



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

Fact Sheet, January 2010

## Proposed Cleanup Plan at McKee Road for Review

A draft plan to remove contaminated soil at **2923 McKee Road** in Bakersfield is available for public review and comment. Arsenic and, organochlorine pesticides (OCPs) were found in the soil above acceptable levels at the site. The Removal Action Workplan, or RAW, was submitted by the Panama-Buena Vista Union School District (PBVUSD) for review and approval by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

### **This Fact Sheet provides a brief summary of:**

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- History and Operations at the Site
- 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**

**January 11, 2010 - February 11, 2010**

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 RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed envelope postmarked **by February 11, 2010**; or by email on or before the deadline date to:

Jeanne Matsumoto, Public Participation Specialist  
5796 Corporate Avenue  
Cypress, CA 90630

Please e-mail comments to: [jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov)



## Why Cleanup Is Necessary

**There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil** Long-term exposure, however, to elevated levels of arsenic and OCPs can cause adverse health effects. The DTSC recommended that the school district prepare a cleanup plan to remove and dispose of the contaminated soil. The DTSC will oversee the cleanup to ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

## History and Operations at the Site

The site is located on the south side of McKee Road and is approximately 14.56 acres. The land was used mainly for agricultural fields. The northeastern portion of the site previously consisted of multiple buildings and a storage area for a trucking business and farm equipment. This area is now vacant with no structures.

## Environmental Investigations

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2007. The investigations found elevated levels of arsenic and OCPs in shallow soil that require cleanup. The source of contamination is unknown, however it is likely the result of historic agricultural application of insecticides.

## 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 33.8 cubic yards (51 tons) of contaminated soil will be removed. After the excavation is completed, clean on site soils will be used to replace the contaminated soil. The cleanup is expected to begin in the winter of 2010 and will take one week 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

If approved, about 3 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 west (left) on McKee Road to Wible Road turning left (south) to Hwy 119 (Taft Hwy) and turning right (west) and traveling to the designated disposal facility. 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 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, DTSC will review and consider all public comments and make any necessary revisions to the 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, PBVUSD will conduct confirmation soil sampling to verify cleanup goals have been met and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

### **Who to Contact for More Information**

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

Aslam Shareef  
DTSC Project Manager  
(714) 484-5308  
[ashareef@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:ashareef@dtsc.ca.gov)

Jeanne Matsumoto  
DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
(714) 484-5338  
toll free 1-866-495-5651, press 4 then 6  
[jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov)

### **Media Inquiries:**

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

### **Where to Find the Documents**

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed cleanup plan are available for review at the following locations:

#### **Southwest Branch Library**

Reference Desk  
8301 Ming Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93311  
Phone: (661) 664-7716  
Hours: Sun., Mon. & Thurs.: closed.  
Tues. & Wed.: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Fri. & Sat.: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

#### **Panama-Buena Vista Union School District**

4200 Ashe Road  
Bakersfield, CA 93313  
(661) 831-8331  
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday

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

Site documents are also available at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov) for your review.

