

Fact Sheet  
April 2004

# Central Los Angeles High School #11/ Vista Hermosa Park Los Angeles, California



## DRAFT REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE VISTA HERMOSA PARK ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION STATUS

*DTSC is one of six Boards and Departments within the California Environmental Protection Agency. The Department's mission is to restore, protect and enhance the environment, to ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality, by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.*

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



The Central Los Angeles High School #11/ Vista Hermosa Park Project (**formerly known as the Belmont Learning Center**) is moving forward and has reached a new milestone in its environmental review schedule.

The proposed School and Park are located at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Beaudry Avenue near downtown Los Angeles. Construction of the Vista Hermosa Park will run on a separate schedule from the School.

**On April 21, DTSC will present information and hear public comments on the cleanup plan known as a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Vista Hermosa Park. The RAP presents the proposed cleanup plan for completing the Park area. The public comment period for the RAP is from April 12 - May 11, 2004.**

A follow up meeting will be held for the School cleanup plan in the fall of 2004.

### This Fact Sheet Tells You:

- What environmental activities have been performed for the Vista Hermosa Park Area
- What was found
- How potential risks from methane and hydrogen sulfide will be controlled at the proposed Vista Hermosa Park
- What happens next

### Community Meeting

**Wednesday, April 21, 2004**

**6:30 PM**

Plasencia Elementary School –  
Auditorium

1321 Cortez Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90026

DTSC will host a community meeting to provide you with information about the findings of the environmental investigation and the proposed methods for cleanup of the Vista Hermosa Park.

DTSC encourages you to take an active role in the issues affecting the cleanup activities at the Park by attending this meeting. *Spanish translation will be provided at the meeting.*

### Public Comment Period

The 30-day public review and comment period on the Draft RAP for the Park is from:

**April 12, 2004 to  
May 11, 2004**

The complete cleanup plan, also known as the Remedial Action Plan (RAP), and other related documents are available at the local information repositories listed at the end of this Fact Sheet.

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## Environmental Activities Performed

More than 30 environmental investigations have been performed at the Site since 1988. A study known as a Remedial Investigation (RI) was recently conducted to add to previous findings and complete the investigation of Site. A Health Risk Assessment was also conducted based on all of the findings to evaluate potential health effects.

The Remedial Investigation (RI) Report for the Site showed the following:

- The potential health risks associated with being on the Site can be controlled with the technologies described below.
- Naturally occurring crude oil is the major source of the chemicals found.
- Control measures are recommended for possible risks associated with methane and hydrogen sulfide gases beneath the proposed Park.

Hydrogen sulfide is toxic at low levels and can potentially build up in enclosed spaces within buildings, utility vaults, etc. Hydrogen sulfide presents a potential health hazard at the Site. Low levels of hydrogen sulfide were found in the Park area.

Although methane is not considered a carcinogen or toxic chemical, it may pose a physical hazard because it can catch fire, explode, and cause suffocation. Elevated levels of methane were found in the Park area.

A Feasibility Study (FS) for the Site, which evaluated several options for reducing the risk from methane and hydrogen sulfide, was prepared for review by DTSC. The FS was approved by DTSC on February 27, 2004.

## What is Being Planned to Clean Up Vista Hermosa Park

The final proposal of control technologies presented in the Park RAP or cleanup plan includes a combination from the options listed below:

1. Passive Venting System – a system of pipes placed in the soil underneath Park buildings and paved areas to create a path for gases to move naturally to the open air
2. Gas Barrier – a thick flexible liner placed underneath building foundations to prevent the passage of gases into the building
3. Utility Trench Dam – a barrier around electrical, gas, water, and sewer lines located in trenches under the buildings to prevent gases from entering the buildings
4. Conduit Seal – a barrier around openings for electrical and cable lines to prevent gases from entering the buildings
5. Gas Dispersion Layer – a layer of sand used below the topsoil and vegetation in open areas of the Park to help gases disperse slowly over a large area
6. Gas Monitoring – Gas concentrations will be monitored inside Park buildings, in vent pipes, and in the soil
7. Institutional Controls – the use of fences, landscaping, steep slopes, and monitoring to restrict access to some parts of the school campus.

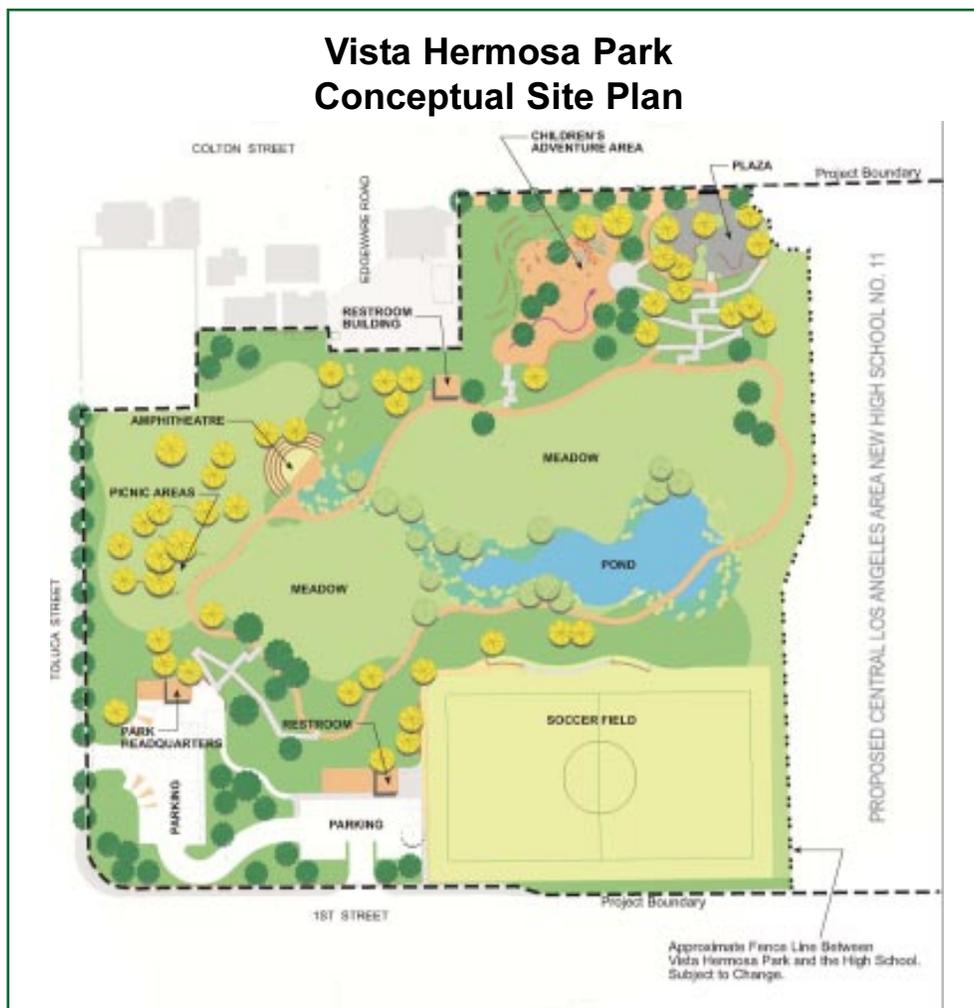
## What Happens Next?

Prior to making a final decision on the Vista Hermosa Park RAP, DTSC would like to hear from the community during the 30-day public comment period, which begins on April 12, 2004 and ends on May 11, 2004. Comments may be submitted in writing to: Ms. Jennifer Jones, Project Manager, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 North Grandview Avenue, Glendale, California 91201. Comments must be postmarked by May 11, 2004.

Upon completion of the public comment period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments and make any necessary revisions to the Vista Hermosa Park RAP prior to final approval. Upon approval of the RAP, fieldwork may begin. Once the Park RAP is implemented, a Completion Report will be submitted to DTSC.

The Completion Report documents that the Park was properly constructed according to the RAP (cleanup plan). After reviewing the Completion Report, DTSC will certify that the site is safe.

Meanwhile, LAUSD is developing a RAP (cleanup plan) for the School which will focus on the protection of the health of students, faculty, and staff. The School RAP will outline which technical options will be considered to reduce methane and hydrogen sulfide gas in soil beneath the School. An emergency generator will be included as part of the mitigation system to ensure that monitoring and mitigation systems are operational in the event of a power failure at the School. The public will have a chance to comment on the Draft School RAP during a 30-day public comment period.



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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### **DTSC Contacts:**

If you have any questions regarding the investigation, please contact:

Eloy Florez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, (714) 484-5320

Jennifer Jones, DTSC Project Manager, (818) 551-2973

Jeanne Garcia, Media Contact, (818) 551-2176

*Si desea información en español, comuníquese con el: Sr. Eloy Florez, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (714) 484-5320*

### **LAUSD Contacts:**

Tom Watson, Project Manager, LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety, (213) 633-8242

Marina Pérez, LAUSD Community Outreach Office, (213) 633-3886

### **Notice to Hearing Impaired Individuals:**

TDD users can use the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist Eloy Florez at (714) 484-5320.

## **DTSC's approved project documents are available for public review at the following locations:**

Website: [www.laschools.org/vista-hermosa](http://www.laschools.org/vista-hermosa)

### **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

Regional Records Office

1011 N. Grandview Avenue

Glendale, CA 91201

Contact: Jone Barrio

Phone: (818) 551-2886

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Los Angeles Unified School District**

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

355 South Grand Avenue, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor

Los Angeles, CA 90071

Contact: Tom Watson

Phone: (213) 633-8242

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **Echo Park Branch Library**

1410 W. Temple Street

Los Angeles, CA 90026

Phone: (213) 250-7808

Hours:

Mondays, Wednesdays 10:00 am – 8:00 p.m.

Tuesdays, Thursdays Noon – 8:00 p.m.

Fridays, Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Closed Sundays

### **Belmont Senior High School**

Administration Office

1575 W. 2nd Street

Los Angeles, CA 90026

Phone: (213) 250-0244