

Fact Sheet, October 2008

The Draft Cleanup Plan for Evergreen Elementary School is Available for Public Review and Comment



The Evergreen Elementary School District (EESD) plans to expand the existing Evergreen Elementary School located at 3010 Fowler Road, San Jose, California. The expansion area is approximately 2.45 acres and includes the northern portion of the existing campus and an adjacent northern parcel. The planned improvements include the addition of nine classrooms, a multi-use building, a bus drop-off, additional parking and landscaping.

During an environmental investigation for the expansion project, elevated levels of a pesticide (chlordane) and naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) were found in the soil. The EESD submitted a draft plan, also known as a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The draft RAW proposes cleanup activities for the pesticide impacted soil and actions to reduce the potential for exposure to NOA soils.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

October 6, 2008 to November 5 2008

Your participation is encouraged. The draft RAW and other related project documents for this site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 4. A final decision will be made after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written comments by November 5, 2008; or by email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:

Mary Gaspari
DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California, 95826
email: mgaspari@dtsc.ca.gov



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



California
Environmental
Protection Agency



DTSC is a part of the California Environmental Protection Agency. DTSC oversees soil and groundwater investigations at proposed new or expanding school sites, and evaluates the property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to school children, the staff, or faculty. If contamination is found, DTSC oversees cleanup of the property.

Why Cleanup Is Necessary

There is no immediate human health risk, but long term exposure to the contaminated soils can pose one. Therefore, contamination needs to be cleaned up before EESD can use the site to expand Evergreen Elementary School.

Site History and Operations

Based on historical review of the expansion area, the site was used as an orchard since before 1939. The school was constructed in 1955, and a structure was present in the expansion area in the mid-1960s.

Fowler Road divided the site until 1998 when the road was rerouted. The current vineyard, located on the adjacent parcel to the north, was recently purchased by EESD and is included in the expansion area. Presently, the expansion area consists of a bus pull-through, parking lot, paved play area, unpaved (wood chip) play structure, landscaped areas and the vineyard on the adjacent lot.

Environmental Investigations

The expansion area was investigated to evaluate possible impacts from: NOA, past and present agricultural practices (orchard and vineyard), pesticides applied as termiticides around former and existing structures, and lead from lead-based paint from former and existing structures.

Soil samples were collected and analyzed for asbestos, arsenic, organochlorine pesticides, and lead. The analytical results showed that of all the contamination investigated, only chlordane (a pesticide used for termites) and NOA exceed levels that are considered acceptable.

The chlordane exists in shallow soils adjacent to the northern and western sides of the existing building near the expansion area. Naturally Occurring Asbestos underlies the proposed project area.

Proposed Cleanup Options

The following three removal action options were considered for this site:

Alternative 1-No Action

Alternative 2-Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Impacted Soil (NOA and pesticide) and Placement of a 1 Foot Clean Cap Prior to Construction.

Alternative 3-Over-Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Impacted Soil (NOA and pesticide) and Placement of a Minimum 2.5 Foot Clean Cap Prior to Construction.

Based on careful analysis of the options, ***Alternative 3-Over-Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of Impacted Soil (NOA and pesticide) and Placement of a Minimum 2.5 Foot Clean Cap Prior to Construction*** is the recommended option for cleaning up the site.

This alternative suggests that approximately 12,500 cubic yards of NOA-containing soil and 32 cubic yards of pesticide-contaminated soil (approximately 1,050 total truck loads) will be excavated and disposed of at an appropriate off-site disposal facility.

Confirmation soil samples would be taken from the excavated pesticide impacted areas to ensure the contaminated soil had been adequately removed. The native soil containing NOA would be excavated to a minimum of 2.5 feet and then covered to reduce the possibility of airborne asbestos.

The cover or cap would have an “indicator marker” covered by clean soil. The indicator marker acts as a warning barrier and is placed directly above the soils containing NOA. This will alert all personnel who will later conduct

subsurface maintenance or repairs to not disturb the soil below the warning barrier. The warning barrier will be covered by clean soil. The cap will allow the construction for the expansion to be performed without disturbing soils that contain asbestos. The field activities would be implemented using readily available standard construction equipment.

A draft Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the post-closure of the cap has been developed and is included in the draft RAW. The O&M plan would establish protocols and procedures for the EESD to monitor and protect the cap, and help ensure no future exposure to NOA occurs. The O&M Plan includes integrity inspections and corrective action procedures in the event the cap is compromised.

Safety & Dust Control During Cleanup

The following actions would be implemented during this process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Install temporary fencing with windscreens for security and dust control;
- Drive all vehicles at slow speeds while on the property;
- Spray work areas with clean water prior to and during excavation to control and minimize dust;
- Loaded truck beds would be wetted with water and covered before leaving the site;
- Prior to leaving the site, trucks would be cleaned to remove soil and debris;
- Outside air monitoring would occur to ensure the levels of airborne dust and asbestos do not exceed acceptable levels;
- Site work would stop or additional measures would be implemented if air monitors detect elevated levels of airborne dust or asbestos;
- During the course of the excavation activities, windows and doors of the buildings fronting the expansion area would be closed off and sealed with plastic and tape; and,
- The ventilation systems would be

turned off during the excavation activities.

The cleanup is scheduled for multiple phases beginning in the Winter of 2008 during break when no children are present. This break has a duration of approximately 2 weeks and runs from December 20, 2008 through January 4, 2009. Work hours are 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day of the week. Weekend work, including Sunday, is anticipated to complete the first phase of the NOA removal.

Because the sun sets early in the winter, lights are anticipated to be needed to perform the NOA removal. There are lights at the site, but if additional lighting is needed, it will be directed away from any residences in the area. If the initial phase of work is not completed before classes start on January 5, 2009 no additional cleanup would be done until the Spring break in 2009, and any exposed NOA would be covered.

The final phase of the cleanup is also scheduled to occur when no children are present and is expected to take 10 weeks. The site is anticipated to be capped prior to school starting in Fall 2009.

Proposed Transportation Route for Trucks

Contaminated soil (about 40 but up to 60 truckloads per day) will be transported from the site to a licensed disposal facility. Loaded trucks would exit the site onto Fowler Road and proceed west. From Fowler Road the trucks would make a right onto San Felipe Road. From San Felipe Road, the trucks would make a left onto Aborn Road. At East Capitol Expressway the trucks would turn left. Highway 101 would be accessed from East Capitol Expressway.

Trucks would attempt to avoid the major commute times and avoid residential areas as much as possible.

California Environmental Quality Act
In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, DTSC has prepared a draft Notice

of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The draft NOE states that the proposed removal action will not have significant impacts on the environment.

Next Steps

At the close of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider all comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft RAW. Also, a Response to Comments document will be mailed to everyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address, anyone who requests a copy, and at the information repositories established for this project.

Where to Find the Documents

The draft RAW and other related documents for the Evergreen Elementary School Expansion project are available for review at the following locations:

Evergreen Branch Library

2635 Aborn Road
San José, California, 95121
(408) 808-3060
Please call for days and hours of operation.

Department of Toxic Substances Control

8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California, 95826.
Please call (916) 255-3758 to setup an appointment to review the files.

Evergreen District Office

3188 Quimby Road
San Jose, California, 95148
(408) 270-6800

Evergreen Elementary School

3010 Fowler Road
San Jose, California, 95135
(408) 270-4966

Information regarding the project can also be viewed electronically at: <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public>. Once at the site, type the word 'San Jose' in the box titled 'city' and hit the 'Get Report' key. You will be given several projects to choose from. Choose the

project called 'EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EXPANSION'. Take the cursor to the 'Report' field and click the mouse once. Highlight the 'Community Involvement' button and hit 'enter'. The screen will provide you with several documents available for review.

Who to Contact for Information

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

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Media Inquiries:

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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). Ask them to contact Ms. Mary Gaspari regarding the Evergreen Elementary School Expansion project.

COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON

Evergreen Elementary School
San Jose, California

You may use this sheet to:

- send us your comments
- be added to or taken off the mailing list

If you use this form to send us your comments, please include your name and address. All written comments must be postmarked no later than November 5, 2008. Please send this form to:

Ms. Mary Gaspari
Project Manager
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, California, 95826

You may also email this same information to: mgaspari@dtsc.ca.gov

Please take me off the mailing list

Please add me to the mailing list

Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation (if any): _____

Phone number (optional) _____

Comments: (If you need more space, please feel free to use another sheet of paper)

DTSC's mailing lists are only used for keeping you informed of our activities. However, they are considered public record and, if requested, may be subject to release.