



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, March 2007

## Proposed South Region Middle School #2 Cleanup Plan Available For Review

You are invited 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 contaminated soil from the proposed South Region Middle School #2 (SRMS #2) site located in the City of Bell. The proposed SRMS #2 will relieve overcrowding at Elizabeth Learning Center, Gage and Nimitz Middle School. The objective of the cleanup is to prevent potential exposure to contaminated soil from lead-based paint (LBP) residue and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) by removing and lawfully disposing of contaminated soil prior to construction of the new school.

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 Background
- Proposed Plan
- Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup
- Notice of Exemption
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Who to Contact

### **Why Cleanup Is Necessary**

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. Exposure to elevated levels of this metal could cause adverse health effects. The elevated levels found at the proposed SRMS #2 site may have resulted from the use of lead-based paint on the buildings.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

**March 22, 2007 to April 5, 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 postmarked by April 5, 2007: or email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to: Amit Pathak, DTSC Project Manager, [apathak@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:apathak@dtsc.ca.gov)



The elevated levels of TPH may have been from an individual disposing of waste motor oil at one area of the Site (behind the garages of 6414 and 6420 Loma Vista Place). An auto repair facility may have impacted the property located at 3632 Gage Avenue with TPH.

Since the public is not currently exposed to the soil contamination, there is no immediate health risk. However, DTSC concurred with LAUSD's recommendation to prepare a cleanup plan to remove the contaminated soil to protect the students and staff who will attend the proposed new school. DTSC will oversee the removal action and ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

### **Site History and Background**

The proposed SRMS #2 site is 6.88 acres in size. The Site is bordered by Gage Avenue to the north, by Orchard Avenue to the east, by Loma Vista Place to the west, and by residential properties to the south. The Site consists of 46 parcels that were occupied by single and multi-family residence and commercial/light industrial businesses. LAUSD is currently in the process of acquiring the properties.

In compliance with State laws for proposed new school sites, a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) was conducted in 2005 to evaluate the site for potential environmental hazards and contaminants. The results of the PEA were shared with the community at a Public Hearing held by the LAUSD on September 29, 2005. DTSC approved the PEA Report on November 2005 and concurred with the following recommendations: the removal of TPH contaminated soil, additional sampling to confirm the low levels of tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and an assessment to evaluate the potential presence of LBP residue in shallow soil. The additional sampling was conducted in the form of two Supplemental Site Investigations (SSI).

The SSI to confirm the low levels of PCE was conducted in March 2006. Based on the results of the PCE investigation, no further action for PCE was recommended. The DTSC approved the SSI Report in April 2006.

A SSI for LBP residue in shallow soil was conducted between April and October 2006. The SSI Report was approved November 2006. During the investigation, elevated levels of lead were found in

shallow soil at concentrations that require cleanup. Elevated lead concentrations (ranging from 255 mg/kg to 3,052 mg/kg) were detected around 29 properties and elevated TPH levels (ranging from 1,000 mg/kg to 6,410 mg/kg) were detected around 2 properties (see figure on page 4):

It is estimated that soil will have to be excavated to a maximum depth of 5 feet below ground surface (bgs) to remove the lead contaminated soil and 10 feet bgs to remove TPH contaminated soil. DTSC requested that LAUSD prepare a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) that will be used to guide the excavation and lawful offsite disposal of the contaminated soil.

### **Notice of Exemption**

DTSC has prepared a Notice of Exemption (NOE) for 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.

### **Proposed Plan**

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 600 cubic yards (900 tons) of soil will be removed. This includes about 537 cubic yards (805 tons) of lead-contaminated soil and about 63 cubic yards (95 tons) of TPH-contaminated soil.

It will take approximately 35 truckloads to remove the soil. Trucks will enter and exit the site through access gates along Gage Avenue. Truck loading will take place between 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. When exiting the site, trucks will turn right onto Gage Avenue, then left onto Atlantic Boulevard, and then proceed north to the 710 Freeway. The soil will be transported to a State-approved disposal facility. The cleanup process is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete, pending acquisition status. This includes soil removal, transportation, and confirmation soil sampling and analysis.

## 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

## Next Steps

Once the comment period ends, DTSC will evaluate all comments received. If necessary, LAUSD will revise the RAW for DTSC's review and approval for implementation. The soil removal is expected to take place as early as April 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:

### Corona Elementary School

Main Office  
3825 Bell Avenue  
Bell, CA 90201  
Phone: (323) 560-1323

### Martha Escutia Primary Center

Main Office  
6401 Bear Avenue  
Bell, CA 90201  
Phone: (323) 585-8873

### Bell Library

Reference Desk  
4411 E. Gage Avenue  
Bell, CA 90201  
Phone: (323) 560-2149

## 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: Tony Espinoza, (213) 893-7409  
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](http://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](mailto:cmiller@dtsc.ca.gov)

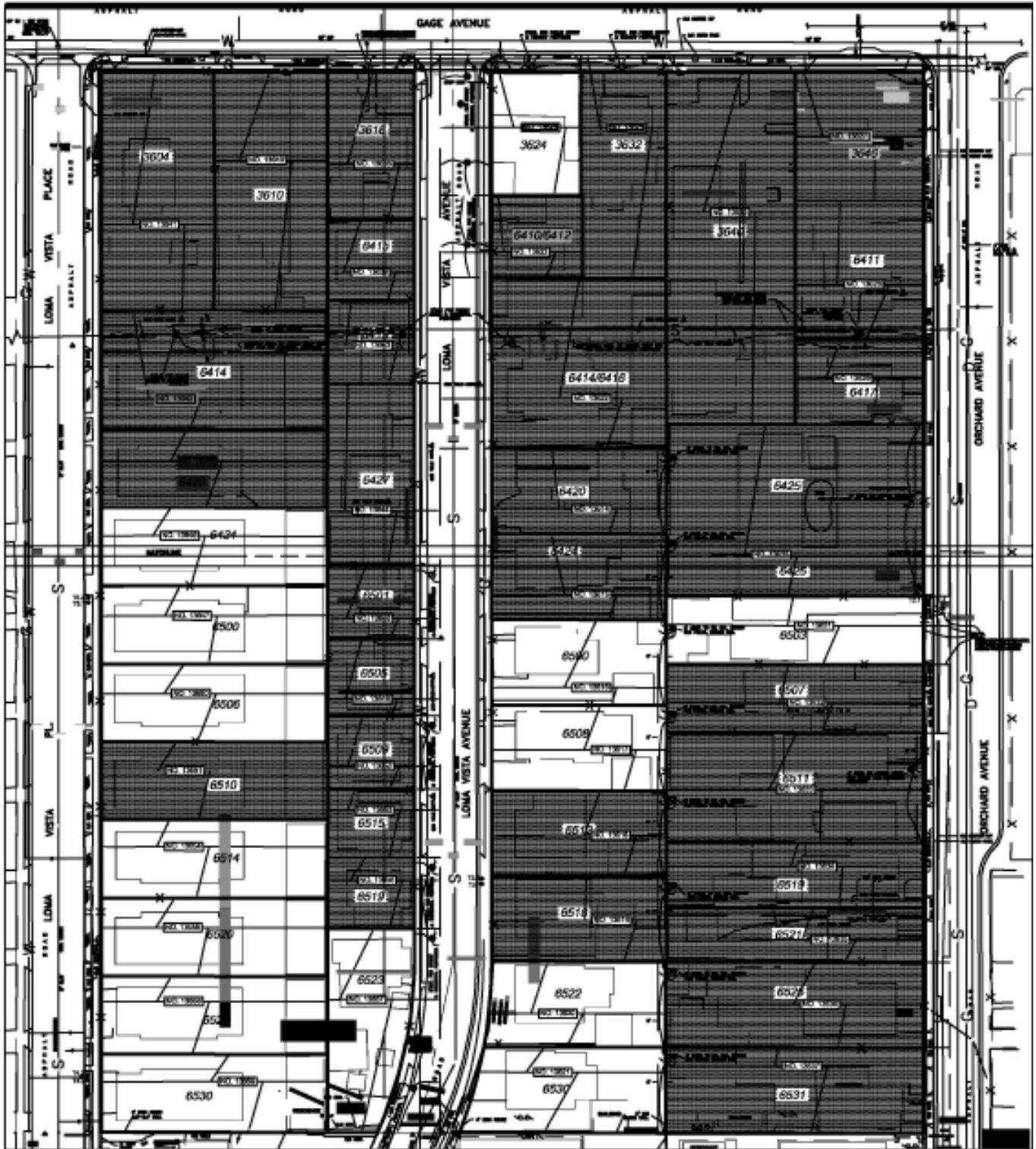
Amit Pathak  
DTSC Project Manager  
(714) 484-5468  
[apathak@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:apathak@dtsc.ca.gov)

**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](mailto:jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov)

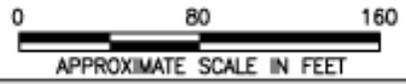
## Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at (888) 877-5378 (TDD), or by calling Cynthia Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846.



**NO. 13651**

**PROPERTY REQUIRING REMOVAL ACTION**  
 (See RAW for proposed soil removal locations within each property)



Removal Action for Proposed South Region Middle School #2