



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

Fact Sheet, August 2009

## Draft Cleanup Plan for the South Wright Road Elementary School Site

A draft cleanup plan to remove lead contaminated soil at the South Wright Road Elementary School Site (also referred to as Site in this fact sheet) is available for public review and comment. The draft cleanup plan, called a draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), was submitted to the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) by the Wright Elementary School District for the Site located at 950 South Wright Road, Santa Rosa.

The Wright Elementary School District plans to construct a primary school (kindergarten through sixth grade) on the Site. The majority of the current structures will be removed except for Heritage Hall on the north end of the campus.

During an environmental investigation of the Site, elevated levels of lead were found in shallow soil around one of the buildings. The suspected source of lead contamination is from lead based paint on the building. 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 property for potential hazardous materials or contamination that may pose a risk to students, staff or faculty.

### Why Cleanup is Necessary

There is no immediate health risk, but long term exposure to the contaminated soil does pose a human health risk. Before the District can use the site to construct a primary school, the contamination must be addressed.

### Site History and Location

The 9.49-acre Site has been a school since at least 1936. Since it's founding, the property has supported a variety of buildings and structures including

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

*August 12 to September 11, 2009*

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 3. A final decision on the draft RAW will be made after all public comments have been reviewed and considered. Please submit written or email comments by September 11, 2009 to:

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



and possible abandoned underground storage tank. The original school building was reported to have burned down in 1940. The District took ownership of the Site from Santa Rosa Christian School in early 2009, and is currently leasing portions of the campus to a charter high school and a junior college.

The Site is located in an area with a mix of residential housing and commercial properties.

### **Investigation Findings**

The Site was investigated to evaluate possible impacts of past activities on soil, soil gas, and groundwater.

The analytical results showed elevated levels of lead located in shallow soil on the north and west sides of the most northwesterly building.

### **Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW)**

The primary objective of a draft RAW is to evaluate cleanup alternatives and to identify a preferred alternative that prevents or reduces potential risk to public health and the environment. A draft RAW summarizes previous studies and identifies the possible cleanup alternatives. Cleanup alternatives are screened and evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness, ability to implement, and cost. A draft RAW identifies the cleanup alternative that DTSC recommends and believes is the most appropriate for the Site.

Before DTSC makes a final decision to approve, modify or deny a draft RAW, it is made available for public review and comment during a public comment period. All comments received during the public comment period are reviewed and considered before a final decision is made by DTSC.

### **Proposed Cleanup Options**

The following four cleanup options were considered:

**Alternative 1 - No action:** The “No Action” alternative means that no cleanup activities would occur.

**Alternative 2 - Treatment:** Since metal contamination cannot be biodegraded or destroyed and chemical fixations would not reduce the concentration of metals, the “Treatment” alternative was not considered acceptable. In addition, other treatment technologies would have conflicted with project time, and probable permitting and location constraints.

**Alternative 3 - Institutional Controls and Onsite Containment (Capping):** The total cost (capital, land use restriction, and operations and maintenance) for the capping alternative is expected to be much higher than the recommended removal action alternative. The capping alternative was considered and determined to be unacceptable due to the anticipated high cost and the use of the site as a school.

**Alternative 4 - Excavation and Off-Site Disposal:** Excavation involves removing the soil containing the lead contamination and disposing of it at an appropriate offsite disposal facility. Clean fill would replace the removed soil.

Based on careful analysis of the options, **Excavation and Offsite Disposal (Alternative 4)** is the recommended option for cleaning up the Site. This alternative suggests excavating and disposing of 25 cubic yards of lead contaminated soil to an off-site disposal facility. The clean up will take place during late summer and early fall of 2009.

Confirmation soil samples will be taken from the excavated areas to ensure the contaminated soil had been adequately removed. Field activities would be implemented using readily available standard construction equipment

The following actions will be implemented during the soil removal process to ensure public safety and minimize dust:

- Prior to excavation activities, the proposed areas will be wetted to near saturation with municipal (City of Santa Rosa) water to control dust;

- Work areas will be sprayed with clean water prior to and during excavation and loading activities to control and minimize dust; and,

- Site work will stop and/or additional measures will be taken if dust is generated.

### **Truck Route**

Trucks will transport the lead contaminated soil to an appropriate disposal facility. The trucks will be operated by a licensed hazardous waste trucking contractor and will travel Monday through Friday between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

### **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 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. A copy of the “Response to Comments” document will also be available at:

### **Information Repositories**

#### ***Main Library - Santa Rosa***

211 E Street  
Santa Rosa, California 95404  
Phone: (707) 545-0831

#### ***Wright Elementary School District***

4385 Price Avenue,  
Santa Rosa, California 95407  
Phone: (707) 542-0550

### ***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.

### **For More Information**

If you have questions or concerns regarding this site, please contact:

*Ms. Heidi Nelson*

DTSC Public Participation Specialist  
8800 Cal Center Drive  
Sacramento, California 95826  
(916) 255-3575 or (866) 495-5651  
[hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:hnelson@dtsc.ca.gov)

*Ms. Mary Gaspari*

DTSC Project Manager  
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### **Media Inquiries:**

*Ms. Claudia Loomis*

DTSC Public Information Officer  
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More information on the South Wright Road Elementary School property can be found online at [www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/](http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/), type in “Santa Rosa” for the city and click on “Get Report.” Find “South Wright Road Elementary School Site” and click on “Report.” This will take you to DTSC’s database where you will find information and documents related to the South Wright Road Elementary School site.

### **Notice to Hearing-Impaired Individuals**

You can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service at 1 (888) 877 5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Ms. Mary Gaspari regarding the South Wright Road Elementary School project.

**COMMENT FORM AND MAILING COUPON**

*South Wright Road Elementary School*

Santa Rosa, 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 September 11, 2009. 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](mailto: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)

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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.