

Fact Sheet, July 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 South Region Elementary School #10 Available for Review

A draft plan to remove contaminated soil at the **proposed South Region Elementary School #10** site is available for public review and comment. Lead, organochlorine pesticides (OCPs), and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were found in the soil above acceptable levels at the site which is located at 4410 Orchard Avenue in Los Angeles. The 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, since the contaminants are located underground beneath concrete, asphalt, or landscape.** Long-term exposure, however, to elevated levels of lead, OCPs, and PCBs 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. The 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.

The source of PCBs contamination is unknown, however it is likely the result of historic and current activities possibly associated with occupants

### 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

**July 23, 2009 – August 24, 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 RAW after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid envelope postmarked **by August 24, 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](mailto:jmatsumo@dtsc.ca.gov)

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



performing auto repairs. Lead-based paint and historical application of insecticides for termites are possible sources for the identified lead and OCPs contamination around residential properties at the site.

### **History and Operations at the Site**

The proposed site is a 3.96-acre rectangular-shaped area consisting of 24 parcels, including seven single-family residential properties and 17 multi-family residential properties (*see map on page 4*). The northeast corner of the Site (at West Vernon Avenue and Wesley Avenue) is the former location of a gas and service station and is currently an apartment building that contains a vacant parcel that is used for the parking of vehicles and storage of construction/miscellaneous materials. The site is bordered by West Vernon Avenue to the north, Orchard Avenue to the west, single and multi-family residential homes to the south, and Wesley Avenue to the east. The site has historically been residential properties with the exception of the gas and service station.

### **Environmental Investigations**

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2007. The investigations found elevated levels of lead, OCPs, and PCBs in shallow soil that require cleanup. During the investigations, elevated levels of contaminated soil were detected at depths up to approximately seven feet below ground surface at 23 parcels around the site. Based on the results and recommendations of the investigations, DTSC has determined that cleanup is required at 23 of 24 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 1,060 cubic yards (1,590 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 fall of 2009 and will take seven weeks 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 64 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 Wesley Avenue and Orchard Avenue, turning right (east) on West Vernon Avenue, and merging onto the north 110 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 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 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 to the DTSC for review and approval.

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

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the proposed South Region Elementary School #10 site are available for review at the following locations:

#### **Menlo Avenue Elementary School**

Main Office  
4156 Menlo Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
Phone: (323) 232-4291

#### **West Vernon Avenue Elementary School**

Main Office  
4312 South Grand Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
Phone: (323) 232-4218

#### **Junipero Serra Branch Library**

Reference Desk  
4607 South Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90037  
Phone: (323) 234-1685  
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. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
Contact: Diana Barron, (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](http://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](http://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:

Juan Osornio  
DTSC Project Manager  
(714) 484-5498  
[josornio@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:josornio@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.

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.

**For more information about the DTSC, please visit our Web site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov)**

# Proposed South Region Elementary School #10

