



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, January 2007

Proposed Soil Cleanup Work Plan for the New Ramona Opportunity High School Site

We invite you to review and comment on a plan submitted by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to remove and dispose of contaminated soil from the future site of the new Ramona Opportunity High School in Los Angeles. The proposed new school will replace the existing Ramona Opportunity High School. The objective of the cleanup is to prevent potential exposure to the contaminants by removing them prior to construction.

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 Tells You:

- Site History and Background
- Why Cleanup Is Necessary
- Cleanup Options
- How Metro Plans to Clean It Up
- Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup
- Next Steps

Site History and Background

Metro needs to use a portion of the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) existing Ramona Opportunity High School, located at 231 South Alma Avenue.

In exchange for the property needed, Metro has acquired nine former residential properties across Alma Avenue to reconfigure the school. Under an agreement with the LAUSD, Metro is conducting the environmental investigation and cleanup of these properties prior to turning them over to the LAUSD for the new school development. The properties total one acre in size and are located at the northwest corner of Alma Avenue and East 3rd Street. The former addresses were 208-234 South Alma Avenue and 3633-3643 East 3rd Street. The site is currently vacant as the buildings and concrete have been removed as part of the demolition process.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

JANUARY 18, 2007, TO FEBRUARY 1, 2007

The Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) for this school site and other related project documents are available for review and public comment at the locations listed on page 4. Please submit written comments in the enclosed postage paid return envelope postmarked by February 1, 2007. Or, email before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to: Jenny Au, DSTC Project Manager, jau@dtsc.ca.gov.



In compliance with State laws for proposed new school sites, Metro conducted a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) in 2006 to evaluate the nine parcels for potential environmental hazards and contaminants. The results of the PEA were shared with the community at a Public Hearing held by Metro at Ramona Opportunity High School on December 5, 2006.

During the PEA field work, lead was found in shallow soil at 26 locations at elevated concentrations that require cleanup. In addition, dieldrin (pesticide) was found at two locations at elevated concentrations that require cleanup.

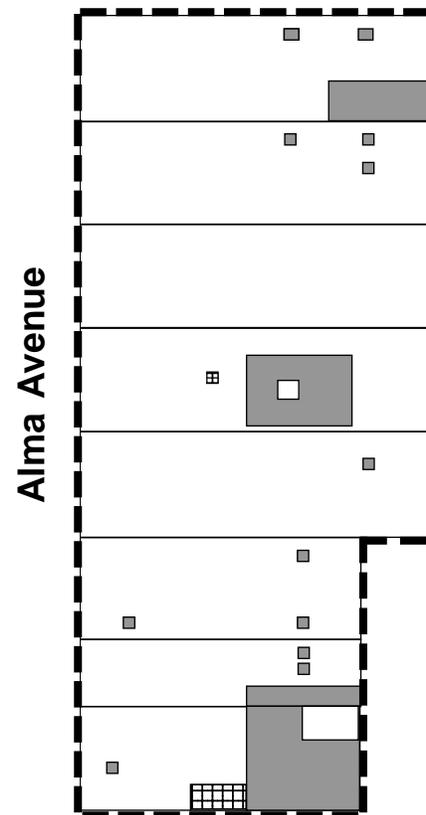
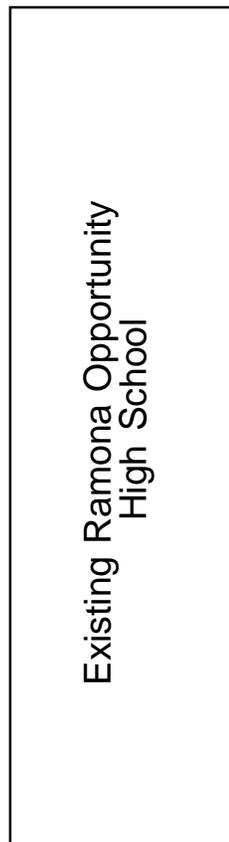
Why Cleanup is Necessary

While lead occurs naturally in Southern California soils, exposure to elevated levels of this metal could cause adverse health effects. The elevated levels found at the proposed school site may have resulted from the use of lead-based paint on the houses formerly located on the site. Exposure to dieldrin, a pesticide, could also cause adverse health effects. The dieldrin detected at the site probably came from various termite extermination pesticides used to protect the wooden structure of the homes.

New Ramona Opportunity High School Proposed Soil Removal

Legend:

-  Site under investigation to be included as part of proposed new school
-  Lead in soil proposed removal areas
-  Dieldrin in soil proposed removal areas (approximate)




Not to Scale

3rd Street

There is no immediate health risk, since the public is not exposed to the contaminated soil. The site is currently surrounded by a six-foot high chain link-fence. However, DTSC recommended that Metro prepare a cleanup plan to remove the contaminated soil to protect the students and staff who will attend the new school. DTSC will oversee the removal action and will ensure that it is performed in a manner that does not harm people or the environment.

Cleanup Options

Four cleanup options are identified in the draft RAW; each was evaluated on effectiveness, ability to be implemented, and overall cost. The four cleanup options are:

- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – Treatment
- Option 3 – Capping
- Option 4 – Soil Excavation and Off-Site Disposal

The recommended remedy that meets these goals is Option 4, Excavation and Off-Site Disposal of the soil. This remedy is proposed because it is protective of human health and the environment, feasible, permanent, and has a reasonable cost.

Notice of Exemption (NOE)

DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The NOE document states that the project will not have a significant negative effect on the environment because of the relatively small volume, short project duration, and the controlled manner in which contaminated soils will be excavated, loaded onto trucks and taken offsite for disposal.

How Metro Plans to Clean It Up

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 will be either temporarily stockpiled or loaded directly onto trucks and taken off-site. On-site soil stockpiling for long durations is not anticipated. Approximately 183 cubic yards (238 tons) of soil will be removed. Excavation depths will be between 1 to 1.5 feet below ground surface. Work will occur over approximately 7 days. This includes soil removal, transportation, and confirmation soil sampling and analysis.

It will take approximately nine truckloads to remove the soil. Trucks will travel on city streets (such as 3rd Street and Alma Avenue) to either State Route 60 or Interstate 5 to minimize potential impacts on the local neighborhood. The soil will be transported to a State-approved disposal facility.

Safety and Dust Control During Cleanup

In order to mitigate any possible dust exposures, Metro plans on performing the majority of the excavation activities during a weekend from 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and possibly two weekdays when students are in class from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Work will stop when students are at lunch. In addition, Metro will be monitoring the air at the worksite perimeter during the activities and performing dust control. Other actions Metro will take to ensure safety of the public and to minimize dust include:

- Temporary fencing with windscreens will be installed for security and dust control
- 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
- The air will be monitored at the site to ensure the amount of dust stays at safe levels

Next Steps

Upon completion of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments and make any necessary revisions to the draft workplan prior to the final approval. The soil removal is expected to take place in early February 2007 (weather permitting). After the cleanup process is completed, Metro will conduct soil testing to confirm cleanup goals have been achieved and submit a Removal Action Completion Report to the DTSC for review and approval. A copy of this report will be available at the locations cited on page 4.

Where to Find Site Documents

Copies of the PEA Report and the Draft RAW will be available at the locations identified below:

Ramona Opportunity High School

Main Office
231 South Alma Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Phone: (323) 263-7429

Benjamin Franklin Library

Reference Desk
2200 East First Street
Los Angeles, CA 90033
Phone: (323) 263-6901

East Los Angeles Library

Reference Desk
4837 East Third Street
Los Angeles, CA 90022-1601
Phone: (323) 264-0155

DTSC Regional Records Room

1011 North Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
Contact: Jone Barrio
Phone: (818) 551-2886
Hours: Monday-Friday: 8:00am – 5:00pm

Who to Contact for Information

If you have any questions about the project or cleanup activities, please contact the following persons:

Marina Pérez
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
(818) 551-2875 or toll free 1-866-495-5651
mperez@dtsc.ca.gov

Jenny Au
DTSC Project Manager
(818) 551-2905
jau@dtsc.ca.gov

Si desea información en español, comuníquese con la: Srta. Marina Pérez, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (818) 551-2875.

For Media Inquiries:

Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
(818) 551-2176
jgarcia@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 Marina Pérez, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2875.