



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, October 2007

Soil Cleanup Plan for the Proposed Valley Region Elementary School #10

A draft cleanup plan to remove shallow soil contaminated with metals and pesticides from the proposed Valley Region Elementary School #10 site is available for public review and comment. The draft plan, called a Removal Action Workplan, or RAW, was submitted by the Los Angeles Unified School District for this site, which is situated on a 3.53-acre portion of the existing LAUSD John A. Sutter Middle School Canoga Park California.

This fact sheet provides information on:

- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- Site History and Location
- Cleanup Options
- Proposed Plan
- Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup
- Transportation Route for Work Trucks
- California Environmental Quality Act
- Next Steps
- Where to Find Site Documents
- Who to Contact for Information

There is no immediate health risk because the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. However, because exposure to elevated levels of the chemicals found in the soil can cause adverse health effects, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) recommended the school district prepare a cleanup plan that ensures that students and staff are not exposed to the soil. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will make certain it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Community Meeting Announcement

October 25, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

Sutter Middle School Auditorium
7330 Winnetka Avenue, Canoga Park, CA 91306

Details on the proposed Removal Action Work Plan (RAW) for the Valley Region Elementary School #10 will be discussed at the October 25 community meeting.

This is an opportunity for the community to participate actively in the issues that affect the cleanup activities at the school site. Spanish interpreting will be available.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

October 11 to November 9, 2007

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. A final decision will be made after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid return envelope postmarked by **November 9, 2007**. Or, email before the deadline no later than 5 p.m. to:

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

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Javier Hinojosa al (818) 551-2172. 

Why Cleanup is Necessary

Several site investigations have been conducted since 2006. During the investigations, elevated levels of arsenic, lead, chlordane, and dieldrin were detected in soil above DTSC's protective standards for school sites.

Although arsenic occurs at low levels naturally in soil, the high levels of arsenic detected at the site are believed to be the cause of fertilizer and pesticide use. The elevated levels of lead, found near a former greenhouse, are likely attributable to historical use of lead-based paint on the greenhouse structure. The presence of chlordane and dieldrin in soil at the site is likely due to the historical use of pesticides.

Site History and Location

The site was historically used for small scale agricultural activities from 1928 to 1947. Academic and horticultural activities associated with the Middle School's educational programs were reportedly conducted from the late 1940s to the 1990s. The proposed project site is on the northeast portion of the existing Sutter Middle School campus. The subject site is located at 7335 North Lubao Avenue. It is bordered by West Valerio Street to the north, North Lubao Avenue to the east, Sutter Middle School to the south and west, in the Canoga Park area of Los Angeles (see figure on page 4).

Cleanup Options

Alternative 1 – No Action

Alternative 2 – Treatment

Alternative 3 – Institutional Controls and Onsite Containment (Capping)

Alternative 4 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal

Based on careful analysis of the options, Alternative 4 – Excavation and Offsite Disposal is recommended because it protects human health and the environment, is permanent, and has a reasonable cost. Details of each of the removal action alternatives are listed in Section 5 of the draft RAW which is available for public review at the locations listed on page 3.

Proposed Plan

If Alternative 4 is selected, cleanup could take place between December 2007 and January 2008, when Sutter Middle School is not in session. Cleanup will require the removal of about 5,000 tons (equivalent to about 209 truckloads) of contaminated soil. Soil will be removed to a maximum depth of three feet. The draft RAW will guide the removal and proper off-site

disposal of contaminated soil which would entail using a backhoe, bulldozer, tracked excavator, shovels, and/or other types of earth moving equipment. The soil will be loaded onto trucks directly or put into roll-off containers that will be lifted into trucks.

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:

- Installation of temporary fencing with windscreens for security
- Driving at slow speeds while on the property
- Spraying of work areas with clean water to control dust
- Securing trucks with covers before they leave the site
- Monitoring the air at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Transportation Route for Work Trucks

Trucks will enter the work area on Sherman Way and exit the work area on Lubao Avenue. The trucks will then take Sherman Way to Winnetka Avenue south, to the 101 Freeway east (to I-405 and I-5 Freeway north). As mentioned, it will take approximately 209 truckloads to remove the contaminated soil. The cleanup is expected to take about two weeks. This includes soil removal, transportation, and follow-up soil sampling and analysis. The contaminated soil will be taken to a State-approved hazardous waste disposal facility in Kettleman Hills or Buttonwillow, California. Work hours are planned for 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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 close of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments received 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 between December 2007 and January 2008, when Sutter Middle School is not in session. After the cleanup process is completed, the LAUSD will test the soil to see if the site meets cleanup goals and will submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval.

Where to Find Site Documents

The Draft RAW and other related documents for the Valley Region Elementary School #10 site will be available at the following locations:

Fullbright Elementary School

Main Office
6940 Fullbright Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91306
Phone: (818) 340-6677

Sutter Middle School

Main Office
7330 Winnetka Avenue
Winnetka, CA 91306
Phone: (818) 773-5800

Winnetka Elementary School

Main Office
8240 Winnetka Avenue
Canoga Park, CA 91306
Phone: (818) 341-5422

Local District 1 Office

6621 Balboa Boulevard
Van Nuys, CA 91406
Phone: (818) 654-3600

West Valley Regional Library

Reference Desk
19036 Vanowen Street
Reseda, CA 91335
Phone: (818) 345-9806
Hours: Mon – Thu: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Fri & Sat: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sun: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Canoga Park Branch Library

Reference Desk
20939 Sherman Way
Canoga Park, CA 91303
Phone: (818) 887-0320
Hours: Mon & Wed: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Tue & Thu: Noon – 8 p.m.
Fri & Sat: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Closed Sun

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
Contact: Regional File Coordinator
Phone: (818) 551-2800
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon – Fri

Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of Environmental Health and Safety
1055 W. 7th St., 9th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: Willard Garrett, (213) 893-6872
Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Mon – Fri

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:

Cynthia Miller
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(818) 551-2846 or toll free 1-866-495-5651, select option 3
cmiller@dtsc.ca.gov

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

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Javier Hinojosa, al (818) 551-2172.

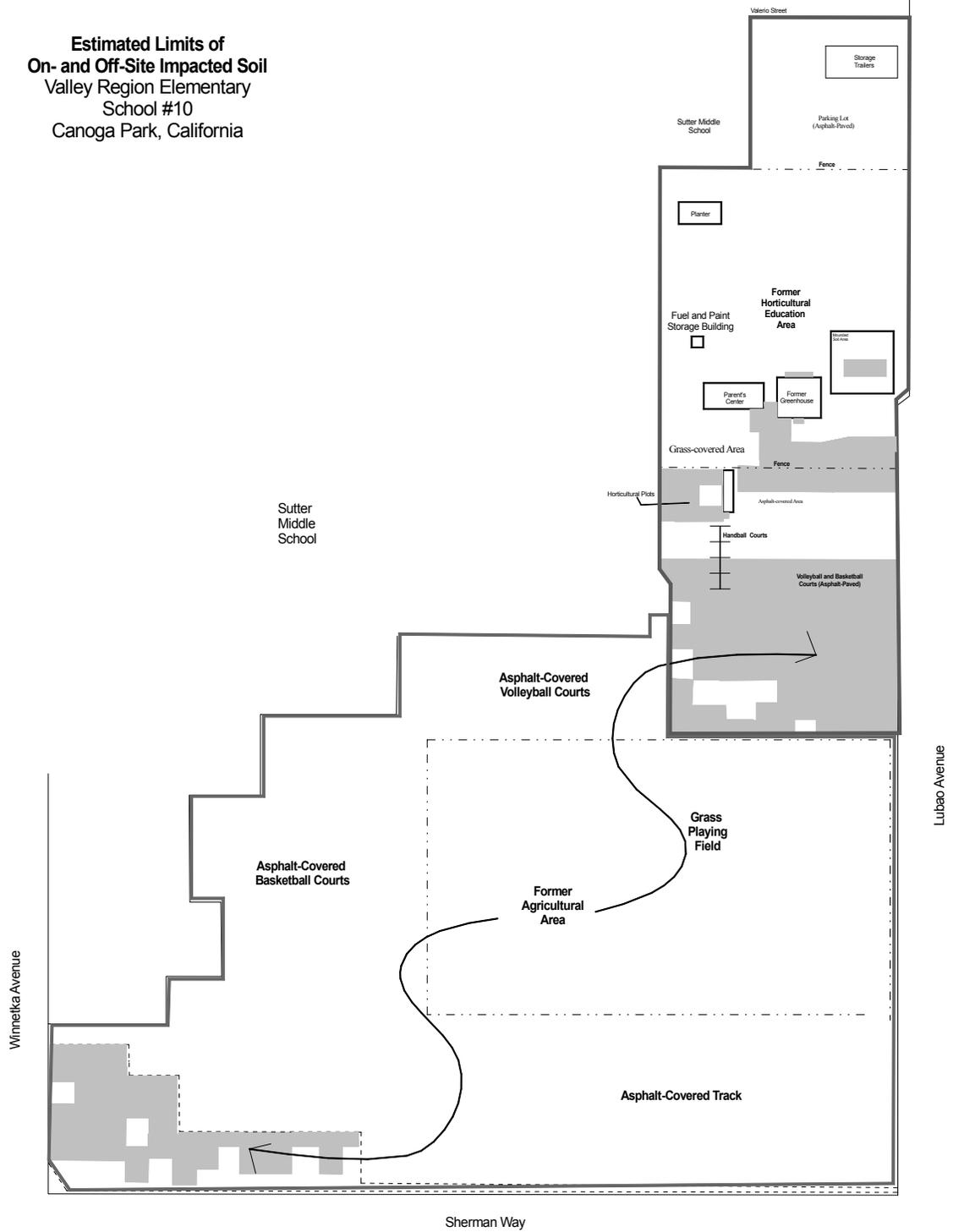
For Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
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 or toll free 1-866-495-5651 and select option 3.

**Estimated Limits of
On- and Off-Site Impacted Soil**
Valley Region Elementary
School #10
Canoga Park, California



Legend

	Site		Excavation Areas
	Off-Site Investigation Area		

Waterstone Environmental, Inc.
2936 East Coronado Street
Anaheim, California 92806

Drafted By: SDJ	Version: 2.0
Approved By: EG	Date: 09-25-2007