

COMMUNITY UPDATE

The mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and the environment from harmful effects of toxic substances through the restoration of contaminated resources, enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.

California School for the Deaf - Riverside Draft Removal Action Workplan Available for Public Comment

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) requests the public to review a proposed plan to clean up contaminated soil at the California School for the Deaf - Riverside site (Site). This cleanup plan, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), describes the environmental investigations, results, and the recommended option to clean up contaminated soil at the Gymnasium and Kitchen areas.

Why Cleanup is Necessary

Beginning in 2006, the State of California Department of Education (CDE) conducted environmental investigations of the school campus by collecting and analyzing samples of soil and soil vapor. Investigations began because of plans to upgrade old school buildings. Lead, arsenic, and pesticides were found at elevated levels in soil on the Site. Soil vapor did not contain elevated levels of chemicals and does not need to be cleaned up. The draft RAW identifies four cleanup options and recommends the one considered to be the most effective. Once the RAW is approved, DTSC will oversee the cleanup and ensure it is done in a way that is protective of human health and the environment. There is **no** immediate threat to students, staff, and the community but cleanup is necessary to prevent any potential health effects.

Site Description and History

The Site covers four areas on the school campus, located at 3044 Horace Street, Riverside, California. The Site is about eight acres of the 60-acre school campus. You can see the four areas (Career Tech East, Career Tech West, Gymnasium, and Kitchen) outlined in red on the Figure. In the 1930s the property was used for agriculture. In 1953 CDE built the school, including classroom structures, gymnasiums, and residential areas for students.

Environmental Investigations

Under DTSC's oversight beginning in October 2013, additional environmental investigations were conducted for chemicals previously found and other chemicals, including polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The Preliminary Environmental Assessment report (April 2014) and Supplemental Site Investigation report (July 2014) presented the sampling results and an evaluation of the potential impact to human health. The chemicals in soil that need to be cleaned up are chlordane, dieldrin, lead, and arsenic. Most of the contamination is at shallow depths (0.25' to 0.5' below ground surface). In August 2014, DTSC determined that cleanup is not necessary in the Career Tech East and Career Tech West areas. So, the draft RAW will focus on the Gymnasium and Kitchen areas.

Public Comment Period



October 9 – November 8, 2014

DTSC encourages you to review and comment on the draft RAW. The draft RAW and other project related documents are available for review at the locations listed in this document.

DTSC will make a final decision on the cleanup plan after public comments have been reviewed. Please submit written comments postmarked by November 8, 2014; or by email no later than 5:00 pm on the deadline to:

Ms. Christine Chiu
DTSC Project Manager
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
christine.chiu@dtsc.ca.gov



Proposed Cleanup Plan (Draft RAW)

To clean up the contaminated soils, the Draft RAW evaluated the following four options:

Option 1 – No Action. Clean up and/or monitoring would not be done, and the contaminated soil would be left in place. This option is given as a baseline to evaluate all the options.

Option 2 – Excavation and On-Site Treatment / Off-Site Disposal. Soil contaminated with pesticides would be excavated and treated at a thermal treatment system, constructed on the campus. The system would heat the soil to very high temperatures, capture the vapor created, and treat the vapor stream. The treated soil would then be placed back into the areas it came from. Soil contaminated with metals would be excavated and taken to an off-site disposal facility.

Option 3 –On-Site Containment (Capping) and Institutional Control. Contaminated soil would be excavated, placed below the surface (with a liner) in an alternate area on the campus, and capped with concrete or asphalt. A land use covenant to restrict use and activities for this area would be formally recorded, and the containment cell would be monitored and maintained.

Option 4 – Excavation and Off-Site Disposal. Contaminated soil would be excavated, stockpiled temporarily until the right disposal facility is chosen, and taken to an off-site disposal facility.

Option 4 is recommended because it protects human health and the environment, is a proven and an effective solution for the cleanup of soil contaminated with metals and pesticides, and is easily implemented.

If this is the chosen Option, work is expected to begin in December 2014 and includes the following:

- Excavation and stockpiling (about nine days);
- Post-excavation soil sampling to confirm that the cleanup levels are met;
- Off-site disposal of approximately 1,949 cubic yards of soil (20 to 30 trucks per day for three to four days); and
- Backfilling excavated areas with clean soil.

The activities for Option 4 are anticipated to be completed in 11 to 13 days over a span of about two months. The activities are not expected to affect school activities.

Safety Measures During Cleanup

During cleanup activities, the following measures to ensure the safety of students, staff, and the community would be taken:

- For general safety, work areas will be fenced and access will be controlled.
- Water will be sprayed on soil to keep down dust.
- Soil stockpiles will be covered with plastic sheeting.
- Air quality will be monitored to ensure dust levels remain protective to the community.
- All trucks with soil leaving the Site will be covered and the tires brushed and cleaned to keep excess soil from being tracked into the street.

Environmental Evaluation under CEQA

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the Lead Agency to evaluate and disclose significant environmental effects of a proposed project. With respect to CEQA, CDE is the Lead Agency and DTSC is the Responsible Agency. CDE prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Gymnasium and Swimming Pool Complex Replacement Project (SCH# 2007101149). The IS/MND applies to this cleanup project.

Based on the IS/MND, DTSC does not expect the proposed RAW activities to result in significant impacts on the environment and change the findings of the IS/MND. Therefore, DTSC plans to prepare a Statement of Findings and file a Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse.

Next Steps

- The public may comment on the draft RAW during the Public Comment Period for 30 days, October 9 through November 8, 2014.
- DTSC will review all comments received and make any necessary revisions to finalize the RAW.
- DTSC will approve a final RAW.
- DTSC will provide a “Response to Comments” document to anyone who submitted comments during the Public Comment Period and provided contact information.
- CDE will implement the final RAW.
- CDE will submit Removal Action Completion Report (RACR).
- DTSC will certify the Site after approval of the RACR.



Site Information Availability

Site documents are available at the following locations:

- California School for the Deaf – Riverside campus
- Online at http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=60001935#
- The following repositories:

Department of Toxic Substances Control

Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: Ms. Jone Barrio at (714) 484-5336
to schedule an appointment
Hours: Mon. to Fri.: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Riverside Public Library

Marcy Branch
6927 Magnolia Avenue
Riverside, CA 92506
(951) 826-2078
Mon. through Sat.: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Sunday closed.

DTSC Contacts

Project Information

Ms. Christine Chiu
Project Manager
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5340
Christine.Chiu@dtsc.ca.gov

Public Participation

Ms. Marcia Rubin
Public Participation Specialist
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630-4732
(714) 484-5338
Marcia.Rubin@dtsc.ca.gov

Media Inquiries

Mr. Timothy Reese
Public Information Officer
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2828
(916) 327-0978
Timothy.Reese@dtsc.ca.gov



California School for the Deaf - Riverside

