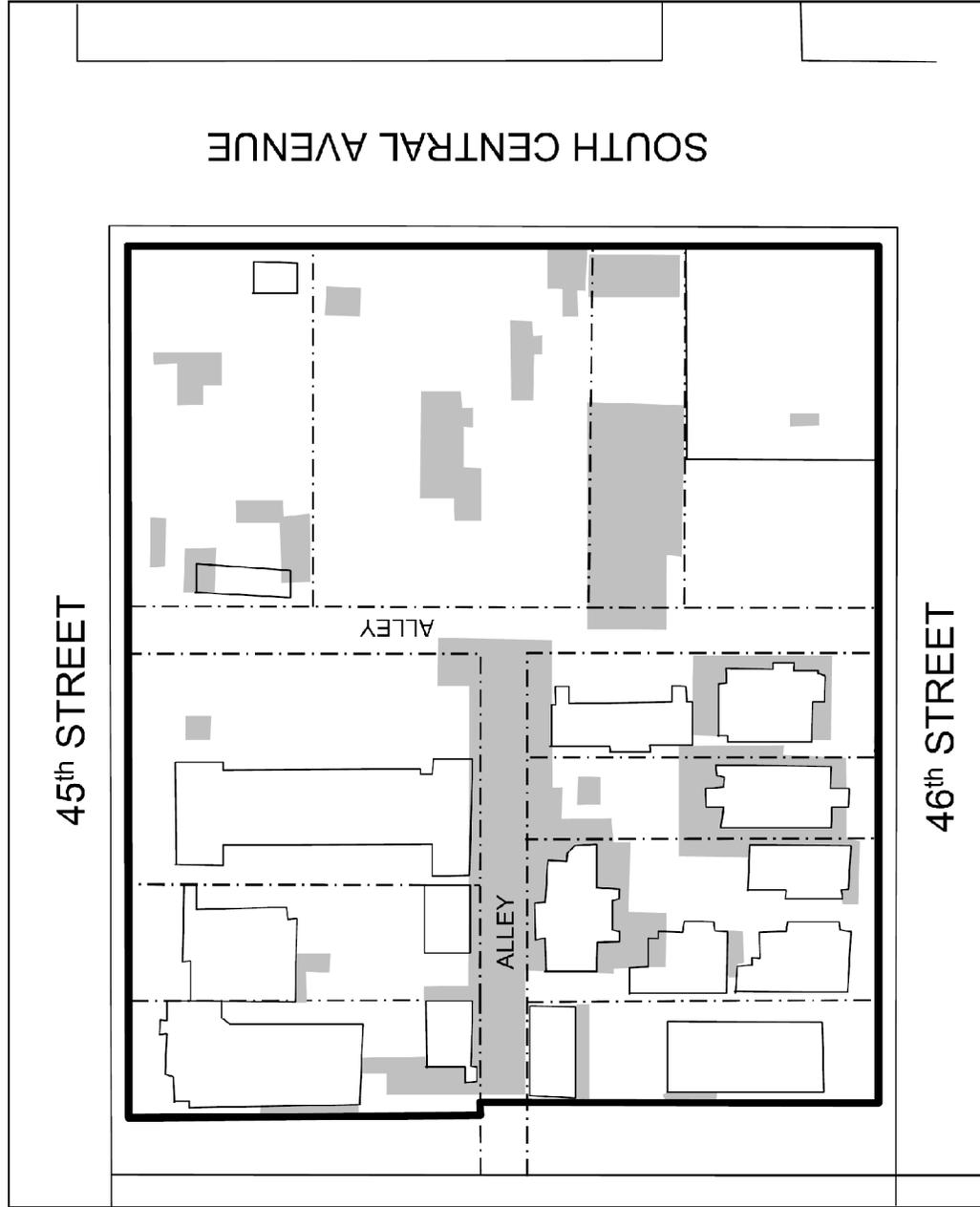
Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 717-6573
jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

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 Jeanne Matsumoto at (714) 484-5338 regarding the project.

The DTSC is part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. The 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, the DTSC oversees the cleanup of the property.

Central Region Elementary School #21



Legend

- Proposed School Site Boundary
- Property Boundary
- House or Building
- Proposed Soil Removal Area

North
Not to Scale